

November, 2010

ADMINISTRATION

Twp Hall - 668-0270
Cemetery
Clerk
Information
Manager
Supervisor

Assessing - 669-6494

Building - 668-0278

DARA – 482-5117

Fire - 669-0071
Administration

Planning/Zoning
669-6576

Police - 669-6578
Administration

Treasurer - 668-1411

CLINTON COUNTY

1-888-224-2450
Toll Free

POLICE & FIRE ASSISTANCE

Fire - 9-1-1
EMT/Ambulance
Police - 9-1-1
State Police – 322-1911

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor
Rick Galardi
Clerk
Diane Mosier
Treasurer
Phyllis Daggy
Trustees
Max Calder
Steve Musselman
Brian Ross
David Seeger

Manager
Rodney H. Taylor

www.dewitttownship.org

WHERE DEVELOPMENT BEGINS

Earlier this year, the Township held a focus group meeting to talk about the state of our budget. One of the outcomes of that meeting was a survey asking residents to rank their level of importance of 12 non-statutory services. Not surprisingly, Police and Fire Services ranked the highest, followed by road repairs and then economic development.

Historically, when governments thought about economic development, it was, "How do we bring in that big development that creates a lot of jobs?" While these large companies are certainly important to our shrinking economy, the fact is that it is small business that drives Michigan's economy. In 2008, 90% of Michigan businesses employed 9 or fewer employees. Stats show, in the same year, 69% of people were employed in a business that had less than 99 employees^a. While it would be wonderful to attract a business that employed 100 people to our area, we would be better served with 10 new/expanded businesses that employed 10 people. Big business will continue to be an important part of our economy; however, it should not be the only area of emphasis.

To help encourage new small business, the Township has partnered with Bath Township and Watertown Township. Together, we applied for and received a technical assistance grant from the MSU Land Policy Institute. The program is called Creating Entrepreneurial Communities. Our joint application is one of eight selected for the three year program. The goal is to improve Michigan's economy by encouraging entrepreneurship within communities.

Watertown, DeWitt, and Bath have used the first three letters from each township to come up with the name "Where Development Begins." Over the next three years, we will be identifying the best ways to encourage and support the entrepreneurial spirit within the Southern Tier of Clinton County. Over the last ten years, our three communities have been the fastest growing in the region. Additionally, we have some of the lowest tax rates in the Mid-Michigan region. We feel that this is a great place to start and/or grow your business; and, we want to help people accomplish this goal.

Part of our mission will be to identify resources already available in the region to help people with their dreams. If you have an interest in starting a business or expanding your existing business, please feel free to contact the Township for assistance. In addition, below is a list of other contacts:

- The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center - Located at Lansing Community College - provides services and support to the Michigan small business community in the areas of counseling, training and research. Contact: Tom Donaldson 517-483-1921, <http://misbtcdc.org>.

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^a Youreconomy.org

- The Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan – They provide low cost training classes, technical assistance, and micro-loans. Contact: Denise Peek, 517-853-5890, denise@yourfoundationforbusiness.com, www.yourfoundationforbusiness.com.
- Clinton County Economic Alliance - Providing support for all business in Clinton County. Contact: John Czarnecki, 517-669-1345, www.clintoncountyeconomicalliance.org.
- DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce - Offering local business, educational and recreational opportunities. Additionally, provides culture and quality of life programs for our community. Contact: Loretta Spinrad, 517-668-3635, www.dewittareacc.org.
- DeWitt Downtown Development Authority - Strong downtowns always help support a region and a high quality of life. The DDA helps business in downtown DeWitt. Contact: info@dewittdda.org, www.dewittdda.org.
- Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE) and Biz Resource Center - Located at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, provides helpful small business planning, advice for existing and start-up businesses, access to pertinent business resources, counseling, computers, internet and other research materials free to non-members. Contact: 517-487-6340, www.score.org .
- MSU Product Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources - Established to improve economic opportunities in the Michigan agriculture, food and natural resource sectors. Contact: 517-432-8750, www.productcenter.msu.edu.

Please don't forget the value of supporting your local small business by "Buying Local."

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSTALLATION PROGRAM

DeWitt Township's Police and Fire Departments are offering an additional service to benefit the residents of the community. Both departments now boast employees who are certified in child safety seat installation. Material from the National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program indicates that 73% to 90%+ of the time child safety seats are incorrectly installed. The DeWitt Township Police and Fire Departments are taking steps to do something to correct this situation.

The three certified Officers from DeWitt Township are: Police Officer Bill Darnell; Fire Department Captain Tom Stone, and Fire Department Lieutenant Mike Bush. These officers were certified after completing the Michigan Department of Community Health's 32-hour course on Child Passenger Safety Certification.

We encourage any community resident to call the Fire Department at 517-669-0071 or the Police Department at 517-669-6578 to schedule an appointment for child safety seat installation in their vehicle. The proper installation of the child safety seat will take approximately 15 minutes. We look forward to assisting your family and keeping your most important asset safe!!



As we move forward with the implementation of the South Central Area Plan, we are aware of the call for additional tools to help maintain our property values and help those in need. The rising cost of living and falling social service budgets have left some of our most vulnerable neighbors without the most basic of necessities - a warm, safe, and dry home. The Township believes in helping provide these tools; therefore, we have chosen to partner with Rebuilding Together. If you can answer yes to the following questions, this program may be for you.

- **Do you own your own home and need some repairs completed in and around your house?**
- **Do you ever wish there was a program that could help with these repairs at no cost to you?**

Well there is. Rebuilding Together is a national volunteer organization that identifies eligible homes of low-income seniors or low-income disabled persons for a one day home repair volunteer blitz that takes place the last Saturday in April (April 30, 2011). Your home may be eligible. You must meet all of the following criteria:

- ✓ **Own and reside in the home**
- ✓ **Property taxes are up-to-date**
- ✓ **Homeowner's insurance is current**
- ✓ **Income at or below \$1,300 per month for a one-person household or \$1,750 per month for a two-person household**
- ✓ **You are disabled or 60 years of age or older**
- ✓ **Homeowner plans to be in the home for at least three years**
- ✓ **Unable physically and financially to complete the requested repairs**

To apply, a completed application with a list of repairs will need to be submitted to our local chapter of Rebuilding Together by **mid-January**. Applications are available by calling 517-214-8356 (Rebuilding Together voicemail) and leaving a message requesting an application, or you can call the Township at 517-668-0278. Your home may be one of the 20+ selected this year in the greater Lansing area. Repairs will be completed by volunteers on Saturday, April 30, 2011. There is no cost to eligible homeowners who are selected.

This organization operates solely by volunteers; therefore, we are continually looking for volunteers to help. Please call 517-214-8356 (voicemail) and state your interest in becoming a volunteer along with your contact information. Donations are also needed and welcomed. Call the voicemail and leave a message if you have any questions. A board member will return your call.

Send your completed application and/or donation to:

Rebuilding Together
c/o DeWitt Charter Township
1401 W. Herbison Road
DeWitt, MI 48820

DARA RECREATION NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) is located at the DeWitt Township Community Center (DTCC), 16101 Brook Road, Lansing, MI 48906. Information regarding any event or program can be obtained by calling the DARA office at 517-482-5117. You may register for programs in person at the DARA office (16101 Brook Road, Lansing), the DeWitt Township Hall (1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt) or DeWitt City Hall (414 E. Main Street, DeWitt). Registration forms and program descriptions are also available on DARA's website, www.dewittrecreation.org. You may also find DARA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dararecreation>.

Program Name	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Drop Your Kids Off (Friday night program)	11/12, 12/17, 1/14, 2/18, 3/18	6:00pm - 11:00pm	Deadline is one week prior to each event	4-12 yr	\$15/per child and \$10/each additional
Drop Your Kids Off (All Day Program)	1/24 and 3/4	7:30am - 5:30pm	Deadline is one week prior to each event	5-12 yr	\$25/per child and \$15/each additional
Wrestling Club	Nov. - April	Tues and Thurs 6:30 - 8:00pm	11/5 - 11/30	5-14 yr	\$85 per participant
Dinner With Santa	12/6	5:15 - 6:15pm 6:30 - 7:30pm	11/5 - 12/3	All ages	\$6/child & \$2/adult \$8/child & \$3/adult
Youth Basketball Camp	1/4 - 2/1 Tuesdays	5:30 - 6:15pm 6:30 - 7:30pm	11/5 - 12/10	4-6 yr	\$33/\$38
Youth Lacrosse Camp	1/15 - 2/5 Saturdays	9:00 - Noon Time varies on grade	11/5 - 12/10	Grades K - 4 th	\$25/\$30
Youth Basketball Leagues	1/8 - 3/5 Saturdays	8:00am - 1:00pm varies with grade	11/5 - 12/10	Grades 3 - 12	\$43/\$50/\$60 \$48/\$55/\$65
Preschool Sports Starter	2/8 - 3/15 Tuesdays	5:30 - 6:15pm 6:30 - 7:15pm	1/7 - 2/4	3-4 yr 4-5 yr	\$33/\$48
Floor Hockey League	2/19 - 3/26 Saturdays	9:00am - 4:00pm varies with grade	1/7 - 2/4	Grades K - 5	\$33/\$48
Spring Break Fun Club	4/4 - 4/8 M-F	7:30am - 5:30pm	2/4 - 3/25	5-12 yr	\$80/\$95
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun	7:00 - 9:00pm	Drop In	18+	\$2 per visit

Programs may fill up before posted deadlines, so please do not wait to register. Once classes and programs are full, there will be no more registrations accepted. If you are signing up for a youth sports league, you may pick one practice night that does not work for your family; however, no other requests will be granted.

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

GREAT PARENTS GREAT START PROGRAM

Great Parents Great Start is a voluntary and free program designed to support parents of children ages birth to five in their parenting role. Understanding early brain development as it relates to all skills – language, large and fine motor, intellectual and personal/social skills – parents become their child's first and most important teacher. Parent and child playgroups are offered to any parent, foster parent, or grandparent of children ages birth to five who reside in the Clinton County RESA service area. Other services available through the Great Parents Great Start program for eligible families include: home visits, developmental screenings, and vision/hearing screenings. If you would like more information, please contact the Great Parents Great Start parent educator at 989-224-6831. Additionally, information is available at www.clintongreatstart.org.

HOW DO I REPORT A STREETLIGHT PROBLEM?

Have you had a streetlight flashing or out? - Here's how to report it:

If you are a Consumer's Energy customer, you may call them toll free at 800-477-5050 or use the following link <https://www.consumersenergy.com/webform.aspx?ekfrm=1470> to fill out an on-line form and report the problem. Complete the form as detailed as possible.

If you are a Board of Water & Light customer, call 517-702-6006 or 800-493-8009 (toll free). You can also email this information to custservice@lbwl.com. Please supply the exact location of the streetlight, including nearest cross street, which side of the street and house number. Be sure to include your name and contact information in case they need to contact you.

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

The DeWitt District Library (DDL) offers programs, events, and collection material to suit all ages. Below are regularly scheduled programs offered at DDL:

Weekly Programs

Mondays

Open Story Time @ 11:00 am
Teen Gaming @ 4:00 pm

Tuesdays

Creative Crafts @ 4:30 pm

Wednesdays

Baby Story Time @ 10:30 am
Toddler Tales @ 11:30 am
Knit-Wits @ 3:30 pm

Thursdays

Toddler Tales @ 10:30 am

Monthly Programs

Second Tuesdays

Reading is Dog Gone Fun! @ 4:30 pm
Featuring Rylee. Signup requested.

Second Thursdays

Library Board of Trustees' Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Open to the public.

Third Tuesdays

Booked for Dessert @ 7:00 pm

Fourth Tuesdays

Reading is Dog Gone Fun! @ 4:30 pm
Featuring Talone. Signup requested.

Additional information on these and other programs or services offered through the DeWitt District Library available at www.dewittlibrary.org.

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY CHANGES IN LIBRARY HOURS AND SERVICES

The DeWitt District Library (DDL) Board of Trustees instituted new operational changes to accommodate budget challenges. In spite of the recent passage of the August 3rd Millage Renewal, the library faces diminishing resources due to decreases in funding from the State of Michigan, property taxes, and penal fines.

To meet these challenges, the library will reduce both staff and operational hours, suspend operation of the satellite location (DeWitt Township Community Center), and establish a \$1 delivery fee on MeLCat items. These changes were made after a thorough review of circulation statistics, library program attendance, computer usage, and observations from library personnel with the committed goal of providing the highest quality library services in the most cost effective manner possible. All changes were effective October 1, 2010.

DDL's main location, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt, MI, will remain open and available to serve patrons during the following hours of operation:

Monday	10:00 am - 8:30 pm	Saturday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday	1:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Sunday (winter)*	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am - 8:30 pm	Sunday (summer)	CLOSED
Thursday	10:00 am - 8:30 pm	*Labor Day to Memorial Day	
Friday	1:00 pm - 7:00 pm		

Please feel free to contact Library Director Jennifer Balcom at 517-669-3156 if you have any questions regarding these changes.

Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

Dec. 1, 2010	Winter Taxes Mailed
Feb. 14, 2011	Winter Taxes Due

CLINTON COUNTY OFFERS SPECIAL DRUG DISPOSAL SERVICES

Clinton County now offers quarterly special drug disposal services to residents to dispose of medications. The goal is to prevent the abuse of prescription drugs and promote proper disposal. Dates will be offered once or twice each quarter for residents to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for destruction. These drugs are a potential source of supply for illegal use and an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. The Sheriff's Office and Department of Waste Management are working with key partners to sponsor local events around the county.

A collection event is scheduled for December 3, 2010, in St. Johns at the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. (901 S. Oakland St.) An event may also be held in Bath Township; however, no date has been scheduled at this time. Residents are encouraged to periodically check on the website to see if a collection has been scheduled. The website is www.clinton-county.org; once there, go to the Department of Waste Management's Current Events page.

"These services are also important to help safeguard both human and environmental health," said Cara Clore, Clinton County Waste Management Coordinator. According to Ms. Clore, medications should never

be disposed of by flushing or pouring items "down the drain." Most substances are not able to be filtered by water treatment plants. As a result, they can end up in surface waters and negatively impact local ecosystems. Landfill disposal has similar challenges. The preferred disposal alternative is through special incineration technologies, which destroy chemical compounds while preventing pollution to the environment.

For more information about participating in a medication collection event, or to learn about proper disposal of medications, contact the Clinton County Department of Waste Management: e-mail conserve@clinton-county.org, 989-224-5186 or www.clinton-county.org.

NEWS BITES

THANK YOU - to Gil Barish for his assistance putting in the driveway at Water's Edge Park located at the corner of Wood and Round Lake Roads. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST AND TOUR - Saturday, December 11th. Participation is free. Contact the DeWitt Chamber of Commerce at 517-668-3635 for details.

GUN LOCKS/FIREARM SAFETY - The National Shooting Sports Foundation donates gun locks and VHS tapes on firearm safety to help ensure safe and responsible firearm ownership and storage. This program is known as "Project ChildSafe." **Gun locks are available to Township residents free of charge.** The VHS tapes are for all ages. *McGruff the Crime Dog on Gun Safety* is designed especially for children from K-6 grade. *It's Your Call: Playing it Safe Around Guns* provides life saving advice for adolescents; and *Firearms Safety Depends on You* is intended for teens through adults. A certificate along with a bookmark is issued to each person after completing the VHS tapes. Tapes can be checked out and gun locks can be picked up at the DeWitt Township Police Department, Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 p.m. Tapes can be kept for up to five days.

EASEMENT PLANTINGS - First, three full days before you dig, call MISS DIG at 800-482-7171 or 811. If you plant within an easement (i.e. road or utility), there is no guarantee that the items within the easement will not be disturbed/removed. Maintenance in these easements will occur, and you may lose your hard work.

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

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

DO 1 THING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - (choose one thing to do this month) visit www.do1thing.com.
●Purchase a NOAA Emergency Alert Radio ●Make sure everyone in your household knows what to do when outdoor warning sirens sound ●Create a personal support network to meet any special needs ●Create a plan with a neighbor to care for your pets if you can't get home in a disaster

FOLLOW US - www.dewitttownship.org,
www.facebook.com/dewitttownship, <http://twitter.com/DeWittTownship>,
<http://flickr.com/DeWittTownship>. The Township posts information such as community events, up-to-date public safety information and planning notices.



PROTECT OUR WATERSHED - There are many ways to ensure that the Looking Glass and Grand River watersheds are free of pollutants. One of the easiest is to use phosphorus free fertilizer. For more tips and information visit http://www.mywatersheds.org/public_education.html.

INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS - (Community Center gym or activity room) are handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 517-482-5117. **OUTDOOR FACILITY RENTALS** – If you would like to rent a park picnic pavilion, softball field, inline skating rink, or soccer field, call the Treasurer's Office at 517-668-1411. Reservations for 2011 will begin on January 3, 2011.

REDEEMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DEWITT'S 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 open 24 hours.

WELCOME ABOARD - to our new paid-on-call firefighters: Matt Burger, Matt Waugh, Adam Bellant, Tom Sullivan, and Laurie Martin.

THANK YOU - to the Friends of the Looking Glass for their help in cleaning up the Looking Glass River on Saturday, August 28th.



From left to right.
Mike Gray (DeWitt)
Doug Vettraino (DeWitt)
Bob Bishop (DeWitt)
Jon Morrison (St. Johns)
Joe Ward (DeWitt)
Logan Taylor (DeWitt)
Rod Taylor (DeWitt)
John Moody (DeWitt)
Mike Smith (Portland) (not in photo)
Photo Credit = Gloria Miller

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

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TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER