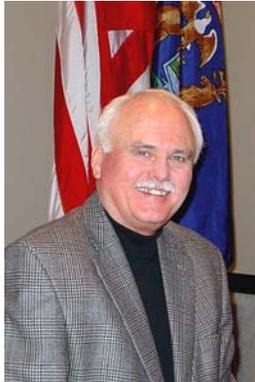


## **A NEW FACE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



The DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees has a new look with the appointment of Stephen C. Musselman as Trustee. Mr. Musselman was appointed to the Board on November 24, 2003, to fill the vacant seat of former Trustee Roland Rhead who passed away last October. The Board interviewed nine candidates for the vacant Trustee position.

Mr. Musselman brings a wealth of public service to the Township. He completed a 26 year career in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and staff officer, including planning and program management with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His education includes a Bachelors degree in Sociology, a Masters degree in Psychology, and a Masters degree in Military Science. Mr. Musselman is active in the local community, the Lansing/DeWitt Sunrise Rotary Club, and Redeemer Methodist Church.

Serving as a member on the Township Planning Commission and Board of Appeals, he gained valuable insight into the community that will serve him well as a Township Trustee. He and his wife, Barb, reside in the Springbrook Hills subdivision.

## **POLICE SERVICE OPTIONS BEING REVIEWED**

DeWitt Township and the City of DeWitt have set a process in motion that will review how both municipalities currently provide police services and possibly change how those services are delivered to residents in the future. In late November 2003, the Board of Trustees and the City Council formed a committee to complete an in-depth review of both police departments. The committee is exploring whether there is a better way to provide police services. The two municipalities have had a number of successful cooperative efforts in providing recreation services, library services, and public utilities to the residents. The Police Services Exploratory Committee (PSEC) began meeting in December to put together their Purpose Statement, work plan, and proposed time line. The eight person Committee is made up of municipal officials and residents from the two communities.



## 2004 ELECTION NEWS



A quarterly newsletter is a great tool to keep residents informed, however, the timing of the mailing can reduce the effectiveness of the information provided. That appears to be the case in this election year. The following calendar is provided with the information we have, and some dates are projections. The next Township Newsletter will be mailed the last week of June, and will contain everything voters will need to know prior to the Primary Election to be held on August 3, 2004.

- May 1            ➡        Projected date to mail absentee ballot applications to those Township voters who have previously requested to be on the automatic mailing list.
- May 11        ➡        4:00 p.m. filing deadline for partisan and nonpartisan candidates (other than judicial) for the August Primary (includes elected offices for Clinton County, DeWitt Township, and Precinct Delegates). The withdrawal deadline is May 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- June 28       ➡        Projected date to mass mail absentee ballots to those who have applied & qualified.
- July 6         ➡        Last day to register to vote in the August Primary (any resident who will be 18 years of age on or before August 3<sup>rd</sup> may register).
- July 15       ➡        4:00 p.m. filing deadline for candidates without political party affiliation to file qualifying petitions for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election. The withdrawal deadline is July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- July 31       ➡        Saturday, Clerk's Office open 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to assist voters with absentee voting process.
- July 31       ➡        Last day to mail out absentee ballots.
- August 2      ➡        Voters qualified to obtain an absent voter ballot for August Primary may vote in person in the Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

### **OFFICES TO BE ELECTED IN 2004**

President/Vice President	U.S. Representative in Congress	State Representative	State Board of Education
University of Michigan Regents	Michigan State University Trustees	Wayne State University Governors	
Justice of the Supreme Court	Judge of the Court of Appeals	Judge of the Circuit Court	
Judge of Probate	County Offices	Township Offices	

### **EVER CONSIDERED WORKING AT THE ELECTIONS?**

Michigan Election Law requires those qualified voters of Clinton County who work at elections to complete an approved application. The Clerk's Office will mail you an application upon request. Those applications received by April 15, 2004, will be considered when scheduling election workers for the upcoming 2004 Elections. We currently have a great crew of election workers, but always welcome qualified voters who want to assist in the election process.

### **ELECTION QUESTIONS? NEED FORMS?**

DeWitt Township Clerk 668-0270

Clinton County Clerk 989-224-5140

State Bureau of Elections 373-2540

# ***VOTE IN 2004!!!***

The PSEC will be evaluating the current levels of police coverage and services, opportunities for improving services, and financial reviews of each department. The Committee will also be studying different methods of delivering police services, including the status quo, a joint police authority, service contracts between municipalities, and joint or individual service contracts with Clinton County. It is important to review all options and the advantages and disadvantages of each. The communities have hired a municipal consulting firm to assist the Committee in achieving its' purpose. In an effort to generate public input on the process, the consultant has held three focus group meetings made up of Township and City residents and business owners. The input from these focus groups was used to develop a survey which is included in this Newsletter. The survey is an important tool to generate feedback from the residents about current police services, desired levels of police services, and community attitudes on this important municipal service. ***PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FILL OUT AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED SURVEY.***

The consultant will be sharing the results of the survey, the preliminary findings, and soliciting public comments on the preliminary findings in a public meeting late April/early May. The final report from the PSEC and the consultant will be available to the Township Board of Trustees and the City Council by the beginning of June. The final report will also be available to the public. At that time, the governing bodies must review the recommendation and decide if they are both interested in implementing the recommended direction.

## **WORK GOES INDOORS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

As Spring draws near, outdoor construction activity usually picks up. Not so at the Township Community Center; the construction activity is heading inside. After a Winter season full of basketball, indoor soccer, and floor hockey, recreation programs start to head outside for the Spring and it's time for the sounds of hammers and nails to move inside. Interior renovations at the Community Center will soon be underway. The third and final phase of the renovation project will be starting in late April.

Following the Community Center Master Plan adopted by the Board of Trustees in August of 2001, work will now proceed on the interior of the building. The Board of Trustees has already let contracts for the installation of new heating and air conditioning units for the gymnasium and multi-purpose room. The Township will be awarding bids in late March for another segment of the overall renovations. This segment will include the construction of all new handicap accessible restroom facilities, new flooring, ceilings and lighting in the hallways and common areas, new exit and emergency lighting, and the installation of a lounge area. This project will also include the upgrade or replacement of much of the hidden infrastructure like plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems.

Other improvements under design include new lighting and ceilings in the gymnasium, painting throughout the building, and new flooring in some areas. These improvements should be completed over the summer. The Community Center will continue to be open during these renovations, but some rooms may not be available for certain dates. The Community Center is located at 16101 Brook Road and houses the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority, a dining site for the Meals-on-Wheels program, and the Clinton County Genealogical Society. The Community Center also has meeting and multi-purpose rooms, a gymnasium, and kitchen facilities available for rent.

**HOMESTEAD DEADLINE CHANGE:** On December 30, 2003, Governor Granholm approved PA 247 of 2003, which changes the homestead deadline from December 31<sup>st</sup> back to May 1<sup>st</sup>. **This means that to receive a homestead exemption for 2004, a resident must own and occupy their residence by May 1, 2004.**

**THANK YOU** to Lora Mae Higbee, Frieda Felzke, Helen Parker, Koreen Smith, George Cauvin, Charles & Barbara LaMacchia, Ilse King, and Arlene Hammond for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**EYEGLOSS RECYCLING:** The Township Hall has a drop box for residents who would like to recycle eyeglasses. The program is named "Lions of Michigan Recycle for Sight and Sound."

**CELL PHONE RECYCLING:** The Township Hall has a drop box for residents who would like to recycle cell phones. Be sure to erase names and numbers in the memory. The program is managed by Clinton County Waste Management.

**MEETING DATES:** a list of meeting dates for the Township Board, Committees and Commissions can be obtained from the Clerk's Office. Just call and we will send one in the mail.

**LEGAL PUBLICATIONS:** Township policy recognizes the DeWitt Bath Review as the major publication for all Township legal notices and general information. A synopsis of Township Board action, legal notices for rezonings and public hearings, and notices for ordinance adoptions, are just a few examples of legal publications you will find in the DeWitt Bath Review.

**CLOTHING/TEXTILE AND BOOK COLLECTION:** The Clinton County Department of Waste Management is holding a combined clothing/textile and used book collection on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Items will be collected in the parking lot of the DeWitt Township Hall, 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt. Please box your books by category, i.e. hard cover, paperback, magazines, phone books, etc. No wire bound books will be accepted. Clothing/textiles accepted: old clothing, fabrics, rags, towels, sheets, blankets, athletic shoes, draperies/curtains, purses, handbags, and belts. Items not accepted: nothing wet or soiled, nothing with a foul odor, sandals, pump/heels, dress shoes, boots, and shoes that light up. Please make sure shoes are clean and dry.

**FREE MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE:** You may exchange your mercury thermometers for new digital ones at the following locations:

- Clinton County Dept. of Waste Management (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) located on the first floor of the Courthouse, Suite 1300, St. Johns
- SCCMUA (12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.) located at 3671 Herbison Road, DeWitt
- Watertown Charter Township (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) located at 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge

**REUSE-A-SHOE:** Residents can now drop off clean, used athletic shoes at the DeWitt Township Community Center (16101 Brook Road, Lansing). Once collected, the shoes will be ground up and made into "Nike grind," a unique material used to resurface athletic fields, courts, tracks and playgrounds. **Only athletic shoes will be collected. Please do not bring dress shoes, sandals, boots or athletic shoes with metal eyelets or spikes, or shoes that light up.**

**CLEAN SWEEP IS HERE!!!**

Get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it down to Granger Landfill on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Space is limited, so don't wait to make your appointment. A second drop off date is usually held in September, however no date has been set yet.

## **SEWER BACKUP? WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?**

When you have a sewer backup in your house or business, it is important to remember to call the Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCCMUA) immediately, day or night. SCCMUA is responsible for maintaining the sanitary sewer lines in the Township. In the event of a backup, they will come out free of charge and make sure the blockage is not in the sewer main in the road. If it is, SCCMUA will take care of the blockage. If not, the property owner will likely need a plumber because the blockage is in their pipes. SCCMUA can be reached Monday – Friday at 669-8311 or evenings, weekends, and holidays by calling Clinton County Dispatch at 9-1-1.

## **COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE**

With the ink just beginning to dry on the Northwest Area Master Plan, the Township is preparing to enter the next phase of its effort to fully update the Comprehensive Development Plan. A new Comprehensive Development Plan will be created for the areas outside of the Northwest Area of the Township. Also, the Northwest Area Master Plan will be incorporated into the new Plan. The Comprehensive Development Plan is used as a guide for future growth and development in the Township.

A professional planning consultant will be hired to assist in the project. The consultant will be responsible for gathering input from residents, property owners, and business owners at public meetings. The consultant will use that input to help the Township form a vision for the future growth and development of the Township. The updated Comprehensive Development Plan will describe the policies that will accomplish the vision.

It is expected that a consultant will be hired in early March. Public meetings will follow in March or April – **and we will need your help!** Only public participation will assure that the Comprehensive Development Plan is the best that it can be. We want to hear your concerns and ideas about current and future growth in the Township.

Once public meetings have been scheduled, dates will be printed in future editions of the Township Newsletter and the local newspaper. As always, if you have any questions about the Plan Update process or general questions about Comprehensive Development Plans, be sure and call the Planning Department at 669-6576.

## 2004 TAX NOTICES

The time is approaching for tax notices to be mailed. Assessment notices were mailed out March 1<sup>st</sup> and summer tax bills will be mailed out July 1<sup>st</sup>. There are three known factors that will increase your tax amount this year. Hopefully, this will both answer your questions as to why your bill has an increase, and help you to budget before the bills are mailed.

- 1) Normal increases to your taxable value, as stated on your Assessment notice. This should be a basic increase limited to the inflation rate determined by the State of Michigan (2.3%) unless in the year 2003 you: transferred ownership on the property, had new construction or made improvements to the existing property.
2. The State Education Tax Act, as amended by public Act 244 of 2002, moved the State Education Tax from all winter bills to the summer bills, creating summer bills for some of our residents for the first time in 2003. With that move there was a reduction to your tax bill by one mill last year. That reduction was for one year only. Everyone will have this tax return to the 2002 tax rate of six mills this year.
3. Lansing School District voters passed a school bond improvement millage in November, 2003. The school is still in the process of selling the bonds and that whole process determines what the actual millage increase will be. An estimate for the millage is a two mill increase from last year's tax rate.

Now - to compute your estimated tax dollars. Use your 2004 taxable value (box 1 from your Assessment Notice) and the tax millage rate chart below. This millage rate is based on 2003 taxes with the known millage changes as stated above. The rates are for homes that are 100% homestead (as declared as your primary residence with our Assessing Office, owned and occupied by May 1, 2004). Non-homestead properties will need 18 mills added to the rate table below.

	<u>2004 Estimate</u>	<u>2003 Actual</u>
Bath School District	34.3391	33.3391
DeWitt School District	36.5482	35.5482
East Lansing School District	37.1131	36.1131
Lansing School District	29.7119	26.7119
St. Johns School District	32.6938	31.6938

Tax Formula: (Taxable Value x Millage Rate ÷ 1,000) + special assessments = tax dollar

Example with Lansing School District and \$50,000 taxable value and a \$30.00 street light assessment:

$$\begin{aligned} 50,000 \times 29.7119 &= 1,485,595 \\ 1,485,595 \div 1,000 &= 1,485.60 \\ 1,485.60 + 30.00 &= \$1,515.60 \text{ tax dollars for the year.} \end{aligned}$$

Questions? Call the Treasurer's Office at 668-1411.

## ❁ SPRINGTIME CEMETERY REMINDERS ❁

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 November 15<sup>th</sup>
- 4) planting of trees or shrubbery requires pre-approval by cemetery staff
- 5) placement of any of the following items is prohibited: woodchips; decorative stone; any type of edging; shepherd's hooks, fences and 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 to get a complete copy of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

## **SAFETY REMINDERS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

With the break in weather, many of us are spending more time in the fresh air. Please try to keep a few safety and security points in mind while enjoying Spring:

1. Remain observant of any unusual circumstances while out walking in your neighborhood. The concept of being "Good neighbors" can extend to the homes and property of people we don't even know. If you see someone or something "out of place," please give 911 a call and we'll be happy to check-out the problem. There is no harm in giving your police department a "tip" and nobody should feel "nosey" for trying to watch over the best interest of fellow residents. (We're all neighbors in a sense.)
2. If you walk/jog along the roadways in either the early morning or evening, please try to wear reflective clothing or carry a light to help warn motorists of your presence. Some rural areas are not well-lit, and drivers don't always expect to encounter pedestrians. While drivers have an obligation to use proper caution, it never hurts to help them out. Avoid dark clothing and double-check before entering the path of cars to change direction.
3. Spring fever can affect our driving habits. Please be mindful of your speed while driving in and around the Township, and give other motorists extra attention for unexpected actions (defensive driving).

The staff of the Police Department wishes everyone a safe and healthy Spring season. If we can be of service, please call us at 669-6578, or stop by the station. Our lobby is open 24 hours a day, and after office hours, you may use the dispatch phone on the wall to contact an officer.

**SAY THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE**

The following Committee and Commission members are serving the residents of DeWitt Charter Township during 2004. Please take the opportunity to say “thank you” to your friends and neighbors for their service.

### **MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

SALARY COMPENSATION COMMISSION: Keith Taylor, Danny Taylor, Johanna Balzer, Stanley Baird, Margie Lotre
BOARD OF APPEALS: Jeff Baumann, Robert Gesler, Shannon Schlegel, Stephen Gobbo, Robert Reese, Dale Glynn, Christopher LaGrand
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: David Seeger, Thomas Hendrickson, Arthur Patriarche, David Gardner, Lisa Folkring, Bonnie Oetman, Lisa Taylor, Marvin Helmker, Donna Spicer
PLANNING COMMISSION: Steve Musselman, Wayne Miller, Kim Smelker, Jane DeHoog, Bruce Keilen, Gregory White, Mike Nolen, Wayne Etue, Steve Gobbo
BOARD OF REVIEW: Al Harrison, Concetta D’Agostino, Norm Farnum
SOUTHERN CLINTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCCMUA): Matt Kulhanek, Joe Wrzesinski, Diane Mosier, Sue Glynn, Max Calder
LIBRARY BOARD: John Dallal, Wayne Summers, Tom Rollis
SEWER BOARD OF APPEALS: Robert Gesler, Janis Penton, Judy Martiny-Cauvin, Bob Ancel, Brian Ross
CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS: Harold Taylor, Brian Schertzing, Gene Brownfield, Dennis Rozen, Gordon Woodman
DEWITT AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY (DARA): Matt Kulhanek, Phyllis Daggy, Ken Kain

Many residents also serve by appointment to ad hoc committees which generally are short term appointments, often investigating specific issues or needs. Any resident who has a desire to serve on a Township Committee or Commission should contact the Clerk’s Office to request an application. Appointments are recommended by the Township Supervisor and confirmed by the Township Board.

### **BUILDING UPDATE**

In 2003, the Township issued 157 permits for new homes, compared to 132 in 2002. Commercial development continues with the following new businesses:

- Lynna Nails is now open in the Crossroads Center located on the southwest corner of Business US 27 and Herbison Road.
- Sunbelt Rentals is remodeling the former Aero Rental facility located at 14485 S. Business US 27 and upon completion will move to this new location.
- The permit has been issued for the first office building in the Ridge Rock Office Park which will contain the new offices of Looking Glass, Inc., and will offer four additional office suites for rent.

### **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).**

### **"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 run for 6 weeks this spring beginning on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Players will have one Saturday game and a one-hour practice each week of the season. The cost is \$25 for DeWitt City/Township residents and \$30 for all others. Every player receives a team t-shirt and participation medal. Every player is required to provide shin guards. Registration runs from March 5<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Late registrations will be accepted through April 8<sup>th</sup> and will include a \$10 late fee.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

The Easter Bunny will be visiting Valley Farms Park on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10:00 a.m. so don't be late! The Egg Hunt will be at Valley Farms Park if the weather cooperates or inside the DeWitt Township Community Center in the case of bad weather.

### **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 on April 21/22 are available. The program will run for 5 weeks from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$60 per participant and registration begins on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Register early to guarantee your spot since class size is limited. Rental clubs are available if needed. 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 on May 19<sup>th</sup> and will end with a league tournament on July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>. Men's league teams will play 12 games beginning on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will end with a league tournament on July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. All games will be played at the DeWitt Sports Park and Valley Farms Park. The team fee of \$260 includes all game balls, team score book, line up cards and awards for both the league champion and the tournament champion. Both leagues follow ASA rules and will use ASA certified umpires. Registration for adult softball leagues begins on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Register your team early as space is limited.

### **Youth T-ball and Pee Wee Baseball**

This summer's youth baseball program will contain a new Pee Wee Coach Pitch League. T-ball

will be offered to those ages 4-5 and Pee Wee will be offered to 5-7 year olds (5 year olds must have previously played one year of t-ball). T-ball leagues, played on Mondays and Pee Wee Leagues, played on Tuesdays will begin the week of June 7<sup>th</sup> and run for 8 weeks. Registration runs from April 8<sup>th</sup> - May 7<sup>th</sup> with late registrations accepted through May 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost is only \$35 for all DeWitt City/Township residents and \$40 for all others. Add \$10 for late registrations. Every participant receives a team t-shirt, hat and participation medal. Game equipment, with the exception of a glove, will be provided.

### **Pepsi Pitch, Hit and Run**

This local level of a national competition tests your skills in pitching, hitting and running. The competition is open to boys and girls ages 7-14. This year's event will take place on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the DeWitt Sports Park. Pre-registration is not required and this event is free to all participants. The winner of each event and overall winner in each age group will advance to sectional competitions and possibly to a state competition at Comerica Park.

### **Youth Golf at Hawk Hollow**

DARA and Hawk Hollow have also teamed up to offer a youth golf program for those 8-15 years of age. Instruction is geared toward those with beginner/intermediate golf skills. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening sessions beginning on July 20/21/22 are available. The program will run for 4 weeks from 6:00-7:00 p.m. with a 12-15 year old only class on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per participant and registration begins on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Register early to guarantee your spot since class size is limited. Rental clubs are available if needed. Kirk Sherman, Hawk Hollow's golf professional and members of his staff will be instructing the class.

### **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 shuffleboard, 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. Please call 482-5117 to reserve your meal.

### **Park and Community Center Reservations**

The DARA office will be accepting reservations for the DeWitt Township Community Center and Valley Farms Park pavilions. If you would like to make a reservation, call the DARA office at 482-5117 to check on available dates and to request the necessary paperwork.

### **Discounted Amusement Park Tickets**

DARA will be offering discounted tickets beginning on May 5<sup>th</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>. Save money on tickets for Cedar Point, Michigan Adventure and Greenfield Village. Tickets will be available at the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Rd.), Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. No credit or debit cards will be accepted for payment. Call the DARA office for more information or for a list of prices.

**LOCAL HEROES!!!**



Dennis Boutwell is a Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician with six years of volunteer service to the Department. As a lifelong resident of DeWitt, Dennis graduated from DeWitt High School some #?\* years ago. Yes, we are at the age where we don't want to tell anymore! Dennis is married to his high school sweetheart, Tammy, and together they have three boys.

Dennis' career is with General Motors where he works in management as a Pilot Coordinator. In this position, Dennis enjoys being one of a handful of people who are allowed to drive the new Cadillac products before they hit production. In addition to volunteering on the Fire Department, Dennis enjoys hunting and fishing and watching his children participate in sports activities.

Dave VanArsdall is a Firefighter and Medical First Responder with eight years of volunteer service to the Fire Department. Dave and his wife of nearly 20 years, Chris, have two teenaged children that keep them busy with extracurricular activities. Dave is also a Navy veteran of 16 years. Dave's career work is with Physicians Health Plan where he is a Network Administrator. Dave and Chris enjoy vacationing in their down time which has included trips to Texas and Georgia, where they experienced whitewater rafting. When not working, spending time in family activities or volunteering, Dave enjoys playing softball and volleyball.



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REFLECTS GROWTH OF THE TOWNSHIP**

The DeWitt community has responded favorably to the Fire Department's call for paid-on-call firefighters and auxiliary staff and we wish to THANK those of you that responded!

Many of you will recall that the Summer 2003 DeWitt Township Newsletter included a full-color insert describing the Fire Department and asking you to consider becoming a part of the Department. The insert featured various ways that you could use your skills (and we know you have them) to help the Fire Department in its service to the community. The DeWitt Township Board approved eight people from our community to serve in various roles on the Fire Department. Of those eight people, six are attending Fire Fighting I & II classes and two are receiving training as auxiliary support staff.

What does a snapshot of the Fire Department look like today? Well, the Department can boast of having a full-time Chief, one full-time firefighter and 36 paid-on-call volunteers. These volunteers all work or are retired from their careers, but they continue to dedicate themselves to making nearly 1,000 emergency calls every year in this community. Odds are that they have helped someone you know.

If you think you want to be a part of this growing Fire Department, just give us a call at 669-0071. We would be happy to answer your questions. It's a great way to give back to the community!



Pictured above is the newest addition to the DeWitt Charter Township Fire Department. This multi-purpose vehicle is used for brush fires and vehicle fires. It is a 2004 Ford F-350 Crew Cab with seating for four. It has a 250 gallon water tank and a 10 gallon foam tank. Brush truck 57 is replacing a 1969 Ford 350.