

November, 2013

ADMINISTRATION

Twp Hall - 668-0270
Cemetery
Clerk
Information
Manager
Supervisor

Assessing - 669-6494

Building - 668-0278

DARA – 482-5117

Fire - 669-0071
Administration

Planning/Zoning
669-6576

Police - 669-6578
Administration

Treasurer - 668-1411

CLINTON COUNTY

1-888-224-2450
Toll Free

POLICE & FIRE ASSISTANCE

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

TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

Manager
Rodney H. Taylor

www.dewitttownship.org

DEWITT TOWNSHIP ADOPTS THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

The Township Board adopted an Ordinance (O2013-07-03) to implement a modified version of the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) which became effective on September 3, 2013. The passage of the IPMC is designed to provide minimum property maintenance standards to residential and non-residential structures, including the premises. This was a long and arduous process that the Township undertook to help address blight and life safety requirements for properties and structures. Some of the major components of this language, that the existing Township ordinances didn't fully address, include problems/concerns with noxious weeds, rubbish, junk motor vehicles, and ensuring rental properties are safe and maintained.

Implementing the IPMC allows the Township to accommodate issues and complaints that were outside of the Township's auspices to rectify general property maintenance issues. If properties are found to be in violation of the Township's IPMC, individuals will receive a letter from the Township and be cited with the section of the Code in which they are in violation. A timetable will be established and if compliance is not obtained, the Township can issue a "Notice of Violation" and associated fines through the use of a municipal civil infraction process. If fined, the first offense is \$25. The second repeat offense is \$100; and \$250 for all subsequent offenses. For dangerous structures or premises, violators may be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500 plus additional costs and fees as may be determined by the Court if necessary.

Please remember to keep your lawn maintained, property free from rubbish and junk vehicles, and be sure that rental properties are safe and well maintained. To view the ordinance, please visit www.dewitttownship.org. Then navigate to the Building Department page and look for the International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance link.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Township Code Enforcement Officer, Gary Cypher, at 517-668-0278 or by email at gcypher@dewittwp.org.

SERGEANT BILL DARNELL



Congratulations! - Bill Darnell was recently promoted to Sergeant. Bill joined the Township Police Department in 2006 and has been a valued member of our team with responsibilities including crime scene investigator, evidence room technician, and taser instructor. Darnell has also participated in Shop with a Cop and has spoken to several high school students interested in law enforcement.

Police Chief Brian Russell commented, "Bill Darnell is a great person continuously giving back to this community and others. He is well respected by his peers and wants to make a difference in the department. I believe he will do a superb job as a Sergeant for the DeWitt Township Police Department."

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	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Drop Your Kids Off	11/22, 12/13	6:00-11:00 pm	Deadline: one week prior	4-12	\$15/one child \$10 each addl. child
Dinner With Santa	12/16	5:30-7:30 pm	11/4 – 12/2	All ages	\$5/child & \$3/adult \$8/child & \$6/adult
Holiday Fun Club	12/23, 12/27 & 12/30, and 1/2 & 1/3/14	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	11/1-12/6	5-12 yr	\$25/child per day or, \$105/\$120 for all 5 days
Little Hoopsters Basketball Camp	1/7/14-1/28/14	5:30-6:15 pm 6:30-7:15 pm	11/1-12/13	4-6	\$34/\$49
High School Basketball	Games 1/11-3/8/14	8:00 am-1:00 pm times vary	11/1-12/6	Grades 9-12	\$60/\$75
Indoor Lacrosse Camp	1/4/14-1/25/14	9:00 am-12:00 pm based on age	11/1-12/20	Grades K-4	\$25/\$40
Floor Hockey League	2/15 – 3/22/14	9:00 am – 4:00 pm varies with grade	1/3 – 1/24/14	Grades K – 5	\$34/\$49
Spring Break Fun Club	4/7 – 4/11/14	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	2/2 – 3/22/14	5-12 yr	\$105/\$120
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop in	18+	\$2
Walking Club @ DeWitt Township Community Center	10/1-12/23 (weekdays)	9:00 am-2:00 pm	No registration	All	Free!

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. Non-resident cards can be purchased for individuals or families residing outside of the district who wish to borrow materials.

New Library Hours

Due to decreased funding, the DeWitt District Library Board has set new hours of operation for the Library. They are as follows:

Monday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Friday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Tuesday	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Saturday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Sunday*	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Thursday	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm		*Sunday hours are Labor Day through Memorial Day only.

Volunteers Needed

The DeWitt District Library is exploring new and fun ways to improve and continue to offer valuable services to our community. With the current budgetary issues, we are seeking volunteers to assist with routine library duties. Volunteers are required to make a minimum commitment of once a week for at least a six month time frame. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Balcom at jbacom@dewittlibrary.org, include "volunteer applicant" in the subject line.

VETERANS SERVICES

Veterans and their family members have additional access to help with veterans benefits through the partnership of the State of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Clinton County Building Stronger Communities Council. Michael Thompson, Assistant State Field Service Officer with the VFW, spends two days per month at the Bath Charter Township Offices.



In addition to helping with applications for compensation and pension, Michael can assist with VA health care benefits, service-connected disability compensation, burial and death benefits, and a variety of other services. There is no charge for any of these services. Veterans may be able to access a variety of benefits, including education and training benefits, depending on each service member's unique circumstances. A Gulf War veteran himself, Michael recognizes that navigating the maze of federal benefits can be challenging. That's why the assistance of an Accredited Service Officer can be so valuable.

Michael is available on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bath Charter Township Offices, 14480 Webster Road in Bath. Call the Bath Township Offices at 517-641-6728 for more information.

WELCOME ALBERT ESSER

Albert Esser is the Township's new Chief Building Official. He has been a building inspector for over eight years and has worked for Clare County and the State of Michigan.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

City of DeWitt – Christmas Market

The Christmas Market is being held on Saturday, December 7th from 2-5 pm. The first annual charity Santa Run will start at 5:15 pm. Participants can bring their own costume or rent one the day of the race. All proceeds will be given to DeWitt area holiday food programs for those in need. The DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Light Parade to follow the Santa Run and end with the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Memorial Park. For more information on all of these events or to download applications, please visit www.dewittdda.org.

DeWitt District Library - Programming Schedule

Fall II Session of Youth & Teen Programming

November 4th – December 16th

Family Story Time – Wednesday 10:30 am

Baby Story Time – Wednesday 11:30 am

Teen Time – Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Helen's Book Night – November 12th @ 6:30 pm

Helen will discuss a few good books to purchase as presents for the book-lovers on your holiday shopping list.

Holiday Program – December 16th 5:30-7:30 pm @ DARA

The DeWitt Library and DARA staff will join together to offer holiday fun to area families. The theme book for this program will be "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Buehner.

Winter Session of Youth & Teen Programming - January 6th - February 4th

Family Story Time – Wednesday 10:30 am

Baby Story Time – Wednesday 11:30 am

Teen Time – Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Arctic/Polar Bear Program – date & time TBA

Registration and additional information on DeWitt Library programs can be found online at www.dewittlibrary.org. The DeWitt District Library is located at 13101 Schavey Rd. next to the Schavey Road Shopping Center and can be reached at 517-669-3156.

FIRE SAFETY PREVENTION TIPS & FACTS

- ✓ Did you remember to change your batteries in your smoke alarms when you changed your clocks? The International Association of Fire Chiefs and Energizer© Battery recommends it.
- ✓ Test your smoke alarm monthly. Replace it every 10 years. Never paint it.
- ✓ Did you have your furnace serviced? It has set idle for a number of months and you will want it in tip-top shape for the winter months.
- ✓ Store flammable liquids in original containers away from heat sources.
- ✓ Replace or repair frayed electric cords, sparking outlets, or appliances.
- ✓ Be sure fireplaces have glass or metal screens.
- ✓ Keep matches, candles, and lighters out of children's reach.
- ✓ Use extension cords sparingly, never under rugs or across walkways.
- ✓ You have nearly a 50% better chance of surviving a fire in your home with working smoke alarms.
- ✓ Surveys show that 20% of homes do not have working smoke alarms because the battery is either dead or missing. Test your alarms. This will let you know if the battery is still working, and cleaning can reduce the possibility of dust and insects blocking the sensor.
- ✓ Nationwide there is a fire death every 130 minutes. Careless smoking is the #1 cause of home fire deaths. Most home fires occur during sleeping hours between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. One or more smoke alarms can double your family's safety.

DEWITT BREAKFAST LIONS CLUB

Submitted by the Lions Club

We are a Service Club made up of 54 men and women who volunteer our time and effort to help meet the humanitarian and community service needs of the DeWitt area.



What is a Lion?

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization. We have 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs worldwide. **Lions are everywhere.** We're men and women who are active in community projects in more than 207 countries and geographic areas.



Lions have a dynamic history. Founded in 1917, we are best known for fighting blindness – it's part of our history as well as our work today. But we also perform volunteer work for many different kinds of community projects – including caring for the environment, feeding the hungry and aiding seniors and the disabled. Additionally, there are also 5,600 Lioness Clubs and 4,500 LEOS (for teenagers) Clubs that are also part of the Lions family.

The Lions Club of DeWitt [Breakfast] was chartered on December 14, 1981 as a second Lions Club in DeWitt. The "Host" Club was chartered in 1950 and merged with the Breakfast Club in 2008. The DeWitt Breakfast Lions Club meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at Prairie Creek Banquet Center from 7 - 8 am, with the exception of the last meeting of the quarter which is an evening meeting from 6-8 pm.



If you want additional information about Lions, or wish more details on how you can become a "We Serve" Lion, please send us a postcard listing your name, address, and telephone number, and mail it to The DeWitt Breakfast Lions Club, PO Box 212, DeWitt, Michigan 48820. Upon receipt, a club member will contact you. You may also call 517-669-9216 or email: LionJimD@aol.com.

Programs We Sponsor - DeWitt Lioness Club; Boy Scout Troop 277; High School Scholarship; Glasses and Hearing aids; Eye surgery.

Other Projects We Support: Big Brothers/Sisters; Bear Lake Camp; Braille Transcribing; Clinton County Safe Center; Clinton County Seniors Center; Clinton County Food Bank; DARE; DeWitt HS Music and Robotics; Diabetes Education; Disaster Relief; Eye Care Missions; Gift of Life; Habitat for Humanity; Kids Sight; Leader Dog for the Blind; Library Support; Lion Band students; Meals on Wheels; Memorial Building; Michigan Eye-Bank; Michigan Lions All State Band; Ox Roast; Parks and Recreation; Radio Reading Service; Ronald McDonald House; Sight First; Lions All State Band; Lions International Foundation; Lions of Michigan Service Foundation; Safe House; Sight Conservation; Special Olympics; White Cane; YMCA; Youth Exchange; Youth Outreach; plus other community needs.

SPEED SIGN ARRIVES

The DeWitt Township Police Department has taken delivery of a Speed Advisory Sign. This new speed limit display sign fits on any standard speed limit post. It is a fantastic tool to slow people down and make them aware of their speed. The sign will be making rounds throughout the Township based upon crash/violation analysis. If you have a suggestion of a street that needs a visit from this sign, please call the Police Department at 517-669-6578.



The sign does not take a picture so you will not get a ticket in the mail. It is our hope that the sign will get your attention if you are speeding; and therefore, get you to slow down thus reducing accidents and making the DeWitt area a safer place to drive and live.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR RESIDENTS

The DeWitt Township Fire Department is looking for a few good men and women who are interested in education, training, hard work, and a rewarding feeling that you have helped your neighbor. Fire and medical services are provided by 25 men and women who live in your neighborhood. They may even be your neighbor. They are not full-time employees. They are Paid-On-Call.

What does that mean? It means they have regular jobs and when they are not at their jobs, they respond to the fire and medical needs of the community. They get paid for their time while performing emergency services and they get paid for training. Fire certification and medical license training is provided at no cost to them, and they get the satisfaction of providing a necessary service for their community. As a member of the department and an employee of DeWitt Charter Township, they are eligible to be a part of a defined contribution retirement plan.

The department is looking to fill ten positions. Won't you be a part of a special group of dedicated residents who want to serve their community and help their neighbor? If so, stop by the Wieland Road Fire Station, Herbison Road Fire Station, the Township Hall, or get online at www.dewitttownship.org and fill out an application.

If you have any questions, please contact the fire department at 517-669-0071.

NEWS BITES

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

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.



Upcoming Dates to Remember.....

November 11	Veterans Day – Offices Closed
November 28 & 29	Thanksgiving Holiday – Offices Closed
December 1	Winter Taxes Mailed
December 7	Christmas Market – Downtown DeWitt 2 pm
December 14	Bath Township Senior Craft Show – Senior Center 8 am
December 24 & 25	Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed
December 26 & Jan 1	New Year’s Holiday – Offices Closed

TOP FIVE THINGS WE CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS

1. **Always Conserve and Reuse Water Wisely** – Use low-flow faucets, shower heads, reduce-flow toilet flushing equipment, and water saving appliances. Repair leaking faucets, toilets, and pumps. Do not over-water your lawn or garden. Use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses when watering your lawn. As a general rule, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer.
2. **Soil Test Before You Apply Fertilizers! Use Natural Systems to Limit Pesticide and Fertilizer Use** – Over-fertilization is a common problem, and the excess can leach into ground water or contaminate rivers and lakes. Nutrients from fertilizer can cause excess weed growth which depletes the oxygen supply for fish and aquatic insects and makes the water unusable for boating and swimming. Leave lawn clippings on your lawn so that nutrients in the clippings are recycled and less yard waste goes to disposal. Compost yard trimmings and use it to naturally fertilize the lawn. Avoid using fertilizers near surface waters. Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before or during rain due to the strong likelihood of runoff. Use slow release fertilizers on areas where the potential for water contamination is high. Dispose of excess pesticides at hazardous waste collection centers.
3. **Use Native Vegetation and Eliminate Turf Grass** – Landscaping with Michigan native wildflowers and grasses improves the environment and brings a taste of wilderness to urban, suburban, and corporate settings by attracting a variety of birds, butterflies and other animals. Once established, native plants do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides or watering thereby improving the environment and reducing maintenance costs. Select plants that have low requirements for water, fertilizers and pesticides. Cultivate plants that discourage pests. Minimize grassed areas which require high maintenance. Use landscaping techniques such as porous walkways to increase infiltration and decrease runoff.
4. **Capture and Reuse Rainfall** – Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn or capture in a barrel for reuse.
5. **Dispose of Pet Waste Properly** – Clean up after your pets. Pet waste contains nutrients and pathogens that can contaminate surface water. Scoop up waste and flush it down the toilet, seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the garbage, bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly, or use a pet waste compost bin.

For more information about the watersheds in the Greater Lansing area and to find out how to become involved with the watershed management process, visit the website www.mywatersheds.org.

REMINDER - TOWNSHIP BILLING CYCLES/DUE DATES

Sewer Bills – Mailed Out	Due
March 15 th	April 15 th
June 15 th	July 15 th
September 15 th	October 15 th
December 15 th	January 15 th
Property Taxes – Mailed Out	Due
Summer Taxes - July 1 st	September 14 th
Winter Taxes – December 1 st	February 14 th

As shown above, sewer bills are mailed out a month in advance of the due date and tax bills are mailed out over two months in advance. If a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is extended to the next business day. Failure to receive a sewer or tax bill does not waive penalties. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Treasurer’s Office at 517-668-1411 and a duplicate bill will be sent.

For your convenience the Township provides automatic withdrawal (ACH) for sewer bills, allows the use of credit cards for payments (fees apply), has a drop box available, and honors post marks for those mailing in payments.

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER



New swings – including a therapeutic swing, an “Aquarius” webscape activity net climber, a ten spin merry-go-round, and an “Isotope” climber have been installed at Valley Farms Park. Come on out and have some fun and give them a try.

