

March, 2014

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

A GREAT PLACE TO START



On November 12, 2013, the Township held the unveiling of a new 17 foot gateway sculpture located at Old US-27 and Sheridan Road as a welcome piece to DeWitt Charter Township and the Valley Farms Corridor.

The art installation was made possible by a Lansing Economic Area Partnership "LEAP" Public Art for Communities Grant. DeWitt Township was the first out of five communities that received \$10,000 to install an art piece. The other communities include the City of St. Johns, Meridian Township, the City of Mason and the City of DeWitt. "The US-127 corridor, connecting DeWitt Township and the north side of the City of Lansing, epitomizes exactly what we had in mind for the LEAP Public Art for Communities placemaking grant program. This new art sculpture strategically represents to businesses and people that



this key, regional corridor is on the upswing and ready for new development, investment, visitors and customers," said Bob Trezise, President and CEO of LEAP.

Recycling artist Tom Sheerin grew up one block west of this site, creating a unique tie between the artwork, the corridor, and the community. Mr. Sheerin not only created a sculpture out of repurposed materials, but also created a DeWitt Township monument sign designed to complement the sculpture. The stainless steel art piece is named "A Great Place to Start." The three human forms atop the sculpture are inspired by the letters DVF, for DeWitt Valley Farms. The D is touching its toes, V is springing into action, and F is making progress, all perched on a rising sun. The rising sun is an element in the Township's logo, tying this art piece with the DeWitt Township brand. The heads turn with the wind and appear to be globelike, providing a kinetic element. The various contours of this sculpture twinkle in the sun, inspiring people to come take a closer look at DeWitt Valley Farms.

This art piece, "A Great Place to Start," is at the center of the plans embodied by the Township to create a unique character and revitalization of the Old US-27 corridor. The art installation is just one piece in an effort to strengthen civic identity and community pride, and create a cultural economy. The vision is to create a surprising and unexpected element along our corridor, and then build on it by enhancing the streetscape; building non-motorized transportation assets; adding public service buildings; improving building facades; marketing business in the area; and improving the overall quality of life for those living, working, and traveling in the area.

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	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
March Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	3/21	6:00 pm -11:00 pm	3/7-3/19	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Men's 3 v 3 Basketball Leagues	4/14-5/19 Mondays	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3/7-4/4	18 yrs. & Up	\$100/team Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
Women's 3 v 3 Basketball Leagues	4/15-5/20 Tuesdays	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3/7-4/4	18 yrs. & Up	\$100/team Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
2 nd -6 th Grade Soccer League (spring session)	4/26-5/31	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	now-3/7	2 nd -6 th grade	\$40 Res. \$55 Non-Res.
DARA Egg Hunt	4/12	3:00 pm sharp @ DeWitt Sports Park	No registration	1-10 yrs.	Free
April Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	4/25	6:00 pm-11:00 pm	3/7-4/21	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Spring Youth Soccer 4-6 year olds	4/12-5/17 Sat Games	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	3/7-3/21	4-6 yrs.	\$34/\$49
Adult Golf Lessons	4/9-5/7 Wed or Thurs	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Hawk Hollow)	now-4/2	18 yrs. & Up	\$60 straight fee
Youth Golf Lessons	7/8-8/6 Tues or Wed	6:00-7:00 pm & 7:00-8:00 pm depending on age	5/2-7/2	8-11yrs. & 12-15 yrs.	\$50 straight fee
Learn to Ride a Bike Program	6/2-6/5	6:00 pm- 6:50 pm	5/2-5/23	5 yrs. & Up	\$34/\$49
Sports Starter Spring Session	4/17-5/22	Thurs 5:30-6:15 pm & 6:30-7:15 pm or Thurs 9:30-10:15 am	3/7-3/28	3-5 yrs.	\$34/\$49
Spring Break Fun Club	4/7-4/11 Mon-Fri	7:30 am - 5:30 pm	now-3/21 or when full	5-12 yrs.	\$105/\$120
Basketball University	4/23-5/14 Wed Nights	5:45 pm – 8:45 pm (times vary by grade)	3/7-4/17	1-8 grade	\$35 straight fee
High School Flag Football League	6/11-7/16	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4/4-5/23	9 th -12 th grade	\$34/\$49
Adult Softball Spring/Summer League	First week of May- late July 12 games +tourney	Evenings Men's Upper/Lower & Co-ed Leagues	Begins 3/1 until full	18 yrs. & Up	\$325/team + Ump Fee Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
May Drop Your Kids Off (evening)	5/30	6:00 pm – 11:00 pm	5/2-5/27	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Mid-MI Family Theatre Drama Camp	8/25-8/29	8:00 am - 2:00 pm (15 min. early drop off available)	6/6 & Open until full	8-16 yrs.	\$120
T-ball & Pee Wee Baseball	6/2-7/10 Weekday Games	6:00 pm or 7:15 pm Game Times	4/4-5/2	4-7 yrs.	\$44/\$59
Adult Soccer Leagues Co-ed	6/1-7/13	Sunday evenings	4/4-5/23	18+	\$150/team Individual Player Fees: \$5 Res./\$20 Non-Res.
Summer Fun Club Day Camp	6/8-8/22 (11 weeks)	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Begins 4/4 & open until full	5-9 yrs.	\$105/\$120 per week
Double Digit Day Camp	6/8-8/22 (11 weeks)	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Begins 4/4 & Open until full	10-14 yrs.	\$105/\$120 per week
Adult Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Ongoing	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Drop in	18 yrs. & Up	\$2 per visit

You may register for most DARA programs online by visiting our website at www.dewittrecreation.org. DARA accepts Visa and Mastercard payments for online registrations. You may also print a registration form by clicking on our newsletter link from our home page and then mail it with payment to 1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820. You may drop off registration forms 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. You may also follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation> to receive the most up to date information.

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

The DeWitt District Library serves the residents of the City of DeWitt, DeWitt Township, Bath Township, Olive Township, Riley Township, and the portion of Watertown Township located within the DeWitt School District. Additional information on the DeWitt Library, its programs and services can be found online @ www.dewittlibrary.org or by calling the Library at 517-669-3156.

Babysitting Workshop - Saturday, March 22 – 10:00 am-4:00 pm

For youth age 12 and up. Learn emergency procedures, discipline techniques, diapering, age appropriate activities, pediatric CPR, rescue breathing, the Heimlich maneuver, and basic first aid skills needed while babysitting. Participants will need to bring a sack lunch and, if desired, an afternoon snack. Class fee of \$30 required. Signup must be completed 48 hours prior to program date. All checks should be made payable to C.P.R.C. Inc.

National Library Week – Lives Change @ Your Library - April 13-19

Libraries of all types serve as catalysts in their communities, offering opportunities for children and adults alike to learn, grow and achieve their dreams. In addition to providing access to books, e-books, computers and other resources, libraries offer expert teaching and guidance to aid library users in their quest to open new worlds and change their lives.

Libraries have historically served as our nation's great equalizers of knowledge, providing free access to information for all people. Today's libraries continue this tradition, helping to level the playing field by making both print and digital information affordable, available and accessible to all people.

Celebrate YOUR library by using your library card this month!

Spring Session of Youth & Teen Programming

April 14-May 16

Family Story Time – Wednesdays 10:30 am

Baby Story Time – Wednesdays 11:30 am

NEWFamily Story Time – Fridays 10:30 am****

Teen Time – Thursdays 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Cover to Cover Book Discussion

Visit the Library's website for title selections.

March 18 - 6:30 pm

April 15 – 6:30 pm

May 20 – 6:30 pm

June 17 – 6:30 pm

Library Director's Blog

Join the conversation. Engage in library happenings, news and musing through the DeWitt Library website or access the blog directly.

dewittdistrictlibrary.blogspot.com

Chalk the Walk Summer Reading Kick-Off - June 5 – after school to 7:30 pm

Join us as we kick start summer reading 2014—Fizz! Boom! Read! Register for summer reading, decorate our sidewalk, blow bubbles and more! All ages welcome!

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

This list is not "all inclusive" but recognizes the majority of those who serve on standing Township committees and commissions. They make decisions that shape our community. Tell them THANKS for their service!

Board of Appeals: Johanna Balzer, Steve Gobbo, Robert Reese, Christopher LaGrand, Andrew Richards, Donald Riel, Jeff Carpenter

Board of Review: Norman Farnum, Al Harrison, Concetta D'Agostino

Construction Board of Appeals: Dick Byelich, Brian Schertzing, Gene Brownfield, Dennis Rozen, Gordon Woodman, Joshua Knight

Corridor Improvement Authority: Rod Taylor, Chuck Allen, Richard Kelley, Butch Mohre, Johanna Balzer, Tonia Olson, Scott Randall, Randy Root, Max Calder

DeWitt Area Recreation Authority: Mary Winegar, Phyllis Daggy, Doug Simon

DeWitt District Library Board: Wayne Summers, Brian Byars, Kara Thelen

Planning Commission: Steve Musselman, Bruce Keilen, Steve Gobbo, Adam Bertram, Kristen Krol, Marsha Zimmerman, Dale Dailey, Tim Fair, Abby Lorenzen

Public Safety Committee: David Seeger, Tom Hendrickson, Bonnie Oetman, Sava Vosovic, Joseph Galardi

Salary Compensation Commission: Dick Byelich, Danny Taylor, Bill Bupp, Scott Hummel, Tim Brannan

Southern Clinton County Utilities Authority: Brian Ross, Diane Mosier, Mark Helinski, Rod Taylor, James Kurt

Sewer Board of Appeals: Judy Martiny, Doug Vettraino, Ken Kain, Norm McEachin, Max Calder

Sister City Community Board: Steve Musselman, Scott Sowulewski, Peggy Brown, James Sinnamon

Next Michigan Development Corporation: Brian Ross, Bob Showers

Clinton County (Township Rep) Solid Waste Council: David Seeger

"I have enjoyed serving on the ZBA. It has allowed me to engage with and serve my fellow Township residents in a concrete and meaningful way. It has also allowed me to be better informed about what is happening in the community and to be more aware of the issues Township leadership is addressing. I strongly recommend serving on a Township board or committee."

Chris LaGrand

"I have found my service on the Planning Commission very educational. It is good to know that I can play even a small role in my local government. As a lawyer who normally argues the law and the interpretation of ordinances, it is enlightening to consider and debate the various policies that influence the implementation."

Kristen Krol

SPRINGTIME BRUSH BURNING

Due to the large number of tree limbs that came down during the winter storms, open burning will be extended this spring. The open burning of brush will be extended through May 18, 2014, for seasonal permits. Remember to call in to activate your permit and be cautious of weather conditions when burning.

SCCMUA OPEN HOUSE

Ann Phibian Says "Save the Date!"



Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCCMUA) will be holding their second Open House. The event is open to the public and will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2014, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at 3671 W. Herbison Road in DeWitt. This free event will host facility tours, information booths, demonstrations, games with prizes for the children, a poster contest, and snacks as well as other events. Poster contest information is available on the website. Information will be available in the schools soon. Please join us for a fun event and learn what happens at the Cleanwater Plant. More information is available on SCCMUA's website, www.sccmua.com or follow them

on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sccmua.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

As many of you are aware, the Township adopted a Non-Motorized Transportation Plan in July of 2013. This has been a significant achievement for the community to be able to prioritize projects and identify areas of future needs. The goal of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan is to create a more livable and walkable community where children, adults, seniors, or individuals with disabilities can safely and conveniently walk or bike for recreational purposes as well as provide alternative transportation choices for individuals to reach destination areas.

By implementing non-motorized transportation infrastructure, it positively impacts the quality of life for residents and business owners by creating a stronger sense of community and will make DeWitt Township a more desirable community to live, work, and play. By adopting the Plan, it also allows the Township to pursue grant opportunities that can significantly offset the cost of constructing infrastructure improvements.

One of the highest priorities of the Plan is to provide pathways and sidewalks along the Old 27 corridor from Sheridan Road north to Northcrest. The Township has initiated the process of applying for a grant with the State of Michigan to implement pathways along the corridor. If selected for the grant opportunity, it would cover approximately 80% of the cost to construct the pathways for this area. These improvements would be within the road right-of-way. This is a major thoroughfare within the community and would be the first major connector for the community to becoming a more walkable/bikeable community. This project would allow for opportunities to connect to the Lansing River Trail and has been endorsed by the City of Lansing as well as the City of DeWitt as a regional non-motorized connection. In addition, this would provide opportunities to connect to the Northern Tier Trail near Chandler Crossings in East Lansing. Eventually, the goal of the Non-Motorized Plan would be to provide regional access that would allow individuals to travel north, south, east, or west along major routes in a safe and efficient manner without the use of a motorized vehicle.

On January 15th and 16th, the Township hosted two workshops to receive input about the future of Old 27 in the southern tier of the Township regarding its land use and transportation needs. In regards to the pedestrian environment along the Old 27 corridor, the participants expressed interest and support for pathways along the corridor. There were also comments regarding providing safe crossing areas along the corridor as part of the discussion of the meeting. Other related feedback included the need for enhancing the aesthetics along the corridor with signage, lighting, and landscaping.



2013 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR – ED BRANDON

The DeWitt Township Fire Department recently named Ed Brandon as the Township's Firefighter of the year. Ed was nominated by his peers for both his professional and volunteer efforts. In 2013, Ed was a judge in the Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby; manned a table at the Community Showcase; and worked at Take A Breath for PH/Get Moving for MS run, the Granger Meadows Celebration and the Sparrow Touch A Truck. Also in 2013, Ed was certified in Ice Rescue and saved a man's life at his workplace by administering CPR. Congratulations, Ed!

PAYMENT METHODS AND DUE DATES

Did you know - payments can be received at the DeWitt Township Office 24/7/365. The drop box at the front entrance is ready and waiting for you. If you realize, at 6 pm, that your payment is due today, you can still avoid the late fee. Everything in the drop box at 8:00 am is recognized as paid the previous day. The Township also recognizes postmark for payment dates. Just be sure to have the stamp postmarked, as automated systems often bypass that step. Payments at the counter can be cash, check or credit/debit card (with an additional 3.25% fee). Credit/debit cards accepted include Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Payment for sewer bills has the additional option of auto withdraw from a checking or savings account.

SEWER BILLING FORMS CHANGED

Have you or your neighbor ever received your sewer bill torn at the perforation? Have you ever wondered why the color changes every time you get your bill?

Over the years, the Treasurer's Office has been tweaking the style of the utility bill, each time with a reason for the change. The colorful bill is just a visual cue for the bill being a current statement or a previous statement, aiding when we are entering payments or taking a payment at the counter. This March, you will notice the biggest change we have made in recent years. The complete format has changed, with the perforation going in a horizontal direction instead of vertical. The goal for this change is to assist the US Post Office in processing without the statements ripping in their automated systems. If you are wondering which side to send us, the answer is: either one. Both sides have the bar code, account number and amount due. Preference would be the bottom portion, as that also has your name and mailing address for us to check for any address changes you would like to see completed. Hopefully this change will correct the ripped bill issue.

Future changes that are coming down the line . . . going green with e-billing should be available later this year.

SANITARY SEWER - CUSTOMER NOTICE

The Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCCMUA) operates and maintains the sanitary sewer system of DeWitt Charter Township. If you have a sewer backup, immediately notify SCCMUA at 517-669-8311 or call 911 Emergency Dispatch after hours. SCCMUA will respond for itself and the Township. If a problem within the sewer system is found, SCCMUA will be the agency responsible for determining cause, coordinating claims, and keeping customers informed.

VETERAN SERVICES



Veterans and their family members have additional access to help with Veterans' benefits through the American Legion Department of Michigan. A Department of Michigan Veteran Service Officer will be available to answer questions about Veteran Administration Benefits. All Veterans who are serving in the military, Veterans who have served in the military, and all family members of Veterans are encouraged to attend if they have questions. The Service Officer can help you begin the claims process if one is needed. Please bring your DD-214 and, if possible, any medical evidence, both military and civilian documents. If you don't have your DD-214, one can be ordered for you.

There is no charge for this service. The American Legion Department of Michigan has been providing Veteran Services for Michigan for 80 years. They have the resources to provide representation in the Detroit Regional Office as well as Washington D.C. if the process goes that far.

You can meet with your Veteran Service Officer, CSM (R) Joseph Di Giovanni, at the **Clinton County Courthouse, Garden Level Room A, St. Johns, MI every Wednesday from 12 pm to 5 pm**. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 517-290-8789. Alternate sites are:

Michigan National Guard, 3423 MLK Jr. Boulevard, Lansing, Mondays 9 am to 4 pm
Davenport University, 200 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, Thursdays 1 pm to 6 pm

BLIGHT ELIMINATION

Recently, DeWitt Township received exciting news that we have received another grant opportunity. This time the grant is from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and is for \$183,425 for blight elimination.

This grant will allow the Township to purchase and demolish the former "Chips Bar/Panorama Video Store" located at 16164 Old US-27 (corner of Old US-27 and Wieland Road). The purpose of the funds is to help communities address blight and physical decay and to help spur investment and additional blight removal. The Township had identified this parcel as a key property in its revitalization efforts of the Valley Farms Corridor. The total project cost is estimated to be \$398,000.

"The renovation of this distressed property on US-27 will bring new vitality and economic opportunities to the entire area and serve as a catalyst for further investment in the community," said MEDC President and CEO Michael A. Finney. "We are pleased to support the efforts of DeWitt Township in restoring this property and bringing significant improvement to the area."

For several years, the Township has implemented over a dozen initiatives in the area of Valley Farms as part of our effort to stabilize and increase the growth. This property is constantly used as an example of the type of blight and underutilization that needs to be eliminated to bring about significant positive changes.

We are appreciative to the State of Michigan for its assistance in helping local jurisdictions address long standing issues that impact the safety and economic development potential of a community. Without this grant to assist the Township, the distress of this property would continue to be a concern and issue for residents and businesses, and we would not be able to achieve our long term objectives.

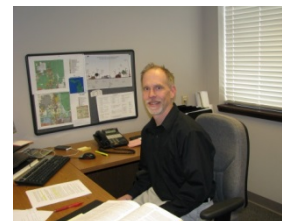
PROPERTY VALUE CHANGES FOR 2014

As you read this Newsletter, if you are a property owner, you should have received your 2014 Assessment notice which was mailed the last week in February. Unless there has been new construction or improvements made to your property, Proposal A, enacted in 1994, limits your taxable value increase to 5% or the rate-of-inflation, whichever is less. For the 2014 assessment/tax year, the rate of inflation is 1.6%, which means your Taxable Value could increase by a maximum of 1.6%. However, if your assessed value and taxable value are the same, and the assessed value decreases, the taxable value will also decrease. The notices also show the following changes for the 2014 tax year: increase or decrease in the property assessment, change in taxable value, an approximate change in property taxes based on the new 2014 taxable value, and also the percentage of Principal Residence (Homestead) /Agricultural Exemption that the property is receiving.

BOARD OF REVIEW will meet the week of March 10, 2014. Please see the specific times for appointments 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 517-669-6494. Residential property owners should also verify that the "**% Exempt as Homeowners Principal Residence**" is also correct. If your residential property is your primary residence, the percentage should read 100%.

WELCOME BRETT WITTENBERG

The Township's newest employee is Planner Brett Wittenberg. Brett has worked as a Planner and Community Development Director for almost 20 years. Brett and his family live in the DeWitt area. Welcome Aboard!



Having a family reunion? a birthday party? an open house? a family picnic? Now is the time to reserve your park pavilion at Granger Meadows Park or Valley Farms Park. Contact the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411 to check availability on your preferred date and make your reservation.

PA 497 OF 2012 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (REAL ESTATE PROPERTY)

In December, 2012, the Michigan Legislature enacted PA 497, which takes effect with the transfer of property beginning in 2014. The law states that a transfer of residential real property is not a transfer of ownership if the transferee is related to the transferor by blood or affinity to the first degree **and** the use of the residential real property does not change following the transfer of ownership. So, what does this mean? It simply means that a person who owns residential property may transfer the property, beginning in 2014, to a spouse, father or mother, father or mother of the spouse, a son or daughter, including adopted children or a son or daughter of a spouse and the property transferred will not come uncapped the year following the transfer. It will be necessary to file a Transfer Affidavit with the Assessing Department to claim the exemption "transfer is by blood or affinity to the first degree." It is important to note that while the property does not have to be a homestead property, nor does it matter how many residential real parcels the taxpayer owns, the use of the property may not change. If the property is later changed to a commercial use, there will be an immediate uncapping. The provisions in the Act only apply to residential real property and not to any other property classification. Due to the blood relationship clause, the State Tax Commission has defined transferee and transferor as a person. Therefore, this exemption from uncapping **does not apply** to a trust, a limited liability company or to distribution from probate. For any questions or concerns regarding your property and estate planning, it is recommended you contact your attorney.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

DeWitt Community Showcase – Wednesday, April 16th 5-8 pm – DeWitt Charter Township, DeWitt Public Schools, the City of DeWitt and the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce and our sponsors proudly present our Third Annual Community Showcase. This event, in partnership with other community supporters, is intended to highlight our community business and non-profit groups. For more information, visit www.dewittcommunityshowcase.org.

The **DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce** is pleased to announce the following events for 2014:

- June 6 - Tiger's Baseball Game Trip to Comerica Park. This is an adult only trip and tickets are limited.
- June 14 from 10 am – 4 pm - Art & Music Festival will be hosted at Riverside Park, Downtown DeWitt.
- June 27 - Golf Outing hosted at Prairie Creek Golf Course in DeWitt.
- August 24 - Annual Classic Car Show hosted at the Schavey Road Plaza in DeWitt.
- December 6 - Electric light parade in Downtown DeWitt in conjunction with the DeWitt Christmas Market. Participation is free.

For additional information about the Chamber or Chamber events please visit www.dewittareacc.org or contact the Chamber Office at 517-668-3635.

The **Clinton County Department of Waste Management** is actively planning for spring events. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, call [989-224-5186](tel:989-224-5186), send an email to recycle@clinton-county.org or visit on line at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

Medical Disposal Programs

March 22nd from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Bath Township Senior Center, 14480 Webster Road in Bath.

March 29th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Recycle Rama! Ingham County Health Department, 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing.

April 26th from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Clean Community Event in St. Johns - the location will be provided when an appointment is made.

June 13th from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy, 901 South Oakland Street, in St. Johns.

Recycle Rama!

Saturday March 29th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Ingham County Health Department at 5303 South Cedar Street in Lansing.

All area residents are encouraged to take part in this tri-county recycling effort. Please call the City of Lansing for additional information [\(517\) 483-4400](tel:5174834400).

Clean Community Event

April 26th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm St. Johns

This valuable event assists residents to recycle or properly dispose of just about any household generated waste item. There are fees for a few items, but most materials are collected for free. The event is also open to small businesses however additional fees do apply for hazardous and electronic waste items. Disposal fees are waived for volunteers! To make an appointment or to volunteer call [989-224-5186](tel:9892245186) or email recycle@clinton-county.org.

CLEAN SWEEP

Clean Sweep will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014. It's time to get rid of that junk taking up space around your house and haul it down to the Granger Landfill. 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 DeWitt Township resident and must make an appointment to participate.** For more information or to make your required appointment, call the Township Hall (517-668-0270), *beginning Tuesday, April 1, 2014*. Space is limited.

10th ANNUAL MEADOWS CELEBRATION - A BLAST IN THE MOONLIGHT

Mark your calendars. The 10th Annual Meadows Celebration is set for **Friday, July 18th**. It's sure to be an afternoon of family fun and a night of entertainment and fireworks at Granger Meadows Park.



SERVE - EARN - LEARN

DeWitt Township is always recruiting registered voters to work in the polls on Election Day. It is a great way to serve your community, earn a little money, and learn about the election process. We have three polling locations with seven precincts. You can work part-time or full-time (full-time is sometimes a 16 hour day) and we even have sit down tasks and computer assignments. Training will be scheduled yet this year, usually in June, and is required by statute. You do not have to be available for all elections, but the August Primary and the November General require the most help. Call the Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270 and we will mail you a required application to begin the process. The application is also available on our web site. Give it a try, you might really enjoy it!

DEWITT BATH REVIEW

For many years, the Township has been trying to get the DeWitt Bath Review newspaper delivered to all of DeWitt Township. Receiving this paper provides another source of communication to all of our residents and business owners. We have been notified that the DeWitt Bath Review is now being delivered to all residents in the Township! If you are still not receiving the paper, please e-mail Sue Lounds at slounds@lsj.com and provide your address. She will help with any distribution problems.

Webb & US 27 Signal Project Update:

The design has been completed and the funding allocated for this installation. MDOT crews will be doing the work; however, Consumers Energy (CE) will install the remaining poles. MDOT's schedule is to start sometime this spring as soon as CE can get the poles installed with completion by early summer at the latest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY MARTINY ON 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

After 30 years of service, a little recognition is due. In 1984, Judy Martiny began working in the Building and Zoning Office, and has been the Deputy Clerk for the past 16 years. Many Township residents have experienced firsthand Judy's gift for serving the community, both on the job and in her personal life. Whether she is knee deep in election business, making appointments for a Township program, or assisting a resident with arranging the burial of a loved one, one thing is for certain--She enjoys helping people. In her personal life, she has progressed from coaching her kids in recreation programs to attending various sporting events for one or another of her eight grandchildren. She is serving her community and living and loving life. That describes our Judy.



ATTENTION BATH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS

Both Lansing and Bath School Districts have ballot propositions being placed before the voters on May 6th. For voters on the automatic absentee application list, those applications to request a ballot will be mailed out by mid-March for voters to complete and return to us. Those applications will be forwarded to the "snowbirds" who have submitted forwarding information to the postal service. When you receive your application, and if you would like a ballot, complete the application and tell us where to send your ballot. Ask yourself: Where will I be in early April? The actual ballots will be mailed out in early April and cannot be forwarded, so complete your application and provide your "snowbird" address if that's where you will be.

Voters who will be going to the polls on Election Day will go to their usual precinct, either at the Herbison Road Fire Station or the DeWitt Township Community Center on Brook Road.

Voters whose registered address is within the DeWitt School District will not be voting on May 6th.

NEWS BITES

HAPPY RETIREMENT TO OFFICER JAMES TERRILL - Officer James Terrill has announced his retirement with the DeWitt Charter Township Police Department. Jim started his career with the Police Department on March 16, 1987. He has spent the last 27 years working in various capacities including School Liaison Officer and even a Command position. His true passion is road patrol. He has many accommodations and awards; and, his experience and common sense approach to policing will be missed. He has been an asset to the department and community. His last day will be March 31, 2014. Jim summed things up by advising that he has had an exciting and rewarding career and wanted to thank his fellow officers, the Township, and the community for their support.

WELCOME ABOARD – to David Stoltzfus, Jeffrey Walsh, Deana Coffey, Brenner Ballard, Troy Wierman, and Christopher Dick. All are new paid-on-call Firefighters.

UPDATING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS: This spring, the Assessing Office staff will continue to visit various residential neighborhoods to take new digital photographs of the exterior of homes to update property records. This project was started in 2011 and it is expected that this project will be finished this year. Assessing Office staff will always have pictured ID that identifies them as Township employees.

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.

HURD AND GUNNISONVILLE CEMETERIES: Artificial ground ornamentation must be removed from Township cemeteries each year by March 15th. After that date, ground ornamentation may be collected and disposed of by Township maintenance personnel. Artificial ornamentation is allowed year round if it is placed in an approved urn and as long as it does not become unsightly.

INTERMENT OF CREMAINS IN HURD OR GUNNISONVILLE CEMETERIES: The Township Board recently changed the maximum number of cremains that can be interred in a burial space. After January 1, 2014, up to four cremains may be interred in a burial space, where the previous number allowed was two. If you own burial spaces in one of the Township's cemeteries and plan to use those spaces for cremains interment, the Clerk's Office (517-668-0270) can explain the changes and send you a copy of the revised rules and regulations.

PEDDLERS & SOLICITORS: If a peddler or solicitor comes to your door, ask to see their permit. The Township processes peddler and solicitor applications, including a background check of all applicants, and then issues a permit to the applicant which must be on their person while going door-to-door. If the person at your door does not have a permit, do not engage with the individual. Close your door and call 911 to report the incident. A description of the vehicle is often useful so that emergency personnel can follow up on the report. Religious organizations and children are generally exempt from this requirement for a permit.

NEW PROGRAM –INCOME TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE: Are you in need of having assistance with preparing your 2013 tax returns? DeWitt Township is pleased to announce that we will be hosting "DeWitt Area Tax Assistance," an organization of trained volunteers serving taxpayers by preparing and e-filing their 2013 income tax return. This group is associated with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation's largest volunteer run tax assistance and preparation service. Since 1968, this program has helped nearly 50 million low to moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those people age 60 and older and best of all, THIS SERVICE IS PROVIDED ABSOLUTELY FREE. Offered in cooperation with the IRS, it helps taxpayers have more discretionary income for everyday essentials, such as food and housing, by ensuring they receive applicable tax credits and deductions. Appointments are now being taken for Mondays and Wednesdays only, through April 9, 2014, and operating within the DeWitt Township Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing, MI 48906. If you would like further information, or would like to schedule an appointment, please call the DeWitt Township Clerk's Office at 517-668-0270.

REMINDER – DEWITT'S REDEEMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOOD BANK - you can 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 always open.

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



BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION

In recent years, the economy has been struggling through a downturn that was down far enough that many Building departments and staff have been reduced to levels not seen in many years. In keeping up with the best customer service possible, departments have tried to find new ways to minimize cost while keeping the same operational service. Some departments across the State have been forced to close, merge, or outsource their services to survive.

Now, the economy seems to be moving forward, and with that, comes some new opportunities. DeWitt Township and the City of DeWitt are taking advantage of the increase in the economy, and have agreed to work together to create a Joint Building Department Operation for our communities. The municipalities have been working on this consolidation for many months, and are ready to roll out the operation to the public in the near future. Our intended goals are to increase the availability of our staff to the public so they may ask questions, obtain permits easily, and schedule inspections quicker. In the future, we are looking forward to offering scheduling opportunities on-line and, in some cases, same day service. This type of operation will improve our customer service and help with the needs of the community. The Township has full time staff and is open Monday-Friday, 8 am – 5 pm. The staff can answer questions and guide customers through the process. We hope to build on the operation and bring many new opportunities to our area in the future.

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

April 16	DeWitt Community Showcase
April 18	Good Friday – Township Offices Closed
April 26	Bath Community Showcase
May 3	Clean Sweep
May 6	Election Day (Bath & Lansing School Districts)
May 26	Memorial Day – Township Offices Closed
July 18	Meadows Celebration
August 5	Primary Election
November 4	General Election



The Township Board recently honored Scott & Valerie Randall, owners of Redline Auto Service, with the Outstanding Business Recognition Award. The Randall's donate to many Township efforts including the annual Meadows Celebration. Scott serves on the Township Access Management Plan Committee, Corridor Improvement Authority, South 27 Design Committee and the International Property Maintenance Code Committee. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Curt Thayer!
 The Township Board presented Curt with the Outstanding Citizen Recognition Award at its January 27, 2014 Board Meeting.

Curt "Frog" has resided in the Township since 1980 and has served on the Township's Fire Department since 1981. Curt, a Veteran, is always helping his neighbors and gives generously of his time. He is an anchor Firefighter for the Township.