



July 2019

# News You Can Use

Website: [www.williamstowntownship.com](http://www.williamstowntownship.com)

Phone: 517-655-3193 Fax: 517-655-3971

**Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 am—4 pm and Wednesdays 10 am—7pm**

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## Spring Clean Up

This was another successful year for the Spring Clean Up and is a popular event for residents with well over 16,000 pounds collected this year alone. Items collected included trash, metal, batteries, electronics, tires, books, bikes, latex paint, medicine, and secure documents. Goodwill Industries was able to save many items to be reused! There is a lot of planning and expense to provide the service and a large contingency of volunteers is needed to hold the event. Please consider giving your time next year!



## River Clean Up

At last count there were over 20 log jams between Williamston Rd. and Meridian Rd. that affect the recreational use of the river. The Township was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Ingham County Parks Department to be used toward log jam removal in the Red Cedar River. The Ingham County Drain Commission has agreed to match that grant. In addition to the \$100,000, the Williamston Sunrise Rotary and the Township have each committed \$3000 to the project. Residents of the Township have also come together to volunteer to remove quite a few of the log jams. The Red Cedar River is a wonderful recreation asset for our community and many residents have expressed their excitement about this project. Now for the rain to stop...

## Summer Property Tax Deferment

Qualified property owners may defer payment of summer property taxes until February 14. To qualify, property must be the taxpayer's principal residence and you must certify that your gross household income for 2018 did not exceed \$40,000 and meet certain other conditions. Additionally, a property owner may ask for a deferment if they certify that the land is used or classified as agricultural real property. Please see all the requirements on the Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes form found on the Township website under "online forms" and Township Documents. The forms are also available at the Williamstown Township Office. The completed form must be received no later than September 16, 2019, the last day that Summer Taxes can be paid without interest being added.

## **Roads**

The state of the Township roads is one of the most pressing issues facing the Board. The Ingham County Road Department maintains 1253 miles of roads throughout the county. Our township has over 80 miles of road needing maintenance and the Township receives \$45,000 from the County for use on local roads. Unfortunately, current township funding does not cover the current needs for road maintenance. Mannik & Smith Group has been hired to help the Township develop a long term maintenance plan based on the current condition of our roads and anticipated future cost. The Board will determine next steps once Mannik & Smith presents their report which is anticipated to be presented at the July Board meeting held on July 10th.

## **Elections**

The passage of Proposal 3 in 2018 made some significant changes to absentee voting and voter registration. You no longer need to give a reason to vote absentee. You must request an absent voter ballot in writing and these requests must be received by your clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the election. However, we recommend that you request your ballot as soon as you suspect you might want to vote absentee. Call or write the Township Clerk's office to be placed on the permanent absentee list and you will automatically be mailed an absentee voter application prior to each election. The new voting law also allows for people to register to vote up to and including Election Day. To learn more about the requirements for voter registration visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).

## **Burn Permits**

A burn permit is required for burning throughout the Township. Once you have a master burn permit on file at the Township Office you are able to activate the permit via the Township's website. Burning of building material, leaves, household waste, plastics, asphalt or treated lumber is not permitted and burning barrels are not allowed. Burning is not allowed in extremely dry weather or if winds are greater than 10 mph. While the regulations may seem burdensome, there are many residents with health issues who cannot be outside when there is burning taking place. Please be respectful of your neighbors by following the regulations outlined in the Ordinance. Unsupervised and unauthorized fires will be extinguished, and you will be billed for the fire department's time and resources. The full Ordinance can be found on the Township website.

## **Building Permits**

Building permits are needed for ALL accessory structures including pre-built sheds, carports, gazebos, decks, etc. A permit is also required for reroofs. Other items frequently missed are driveways, generators and wood burning furnaces. If you are unsure, PLEASE call the office. There is nothing worse than realizing a permit was necessary and there are issues after the fact that need to be addressed.

## **Services available at the Township Hall**

- Notary
- Fax and Copying Services
- Hall, Field and Pavilion Reservations
- Cemetery plot purchases

## **Dates to Remember**

- Board meetings: Second Wednesdays at 7:00
- Planning Commission: Fourth Wednesday every other month at 7:00 beginning January
- Recycling: Second Saturday from 9:00-3:00