



December 2019

News You Can Use

Website: www.williamstowntownship.com

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

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

Photo Contest Winners and Township Calendar

A huge thank you to our VIP Sponsors Siena Wealth Advisors of Williamston and Lisa Fletcher/Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, and Grand Prize Sponsor Independent Bank of Williamston! Thank you also to our three volunteer professional judges, Bob Crawford, Lynne Brown, and Erin Groom, for their time and expertise. There were 27 entries overall, four in the 12 and under category. The winners are:

Grand Prize - Dave Ferguson

18 & Over First Place - Layne Cameron

18 & Over Second Place - Layne Cameron

18 & Over Third Place - Janet Eidt

18 & Over Honorable Mention - Devon Kotke

18 & Over Honorable Mention - Walter Baecker

18 & Over Honorable Mention (2) - Layne Cameron

18 & Over Honorable Mention (2) - Janet Eidt

12 & Under First Place - Thomas Siciliano

12 & Under Honorable Mention - Ruby Tolbert

The 12 winning photos will be included in the Township Calendar that will be for sale at the Township office for \$2 in mid-December. Be sure to pick one up! We want to thank all who entered their photos and hope they will participate in the 2020 photo contest! The 2020 contest will run January 1 through August 31.



Join the Historical Committee at Branch School for a Christmas Open House, Sunday, December 15th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Williamston High School Madrigals will perform at 3:00 pm and you will have the opportunity to hear from past Branch School students on how Christmas was celebrated in the past. Refreshments will also be provided!

This 1800s one-room school house fell into disrepair but has been fully restored by the Historical Committee. A secret room under the floor provided a hiding place for slaves traveling the Underground Railroad. The Committee is currently working on an application for designation as a State Historic Site.

The Historical Committee is also recruiting new members! If you have a passion for history, please consider volunteering your time by serving on the committee.



The Township follows the Ingham County holiday calendar. In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays the Township Office will be closed:

Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25

Tuesday December 31 and Wednesday, January 1, 2020

(Normal hours Thursday, December 26 and Thursday, January 2)

Please note: The office will be open on Friday, December 27 from 9-5 for tax payments only.

2020 Elections—March 10, (possibly May), August 4, November 3

Several elections are scheduled for 2020! The next election will be the Presidential Primary on March 10, 2020. We encourage all eligible residents to register to vote. To register to vote, you can come to the Township office or register online at www.michigan.gov/sos. If you want to vote from home ("absentee" or A-V), we recommend you sign up for the Permanent A-V list. All registered voters in the Township can sign up for the permanent A-V list with a simple phone call or email to the Township Clerk's office.

With all of the elections coming in 2020, we will need more Election Inspectors. To become an Election Inspector you will need to be a registered voter in the State of Michigan if you're 18 or over. Those 16 and 17 years of age can work the elections too, but do not have the registered voter requirement. Williamstown Township's Election Inspectors are paid \$12 per hour for hours worked at an election and for training hours. There are two required trainings (one Ingham County and one local) that all Election Inspectors must do prior to working an election. Now is the time to apply if you want to be an Election Inspector! To get the application and learn more about how elections work in Williamstown Township, visit the Township website under Departments/Elections. If you have any questions contact the Township Clerk's office at (517) 655-3193.

Road Funding

At the monthly board meeting on December 11th the Township Board will be considering ballot language to be put on the March ballot for funding road repairs/maintenance. The Township Board requested engineering firm Mannik Smith provide the Township with a report on the condition of our local roads and what it would take to bring them up to good and fair condition. The report and amendment are available on the website for your review. The Township currently receives a \$45,000.00 match per year from Ingham County towards work on our local through roads. With over 47 miles of local roads, this funding is inadequate to keep our roads in good condition.

Once the language is adopted, there will be several public meetings to provide information on the condition of the roads and why the funds requested are needed. Information will continue to be updated on the website at www.williamstowntownship.com

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