

A Message From Supervisor Joe Zurawski

Unfortunately this communication is included with your tax bill for the summer portion of your property taxes. Perhaps I use the term “Unfortunately” inappropriately in that by including this newsletter with something we must mail you, we save the postage of a separate mailing. Anyway, before I get too far off the subjects I wanted to bring you up to date, here we go:

York Township, acts as the property tax collecting agent for all the property taxes you pay. Out of all that money, York Twp. keeps only about 6%, or \$1.50 out of every \$25.00 you send. The rest gets forwarded to the State, County, Local School & Intermediate School Districts, etc. We have a total taxable value in the Twp. of about \$436,800,000 for which we collect about \$13,100,000. Out of this we forward about \$12,450,000 and keep about \$650,000 for York Twp. split almost evenly between the General Fund & Public Safety Fund.



Another important fact is that the Police & Fire services will cost us about \$640,000 this year with about \$360,000 coming from the Public Safety millage, \$270,000 from

General Fund and the balance from various fees, fines & reimbursements. Next year the cost for Police Services will go up by about 25% bringing the total to a little more than \$700,000. This will present some very significant budget challenges and difficult decision-making. While a number of people would like to have 24-hour police coverage, our current agreement with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dept. only provides for about 2/3 of that.

The next item I wanted to bring you up to date on is the proposed Mobile Home Park at Carpenter and Stony Creek Roads. Last year we denied their petition to rezone the property. They have since filed a lawsuit in Washtenaw Co. Circuit Court seeking to have our denial overturned. That lawsuit is in what is termed the “Discovery phase”, where both parties are issuing subpoenas for various records, having depositions taken from likely witnesses, filing and arguing motions, etc. As of this time, the trial is scheduled for this autumn, but may possibly be delayed in order to complete the discovery process.

Along with this trial we are contesting the decision of the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality to issue them a discharge permit for a private sewage treatment plant for their development. During the public hearing last year we argued that if the project were to go forth it would cause significant and irreparable harm to our existing thriving agricultural business. In their decision the MDEQ ignored this argument. In fact they ignored all of our arguments regarding negative

impacts and only considered what the applicant claimed would be benefits and ruled in their favor. Within only a few months of this decision, the MDEQ did exactly the opposite in an almost identical case just north of Ann Arbor and determined that the claimed benefits did not outweigh the negative impacts and denied the permit on that basis. This inconsistent application of their own rule by the MDEQ is a significant point we are using in our arguments.

Obviously, litigation is expensive. However, we cannot give in to outside interests attempting to force their desires for profit to destroy our carefully crafted vision of York Twp. as it is today and how it will be in the future. This has placed an extreme burden on our operations. We cannot put money into the roads as we would like and continue to fight this lawsuit. We cannot make desired improvements to our parks and continue to fight this lawsuit. We are scratching our collective heads trying to figure out how we are going to comply with our legally mandated responsibilities.

On a more positive note, the Toyota Research & Development center project is progressing. A complication acquiring building support steel has slightly delayed the construction but it is still on target for a summer or autumn 2008 opening. Because of the Brownfield Abatement TIF and other State incentives, this will not make any appreciable difference in our tax revenue for about 10 years. By the time this gets to you the water and sewer service to the site will be under construction. The road improvements for Platt & Willis

Roads will be taking place this construction season. When completed this will make a tremendous improvement to the traffic flow through this area. About half the cost

of the road improvements is being paid for through Michigan Dept. of Transportation Economic Development grants with Toyota paying the remainder.

A Message from Clerk Helen Neill

Next year will be an especially busy year in the Clerk's Dept. with 4 Elections to conduct, beginning with the 2008 Presidential Primary early in the year through the General Presidential Election in November. To accommodate voters more effectively, we are beginning to work through where our polling places will be held. So...

IMPORTANT PRECINCT LOCATION CHANGE INFORMATION:

ALL residents please watch your mail this fall. IF you receive a new Voter ID card, it may be due to a Polling location change. Milan & Lincoln Schools area of York **MIGHT** be moved to the York Baptist Church Activity Center (more room than the Twp. Hall) AND the Saline Schools area of York **MIGHT** be moved BACK to Tri-County Sportsmen's League on Moon Rd. (upper & lower levels).

If you have any questions about where you vote, your voter

registration status or any other questions, please do not hesitate to call. Additional information: Washtenaw County and State of Michigan links on Twp Website.

Some things to keep in mind:

- When you move, you must register in your new jurisdiction (Township, Village or City).
- If you don't live within a City or Village limits, you live in a Township, even though your mailing address reflects the City/Village name.
- Obtaining an Absentee ballot is a **two-step** process: 1) completed application to verify validity in our records; 2) issue the ballot. With the possibility of longer lines at the polls in Nov. 2008, voting absentee should be considered. One reason on the application, "I **expect** to be absent on election-day" may assist with this decision.
- Last day to register for an election: 30 days prior, notices published in *The Milan News-Leader & The Saline Reporter*.

Be a part of the process & sign-up to be an Election Worker – you are paid for your time and you experience the satisfaction of participating in the Election process! Please call for more information, Ext. 204 or 210.

If we move Pcts. 2 & 3 back to Tri-County Sportsmen's League & you live on the **EAST** side of Moon Rd you vote **DOWNSTAIRS (Pct 2)**. If you live on the **WEST** side of Moon Rd you vote **UPSTAIRS (Pct 3)**. (Precinct 3 parking is to the left as you drive in).

If you change your driver's license address at the Secretary of State, please be sure and **ASK** to register to vote at your new address and sign the registration where indicated, those signatures are sent to us to keep on file.

Assessor's Office News

Assessor, Elke Doom, has NEW Office Hours. Tuesday thru Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Ext 206. The Assessor will be conducting fieldwork throughout the summer and into late fall, she will also be taking digital photos to update the record files.

Building Department News

In an effort to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Legislature has passed Public Acts 64 & 65 of 2004 effective March 14, 2006. The Acts set a minimum standard for the installation of smoke alarms for structures built prior to November 6, 1974. Builders and homeowners have until March 14, 2007, to install smoke alarms in their building(s), structures(s), and/or residential dwelling(s) and be compliant with the law.

All structures built after November 6, 1974, must follow the codes set forth for new construction. Conformance with the Act does not circumvent the requirements of Section R313.1.1 of the Michigan Residential Code for smoke alarm upgrades during remodeling and alteration projects.

The minimum requirements of the Acts state that a smoke alarm, powered by a non-rechargeable battery (able to power the detector under normal conditions for 5 years), be installed in each sleeping room or directly outside each sleeping room, and one on each floor level, including the basement.

Smoke alarm devices shall be listed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's installation requirements, the provisions of the Code, and the provisions of NFPA 72. **The above information has been abbreviated and paraphrased.**

If you have any questions, please contact Building Inspector, Tom Toth, 439-8842, Ext. 217

Parks & Recreation News

P & R Citizens Survey- Data collected has been collated and summarized in a report presented at the May 15th Twp. Board Mtg. There were great responses, and the majority favored the continuation of developing passive recreational site activities in both parks, as undertaken by the Parks Committee since 2002. The Survey will play a major role in the development of the next five year P & R Master Plan. Citizen input is still a large part of the decision making process, we welcome and encourage yours.

A Public Meeting on the Survey results & analysis will be held on Wed., Sept., 5, 2007, 7:30 pm, at the Twp. Hall. The Survey will be available on the Twp. Website.

Judd Road Bridge – Reassembly of the historic bridge will begin in

Sandra Richardson Park in June. It will span the seasonal stream north of the new picnic area and east of the old concrete railway abutment and open up a series of new trails north of the stream previously inaccessible to the public. Funding for the project was provided by Toyota.



Volunteer Help is needed with a new project in Mary McCann Park on Warner Road. The Project is titled “Environmental Education/Passive Recreation Area” or EEPRA. This Park is a 38-acre site, half heavily wooded & half open. When completed the EEPRA will consist of a shallow seasonal pond and 11 discrete land plots, each demonstrating a unique plant community or ecological process. Each plot is bordered by walking trails, observable from three small grassy meadows provided with benches. A small deck with seating located on the knoll will give a grand view of the entire 18-acre EEPRA site. Funding for this project has been provided primarily by the Saline Area Schools Community Ed. Dept., (CARES) grant program. Those

willing to work on the project please call John Farmer, at 439-1297, or leave your name & number at the Twp. Office.

Parks & Rec. Committee Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the Twp. Hall, the public is ALWAYS WELCOME.

The Park Pavilion is now available for rental, please call the Township Hall (734)-439-8842

BUY A BRICK!
SUPPORT YOUR PARKS!

You may still purchase a brick paver to help support upgrading our two township parks. Pavers are to be installed near the pavilion in Sandra Richardson Park on Platt Road, just south of Willis Road. Pavers will be engraved with an inscription of your choice and are available in 3 different sizes. Applications are available on the Twp. Website, at the Twp Hall or call Norm and Kathy Fischer at (734) 429-5328 for additional information.

Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee News

CEAC- Objectives, Identify principles of management for stewardship of natural resources by actions of Twp. residents:

- Environmental education programs.
- Preservation & conservation of native species.

- Participation in & sponsorship of recycling & clean-up programs.
- Acquisition of additional public lands vital to the environmental well being of Township residents.

CEAC meets first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, in the Twp. Hall.

AimeeKay1@yahoo.com (Chair)

For Environmental Emergency:
Washtenaw County Environmental Reporting Hotline (734) 222-3880
www.ewashtenaw.org

A Message from Treasurer Sally Donahue

Please take time to review the enclosed **Treasurer's Message to All Taxpayers.** (Purple enclosure)

***Public Safety Advice from the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department
 Cpl. Kevin K. Deacons***

I would strongly recommend to every citizen of York Twp. to purchase **LIFE SIGNS** (Order Form Enclosed) These reflective signs are the green address signs that you see around the area indicating your home address. From a Public Safety stand-point they are a great tool (for Police, Fire, and Ambulance) to locate a home in the event of an emergency. Orders can be placed thru the Saline Area Fire Dept., at (734)-429-4440.

I would also like to remind Citizens that the Twp. does have an **Open Burning Ordinance** A copy can be picked up at the Twp. Hall or check

the Twp. Website for information on burning rules.

For Burn Permits in Milan Fire Area call Milan Fire at (439-1551)

For Burn Permits in Saline Fire Area call Saline Fire at (429-7911).

Information of Interest to York Township Residents:

- **Deadlines for last day to register to vote in the upcoming elections:** Notices will be published in *The Milan News-Leader & The Saline Reporter*.
- **County Wide Clean-up Day:** Watch the Twp/County Websites for fall clean-up date.
- **Monthly drop-off recycling:** Second Saturday of each month 8:00 am-12 noon, Township Hall.
- **The Sheriff's Dept. Email Alert**

System is used to inform residents of public safety issues. To be added to the list, send a request to deaconsk@ewashtenaw.org

- **Attention: All Citizens – This season** there is a severe infestation of **TICKS.**
- **The CEAC-** Is providing info of events & educational opportunities impacting our environment. Check Twp. Website for info.

Please check the York Township Website www.twp-york.org

For Board, Commission & Committee Meeting Dates (Time & Place), or any changes to those dates., due to legal holidays or election dates.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

For Work and/or Membership on Commissions & Committees - Parks & Recreation, CEAC, Historical Committee, and Election Inspectors.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MILLAGE EXPIRES

After 2007 Winter Tax Season
Renewal is a must for continued
Police Service.

TOWNSHIP-WIDE TRASH

HAULER will begin soon, check Website or call Twp Hall. Residents must begin service with designated hauler no later than March 30, 2008, and **should not** contract with their current haulers past that date. Many options will be available, (for an additional cost) i.e. curbside recycling & yard waste service provided.

11560 Stony Creek
Rd. Milan, MI 48160
(734) 439-8842

www.twp-york.org

Charter Township
of York
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