

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

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
DeWitt Township's South Central Area Plan
GET INVOLVED in YOUR FUTURE!

So you are probably asking yourself, “What in the world is the South Central Area Plan?” It is a study of the area roughly bounded by Sheridan Road at the southern border of the Township, and Stoll Road at the north end. The east and west boundaries of the area are Wood Road and DeWitt Road.

The purpose of the study is to identify the “positives” and the “negatives” in the southern area of the Township. Our goal is to develop a plan to build on the positives and reduce the negatives so that new investment will grow, helping to protect and enhance the property values of the homes and businesses in this part of our community.

So if you live in this area, work in this area, own a business in this area, or simply care about the future of this area, we need your help. Please join us at a public workshop and visioning session on **Wednesday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the DeWitt Township Community Center**, located at 16101 Brook Road. Come share your concerns and priorities for the area. Tell us what you like...and what you don't like. Brainstorm new ideas and vote on the ideas you think are the best. Or just come and enjoy a few refreshments on us!

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Plan, call the Township Planning Department at (517)669-6576 or visit the Township's website, www.dewitttownship.org. Don't miss this important opportunity to share your ideas about the future of this vital area of the Township...and be sure to bring your friends and neighbors!

SLEDDING HILL MODIFICATIONS COMPLETED



Modifications to the sledding hill are now complete. The “kiddie hill” now features two slopes for added fun for our younger visitors. Let It Snow!!!

ELECTION DAY – November 6, 2007

November 6th is a scheduled Election Day for all DeWitt Township voters except those living within the St. Johns School District. This is a School Election for Lansing Community College and the Lansing School District.

LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

(DeWitt Charter Township, Pcts. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, for voters registered to vote at an address located within the Lansing School District)

NINE CANDIDATES APPEAR ON THE BALLOT – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN THREE CANDIDATES

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

(All of DeWitt Charter Township lies within the Lansing Community College District, with the exception of any St. Johns School District voters)

TWELVE CANDIDATES APPEAR ON THE BALLOT – FULL TERM OFFICE
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

FOUR CANDIDATES APPEAR ON THE BALLOT – PARTIAL TERM OFFICE
VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

TO VIEW YOUR PRECINCT’S BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 6TH ELECTION, GO TO: www.clinton-county.org (then to Election Information)

ABSENTEE BALLOTS are available at the Clerk’s Office. If you are sixty years of age or older, or expect to be absent from the community on Election Day, you qualify to vote by absentee ballot. Voters on the Automatic Absentee Application list have already received their application for an absentee ballot for the November 6th election. Make arrangements to get an absentee ballot by calling or visiting the Clerk’s Office.

IF YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN THE POLLS: Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Precincts 1 & 2 vote at Herbison Woods School. Precincts 3 & 4 vote at the Herbison Road Fire Station. Precincts 5, 6 & 7 vote at the Community Center on Brook Road. If you do not know your precinct, please call the Clerk’s Office.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 ELECTION:

- Oct 9th Last day to register and qualify to vote in the November 6th Election
- Oct 17th Absent Voter Ballots must be available for issuance to voters
- Nov 3rd Last day absentee ballots can be mailed out. Clerk’s Office open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Nov 5th Absentee voting in the Clerk’s Office until 4:00 p.m.
- Nov 6th ELECTION DAY

ELECTION AND VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE, www.dewitttownship.org. For assistance, call 668-0270.

NOTICE TO VOTERS: NEW PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT

Beginning with the November 6, 2007 election, every voter will be asked to show picture identification. The requirements are the result of a 1996 law recently determined to be enforceable by the Michigan Supreme Court (MCL 168.523). Election workers will ask voters to show a photo ID as part of the usual ballot application process at the polls. Voters with picture identification can satisfy the requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or Michigan personal identification card. Voters who do not possess either document can show any of the following forms of picture ID as long as the document is current, showing the person's name and photo:

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- U.S. passport
- Student identification with photo from high school or accredited institution of higher learning
- Tribal identification card with photo

Voters without picture identification can vote, like any other voter, by signing an affidavit.

Presidential Primary Update – The governor has signed legislation enabling Michigan to conduct a presidential primary election on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, and eliminating the February election date. However, a change to the legislation allows each of the major parties to use another method of selecting delegates to their national conventions by formally notifying the Secretary of State as such by November 14, 2007. If both parties decide to use another method, the Secretary of State would be required to cancel the presidential primary. The bill stipulates that each voter indicates, in writing, which participating political party ballot he or she wishes to vote. Lists showing which partisan ballot the voter requested at the January 15th primary will be forwarded to each respective political party, but will not be available to the public.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS ALIVE AND WELL

There are currently six active Neighborhood Watch Groups in DeWitt Township. Neighborhood Watch Groups are an effective way for keeping crime out of neighborhoods. They rely on the best crime fighting tool ever invented – a watchful neighbor. When neighbors work together with each other and with law enforcement, a great crime fighting team is created.

If you are interested in joining a neighborhood watch group or possibly starting one in your neighborhood, contact Police Chief Brian Russell at 669-6578 or policechief@dewitttownship.org.

GETTING INVOLVED

Serving on a local government committee or commission is a great way to be informed and involved, and an effective way to “give back” to your community. In many ways, DeWitt Township is a great place to live or work because of the efforts of your friends and neighbors. Citizens who work elections at local polling locations generally serve for the same reasons as stated above, combined with their desire to show their support and belief in the democratic process.

This Newsletter contains applications for local committees and commissions and for election workers. Ever considered doing either? Take the step. Apply. Serve your community. It's likely that many of your friends and neighbors already do.



DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP/COMMITTEE & COMMISSION APPLICATION

Standing Committees: Recreation Authority (m)/Board of Appeals (m)/Public Safety (an)/Planning Commission (m)/Board of Review (ar)/Library (m)/Salary Compensation (ar)/Construction Board of Appeals (an)/Sewer Board of Appeals (an)/Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (m)

Meetings held: m-monthly ar-as required an-as needed

Please print or type the following application

NAME OF APPLICANT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONES Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT INFO _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Optional) such as family, number of years of residency, etc. _____

EDUCATION _____

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, MEMBERSHIPS _____

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE
EXPERIENCE _____

PARTICULAR COMMITTEE OF INTEREST _____

REASONS FOR APPLYING _____

LOCAL REFERENCE (OPTIONAL) _____

PERSONAL COMMENTS, if any _____

I declare the foregoing statements to be true. _____ Date _____

Signature

Return to: DeWitt Charter Township, Clerk's Office, 1401 W Herbison Rd, DeWitt, MI 48820

**ELECTION INSPECTOR APPLICATION
DEWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

(Must be completed in your own handwriting in ink)

Name in Full _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Home Address _____ Telephone # _____

Length of Residence in Township _____

Registered in Precinct# _____ Social Security # _____ - _____ - _____

Political Party Affiliation (to be eligible for appointment you MUST check one):

Republican Party

Democratic Party

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or election crime? Yes No

|||||

Educational Background – (include highest grade completed or degree(s) held) _____

Employment Background – (include current or last place of employment and type of work performed)

Past experience as an election inspector, if any (include name of jurisdiction) _____

Do you have transportation? Yes No Will you work at any polling place? Yes No

I CERTIFY THAT I am not a member or a known active advocate* of a political party other than the party identified above. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant Date ____/____/____

Signature of Applicant

* A "known active advocate" of another political party is defined to mean a person who 1) is a delegate to the convention or an officer of another party 2) is affiliated with another party through an elected or appointed government position or 3) has made documented public statements specifically supporting by name another political party or its candidates in the same calendar year as the election at which the person will serve as an election inspector. "Documented public statements" means statements reported by the news media or written statements with a clear and unambiguous attribution to the applicant.

ANY FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS APPLICATION WILL DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT.

APPROVED BY STATE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL!

Let us treat your little goblins! Stop by and show off your costumes around the Township Hall, visit each department between 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Halloween day, Wednesday, October 31st, and receive lots of treats. Jack-o'-lanterns, monsters, and ghosts will guide your way to the goodies! This is a family-friendly event. Community Trick or Treat hours are 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



TRAFFIC SIGNALS

As communities grow, it is inevitable that traffic volumes will also increase. With an increase in traffic volumes comes the need to analyze traffic flow patterns to ensure traffic on local streets is provided opportunity to access primary roadways. This access can be accomplished using the strategic placement of traffic signals. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has jurisdiction over highway intersections, and the Clinton County Road Commission is responsible for local roadways.

When MDOT analyzes an intersection to determine the need for a signal, several factors are evaluated utilizing nationally recognized warrant thresholds. Among the factors analyzed are traffic volumes, the number and duration of gaps in the primary roadway traffic, delay to local roadway traffic, the proximity of the proposed signal to existing signals along the corridor, and a review of the crash history to determine if there is a pattern of collisions considered susceptible to correction by signalization. These factors must reach nationally accepted thresholds before a signal will be installed. This analysis process is used to ensure that unnecessary delay is not introduced onto the primary roadway, and to ensure that a crash pattern is not created by the installation of an unwarranted signal.

It is important to remember that a traffic signal is not a safety device; rather, it is a traffic metering device. Studies from across the nation have clearly documented that an unwarranted traffic signal will cause, and tends to increase, the number of crashes at locations where unwarranted traffic signals are placed. Therefore, MDOT and the County must carefully analyze when and where traffic signals are located in an effort to maximize their benefit.

Additional information on this topic can be obtained at www.michigan.gov/MDOT or by contacting the Lansing Transportation Service Center at (517)324-2260.

IS YOUR SMOKE ALARM WORKING?

- Each day, an average of nearly three kids die in home fires - 80% of fire deaths involving children occur in homes without working smoke alarms.
- Although 94% of homes in the U.S. have smoke alarms, 20% don't work due to worn or missing batteries - that means nearly 16 million homes are at needless risk.
- By providing an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape, smoke alarms cut in half your family's risk of dying in a home fire - but only if they work.
- The DeWitt Township Fire Department provides smoke alarms to families in the Township that are without this life saving device. Contact the Fire Department at (517)669-0071 to obtain a smoke alarm for your home. The smoke alarms are courtesy of a donation from Sam's Club.



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“CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY” on November 4th

The DeWitt Township Fire Department and the International Association of Fire Chiefs remind all residents of the community to change the batteries in their smoke alarms when you change your clocks.

SATELLITE LIBRARY OPENS IN COMMUNITY CENTER

The DeWitt Public Library, in partnership with DeWitt Charter Township, announces a new library presence at the DeWitt Township Community Center located at 16101 Brook Road. The new library satellite will have a grand opening on Saturday, October 13, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be refreshments and drawings throughout the afternoon, with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 2:00 p.m. The satellite will provide over 3,000 books and videos/DVDs for adults, children and young adults. Three high speed internet computers are available to patrons of all ages. A photocopier and fax machine is available for public use. The hours of operation are:



Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	2:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

For further information, contact Tessa Eger at (517)702-9386 or the DeWitt Public Library at (517)669-3156.

2008 ASSESSMENTS

The State Tax Commission has recently issued two new guidelines that can be used when establishing 2008 assessments: 1) a one year sales study rather than the traditional two year study to determine assessment changes and 2) the use of foreclosed properties in sales studies.

One Year Sales Study: Single year studies may be considered when there is significant evidence of a declining real estate market. Evidence may include:

- a) a reduced number of market sales without a reduction in the number of listings
- b) an increase in the number of foreclosure sales
- c) loss of a major employer(s)
- d) a single year’s study ratio is higher than the standard 24-month ratio, in combination with items a through c.

The single year study consists of sales that have occurred from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007. Using sales in this time period is advantageous because it more accurately reflects current market conditions. However, a disadvantage in using a one year study is that there are fewer sales. The State Tax Commission states that there must be sufficient sales to justify the results when limiting the time of the study. After the September 30th deadline for sales, we will review the sales to determine if the traditional two year study or a one year sales study will be of most benefit to the residential Township taxpayers.

Foreclosed Properties: The second guideline issued by the State Tax Commission was the decision that foreclosure sales will no longer be excluded from sales studies used for determining assessed values. In the past, a foreclosure sale was not considered a market sale and was not used in studies. A bank buying the property to protect its investment is not a market sale. However, when the bank sells it as an open-market transaction, this sale can now be used. The Commission requires that each of these properties must be inspected by the Assessing Department to ensure the property was not distressed due to neglect. Also, a market value appraisal must have been obtained prior to listing the property.

For many property owners, a sales study reflecting a slowed market and a decrease in assessed values **will not impact the amount of taxes paid**. The gap between the taxable and assessed values is simply too great. Even with several proposed legislative bills, the law remains unchanged. **Unless there has been a recent sale or transfer of property, where the taxable value comes “uncapped” to equal that of the assessed value, the taxable value must still increase by the rate of inflation, which is determined annually by the State Tax Commission and the Department of Treasury.**

NEWS BITES

WELCOME TO the YMCA (Schavey Road), Cork & Bottle Winery (Clark Corners), and Classic Pub (Business US 127), three new establishments now open in the Township.

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT STAFF needs your help. Does anyone know anything about the history of the DOG marker at the westerly end of Gunnisonville Cemetery? This marker can be seen from Wood Road. If you have any information, please call the Clerk’s Office at 668-0270.

HERBISON ROAD will close for sewer repairs in the summer of 2008. Watch the local papers for more information.

OUTDOOR FACILITY RENTALS – If you would like to rent a park picnic pavilion, softball field, inline skating rink, or soccer field, please contact the Treasurer’s Office at the Township Hall at 668-1411. Reservations for 2008 begin on January 2, 2008.

INDOOR FACILITY RENTALS - (Community Center gym or activity room) are handled through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority at 482-5117.

THANK YOU to Al Harrison, Koreen Smith, Helen Parker, Jean Heathman, Margo Higginbotham, Ilse King, Ione Berg, Roy Peterson, Charles and Barbara LaMacchia, Jan Keeler, Kathy Foley, Lora Mae Higbee and Elizabeth Walsh for their help labeling and sorting the Newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, contact the Township at 668-0270.

WELCOME ABOARD to new Fire Department employees Jessica Alvarez, Derek Carr, Kathleen Crosby, Brad Suor, Teresa Trudgeon, Jeff Wagner and Brian Hamel.

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 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.

Program	Dates	Time	Registration	Age	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Senior Cards (euchre, bridge, etc)	Tue & Thu 11/1-12/20	Tu-10:00 am-noon Th-1:00-3:00 pm	Drop In	50+	Free (coffee and snack provided)
Preschool Halloween Party	10/29	6:00-7:30 pm	9/14-10/22	3-5	\$6/\$8
Youth Volleyball	11/13-12/18	5:30-8:00 pm	10/5-10/26	Grades 3-6	\$28/\$33
Drop Your Kids Off	11/16	6:00-11:00 pm	10/19-11/9	4-12	\$15/one child \$25/two children
DeWitt Wrestling Club	11/19/07- 3/26/08	Mon & Wed 6:00-7:30 pm	11/13-12/7	5-14	\$75
All Day Drop Your Kids Off	11/21	7:30 am-5:30 pm	10/19-11/16	5-12	\$25/one child \$40/two children
Holiday Craft Hour	12/3	6:00-7:00 pm	11/2-11/30	5-10	\$4/\$5
Dinner with Santa	12/17	5:15-6:15 pm 6:30-7:30 pm	11/2-12/7	All	\$6/child \$2/adult \$8/child \$3/adult
Youth Basketball	1/12/08- 3/8/08	8:00 am-1:00 pm	11/16-12/7	Grades 3-12	\$38/\$45/\$55 \$43/\$50/\$60
Basketball Camp	1/8/08-2/5/08	5:30-6:15 pm 6:30-7:15 pm	11/16-12/7	4-6	\$28/\$33
Youth Indoor Soccer	1/5/08-2/9/08	9:00 am-12:00 pm	11/16-12/7	Grades K-2	\$28/\$33
Drop Your Kids Off	12/14	6:00-11:00 pm	11/16-12/7	4-12	\$15/one child \$25/two children
Preschool Sports Starter	2/19/08- 3/25/08	5:30-7:45 pm	1/4/08-2/1/08	3-5	\$28/\$33
Wiggle Worm Olympics	2/20/08	6:00-7:00 pm	1/4/08-2/8/08	3-5	\$5/\$8
All Day Drop Your Kids Off	1/25/08	7:30 am-5:30 pm	1/4/08-1/24/08	5-12	\$25/one child \$40/two children
Floor Hockey	2/16/08- 3/29/08	9:00 am-4:00 pm	1/4/08-2/1/08	Grades K-5	\$28/\$33
Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun	7:00-9:00 pm	Drop in	18+	\$2

DARA now offers registration online!! Visit their 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 will send you a confirmation email and your registration will be complete. DARA accepts Visa and Mastercard payments online. Complete program descriptions can be found at www.dewittrecreation.org

BACKFLOW PREVENTERS AND WATER ALARMS - KEEPING YOUR BASEMENT AND HOME CLEAN & SAFE FROM SEWAGE

A backflow preventer will stop sewage from entering your house or basement when the sanitary sewer is backing up. They cost approximately \$36 at a plumbing supply store, are PVC, have a cleanout/inspection plate, and are installed into the plumbing that leaves your house.

A backup is usually caused by grease or some other material blocking the main sewer line located in front of most homes. When this happens, sewage backs up in the main line and your drains and toilets cannot take away the waste. The waste in the blocked sewer line will flow to the lowest point, either the basement or out of a manhole onto the ground. The backflow preventer has a one way flapper valve; as the sewage tries to enter your house, it slams shut, not allowing your home to become flooded with waste. Periodic cleaning of the backflow preventer's flapper valve ensures it seals tightly to stop sewage from entering your home.

If a backup is occurring and the backflow preventer is closed, you may still flood your home by running water from any source (toilet, sink, shower, washer, etc.) within the house. The water cannot get out so it will back up into the sinks or toilets, or will spill out of a basement floor drain. A water alarm near the basement floor drain will alert you to water or sewage spilling out of this drain and allow you to minimize any damage. A water alarm can be purchased at a home improvement store for as little as \$10.

Contact the Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCCMUA) at 669-8311 with any questions. In the event of an emergency after hours, call 911. SCCMUA will help determine the problem and the correction. More information can be found on the SCCMUA website: www.sccmua.com. The Township's website also has a link to SCCMUA's website.

CENSUS 2010 – WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY?

DeWitt Charter Township is preparing to take part in the 2010 Decennial Census Program. The Census Program is the official periodic enumeration (or count) of the population and housing in the United States. The Census utilizes a geographic partnership program known as the Local Update of Census Addresses Program (LUCA) to help compile information utilizing tribal, state, and local governments to improve the accuracy and completeness of the address list used by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses this information to distribute more than \$300 billion of federal funds each year. It is important to our community for a number of reasons, including apportionment of seats to the U.S. House of Representatives, allocation of federal monies to state and local governments, distribution of state generated funds based on population, support for grant applications that help fund communities, and also to help plan for future needs.

We have registered to participate in the LUCA program and will soon start a thorough review process, with a limit of 120 days to review and make changes to the address list for our community. After the Bureau reviews and makes the appropriate changes to the official address list, they will start their address canvassing procedure, including door-to-door visits, when

necessary. As a final step, the Bureau will send the corrected materials back to the LUCA participants for final review to verify the information allowing for an appeals process if there are any deficiencies.

If you receive a request for information from the Census Bureau, please respond. Your participation and answers to any questions they may have will help us be as accurate as possible. Please know that Census information is confidential and very secure. Each participant working with the LUCA program is required by law to sign confidentiality statements and agree to their security guidelines prior to receiving any information. The Bureau takes this responsibility very seriously. If you would like more information on the LUCA program, please visit the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov. If you have further questions, contact the DeWitt Charter Township Building Department at 668-0278.

SAFELY HANDLING HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

If not handled carefully, many household chemicals can be very dangerous. Read the labels and follow handling and disposal instructions. Cleaners may cause chemical burns. Many automotive care products, pesticides, and herbicides are also toxic and may be absorbed through the skin as well as inhaled or ingested.

Proper disposal is also very important. Even chemicals dumped down the drain may damage your plumbing, the sewer system, the wastewater treatment process at your local plant, the watershed, or even our environment. **Do not dump these chemicals down the drain.** The Clinton County Department of Waste Management (989-224-5187) schedules events in different locations where residents can dispose of dangerous chemicals and recycle some products.

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 or 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 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.



WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

DeWitt Township Police Chief Brian Russell assisted the DeWitt Public Schools during their Walk to School day on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. This event is intended to encourage healthy habits, increase the number of safe routes for children walking to school, and improve air quality by reducing reliance on motorized transportation.

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

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TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER