



Williamstown Township News

*A publication of the Williamstown Township Board
Serving Williamstown Township residents in the
Williamston, Okemos, Haslett and Perry School Districts
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*Williamstown Township, 4990 North Zimmer Road, Williamston MI 48895
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from the desk of SUPERVISOR Mickey Martin

TOWNSHIP WIDE WIRELESS INTERNET

I am still moving forward in obtaining Township wide wireless Internet with the focus on a service that will be of an affordable cost to all Township residents. I am now working with Airlink on a proposal for the Township. This is a smaller company and the service would be tailored to our Township. The decision to move forward on our own and not with the County wide system was based on time. The county movement is much slower and it would be years before we would see service, while the Airlink project timeline is projected to be only months before we would receive service.

The Township is working on providing a tower to be placed at the Township Hall site. We are pursuing soil borings and site designs at this time. Also a contract is being finalized with the company. The main points of the contract are high speed and an affordable cost.

It will continue to take a lot of effort and coordination to bring this service to the Township but it will be well worth it in the end. I have had many requests for the service and positive reaction from many residents. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

We are continuing to expand and make improvements to our website at www.williamstowntownship.com. We are continuing to expand and improve our township website. Information is added and updated on a weekly basis. We are pleased to provide township board meeting minutes online available with a search engine to facilitate accessing specific topics, board and commission agendas, current tax and assessing information with links to the Ingham County website, township and cemetery services, committee meeting updates, downloadable zoning/ordinance applications; the Township Zoning Ordinance, and the Williamston Community calendar. Please contact the township with suggestions to advance the development of the website for the benefit of the community.



ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the state this year is 3.7%. Taxable Values on properties will increase by that amount for taxing purposes next year. **Taxable Value** is the basis for your property taxes. This will be calculated using the inflation rate of 1.037 for the 2006 capped value. Properties that have been uncapped as a result of a sale and properties for which there is new construction will see a higher increase in the taxable value. The **assessed value**, however, is **not** the value that is multiplied by the millage rate to establish taxes. Large increases in assessed value will **not** mean significant increases in taxable value unless your property was uncapped due to a transfer in 2005 or had new construction. Your change notice will be sent out in February 2007.

Please **review your change notice** when you receive it and if you have questions or concerns please contact me at the Township office. Remember, it is **taxable value** that is used to compute tax bills.

Homestead Exemption is also indicated on the change notice. You should check your notice at the center bottom for the number that can range from 0 to 100%. To receive 100% property exemption you must own and occupy your residence. All homeowners for newly constructed homes must file an exemption form with their local government and occupy the home by May 1st to receive the exemption. The forms are available at the Township office. If you believe yours is incorrect, please contact the office immediately.

NEW CLERK AND TRUSTEES ELECTED

Howard Dahlstrom was elected Township Clerk and Rick Williams and Robert Hayes garnered the most votes for the two new Trustee positions on the Township Board at the November 7, 2006 General Election. All three officials took office on November 20, 2006 and will serve two-year terms. In 2008 all elected positions will appear on the ballot, with four year terms provided for each. Dahlstrom, most recently, was the Constable for the Township and Hayes and Williams served on the Planning Commission and Cable Commission, respectively. The newcomers join Supervisor Mickey Martin, Treasurer Al LeBlanc and Trustees Martin Wright and Frans Wilbrink in the composition of the 7-member Township Board.

WWW.WILLIAMSTOWNTOWNSHIP.COM

Notes from Treasurer Al LeBlanc

How to avoid delay when paying property taxes

Treasurer Al LeBlanc offers the following tips for paying taxes: If possible, pay with a check rather than cash, and write your parcel number on your check for maximum safety. Your parcel number is the long number that begins with 33-03, and it is unique to your property. It is printed on your tax bill and tax receipt. Bring or mail in the stub from the bottom of your bill when paying. Pay the exact amount that you owe because overpayments and underpayments cause delay. If you bring your payment into the office but don't want to wait for it to be processed, we will be happy to mail out your receipt. The only way we can guarantee giving you a receipt with a specific date on it is for you to pay the bill in person at the township office on that date and wait for the receipt to be created.

What if a bank or mortgage company pays your taxes?

If a bank or mortgage company pays your taxes, you will receive a duplicate bill on yellow paper for your information. We will mail a receipt directly to you as soon as we receive payment. If you don't have a receipt from us by February 7, you should call the Treasurer's office so that we can check on your payment before the deadline.

If you still owe Summer 2006 property taxes

Summer taxes were due on September 14, and the law requires that one percent interest be charged for every month or portion of a month that they are overdue. If you have a bill from an earlier month, that amount will no longer be accurate. You can call our office at 655-3193 to find out the amount due in the month that you are paying.

Personal property taxes are assessed on December 31

Personal property taxes are assessed on December 31 of the previous year. If you own a business on that day, they will be assessed to you. If you sell your business during the following year, you are still responsible for paying the bill. You can negotiate with the buyer to pay you the amount of taxes for the portion of the year that the buyer will own the business. This is the same thing that is done when a residence is bought.

Save money by paying taxes on time

The law requires a three percent penalty for Winter property taxes that are paid after the due date of February 14, 2007. On March 1, 2007, any unpaid real (residential) property taxes must be turned over to the Ingham County Treasurer for collection, and additional fees are assessed. The county treasurer will eventually begin foreclosure proceedings on properties with unpaid taxes.

Special open hours on February 14, 2007

The township hall will be open on Wednesday, February 14 from 9:00 AM till 7:00 PM. No business other than tax collection will be conducted from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on that day. To be considered on time, all payments must be received in the office by the end of that day.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Township Historical Committee is aggressively progressing on the Branch School restoration project. Branch School, built in 1863, will be restored to its original condition to be used by community groups or rentals. Energetic members, headed by resident Steve Eyke, have removed the old roof that had two layers of material containing the original cedar shake. A new metal roof will be installed as soon as weather permits. Inside the building fluorescent lights and a false ceiling were removed revealing a tongue and groove wooden ceiling which is reported to be in good shape. Member Tom Johnson stated that the attic was explored and, although the mice have destroyed most of the attic finds, some old books and school chairs remain intact. The committee has received donations of historic documents and pictures that are being examined and catalogued. Member Clay Braden says the committee would like to offer a big thanks to Conrad Bappert who has provided history on the old school and the Williamston area. The Historical Committee is looking for the following items to add to the restoration:

School Bell—School Desks

Slates—McGuffey Readers and penmanship books

Pot Bellied stove

To volunteer time or labor contact: Steve Eyke (655-3616)

To donate items contact: Clay Braden (349-0163)

For information or membership contact: Tom Johnson (655-1030)

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Residents will notice a new accessory building on the south end of the Williamstown Township Park on Grand River Avenue. Thanks to the coordination efforts of resident Scott Nemeth, the Parks and Recreation Committee with the help of community volunteers and business have built a utility building to house a much needed water source. A well will be installed in early December 2006. Electricity to the building is being wired along with lighting and plugs. Drinking fountain and soccer field irrigation is planned for the spring.

The committee and the township wish to thank the following donors for their support:

All Terrain Excavation

Beck's Concrete

RBK Building Products

Craig Kliever of Homesmith Builders

Harbert Electric

Dyer Well Drilling

Grand Rental Station

Hundred Acre Woods

MPC Cashway Lumber

K&H Concrete Cutting

And the many individuals who volunteered time and labor.

ELECTION NEWS

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land announced that approximately 53 percent of registered voters cast ballots at the November 7, 2006 election, setting a Michigan record for a non-presidential election with turnout of 3.8 million. This was the first general election in Michigan history in which all voters used optical scan voting equipment. It also marked the first November election in which voters with disabilities could use new AutoMARK ballot-marking equipment.

"For the third major election in a row, Michigan's voters have set a turnout record," Land said. "Regardless of which candidates won or lost and which proposals passed or failed, our representative democracy has been strengthened, and that bodes well for our entire state." The previous record for an off-year election was set in 2002 when 3.2 million residents cast ballots. Michigan set its all-time turnout record in the presidential election of 2004, when 4.8 million people voted.

Land said there were some minor problems with the voting equipment statewide, which was not unexpected given that thousands of optical scan tabulators and AutoMARK machines were in use. She credited the many thousands of election workers across the state for their dedicated efforts to move voters through the process as smoothly as possible. "Faced with the challenge of implementing the state's new voting equipment and meeting voter needs, Michigan's poll workers and election officials performed their duties remarkably well," Land said. "The people of Michigan are very fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals working on their behalf."

The Township saw a 72% turnout, as 2,805 voters cast a ballot. 7.18 million Michigan voters were eligible for the election.

MARK MILLER APPOINTED NEW BUILDING OFFICIAL

Williamstown Township welcomes resident Mark Miller to the township staff in the position of building inspector. Miller has over 11 years in the building trade and contracting business and is founder and, until recently, was co owner of Miller Homes Construction. He has 11 plus years experience in residential and commercial building projects and also taught building trades at the high school level for 18 years. Currently he is a self-employed finish carpenter. "Mark is starting at a good time as the township has recently purchased an upgraded computer system and new software program for the building department," said Mickey Martin, Township Supervisor. "I have worked with Mark for several years as a resident of the township and when he was a local builder, and feel confident that he will be an excellent public servant and fulfill the job as expected."

The Miller family, Mark, wife Debra and sons, Mac and Brad are long time residents of the Williamston area. "We have lived in Williamstown Township for almost thirty years and have really enjoyed the area," Miller said. "I take pride in the progress the township has made and want to help continue the good work that has been done here"

Miller will keep regular office hours at the township hall on Wednesday nights from 5-7pm and will be available by phone for building information and inspection appointments during the work week. The building inspector works on average 20 hours per week in office and out in the field for building inspections.

Miller replaces inspector Walt Aven who retired in September after 17 years of service.

TOWNSHIP HALL AVAILABLE

The Township hall is available for rent for your special occasion. Showers, family gatherings and parties take place here with room for up to 150 people. We have new durable chairs and beautiful new round tables, that have received glowing reviews over the last year and a half. The hall is for the use of Township residents and we will continue to make improvements as a service to you. Stop by and take a look, or call 655-3193 for more information.

Room A or B (50 people) \$50.00

Room A and B (100 people) \$100.00

Room A, B and C (150 people) \$200.00

Visit us at:
williamstowntownship.com

S N O W R E M O V A L



With winter maintenance services at a high demand, it would be greatly appreciated if residents and service vendors could assist the Road Commission by assuring that their mailboxes are winter worthy, that vehicles get pulled into driveways for clearing of snow and that trash receptacles are placed far enough off the road on pickup days so as to not get hit by a plow. These few things make it much more efficient for the County workforce to get through all the roads during the cleanup of winter storms.

TEMPORARY HELP

Opportunities arise for temporary help in the Township office for stamping, labeling, filing, etc. The Township employs high school students for this work. If you would like to be considered for these job opportunities, please send in a resume or letter to the Township. We will keep the information on file and when work opportunities arise, we will contact you for availability. You can mail, fax or email your information to the attention of Supervisor Mickey S. Martin. We look forward to the young faces in the office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December	January	February
5—Township Board Meeting, 7:00 PM	9—Township Board Meeting, 7:00 PM	6—Township Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
9—Recycling—9am-3pm	10—Parks-and-Recreation Meeting, 7:00 PM	10—Recycling—9am-3pm
13—Parks-and-Recreation Meeting, 7:00 PM	13—Recycling—9am-3pm	14—Parks-and-Recreation Meeting, 7:00 PM
19—Township Board Meeting, 5:30 PM	16—Township Board Meeting, 5:30 PM	20—Township Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
19—Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM	16—Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM	20—Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
26—Planning Workshop Mtg. (tent.) , 7:30 PM	23—Planning Workshop Mtg. (tent.), 7:30 PM	27—Planning Workshop Mtg. (tent.), 7:30 PM

MASTER PLAN UPDATE APPROVED

Last January the Planning Commission announced that they would be reviewing the Master Plan as part of a state requirement that requires a review every five years. They started the process by getting resident input through a community survey that was presented in the July 2005 newsletter. Since receiving community input, they have reviewed several sections of the Plan including: economic analysis, transportation and the Grand River Corridor Plan. The Planning Commission finished the update and sent it to the Township Board where it was approved on November 14, 2006. The complete revised Master Plan is available for review at the Township hall during regular business hours. The Board extends its gratitude to the Planning Commission for a job well done.

Township Information such as :
Ordinances
Budgets
Meeting Minutes
Board Policies
Property Ownership/Taxes
Maps
Voter Registration
is available
by stopping in during regular business hours.

YOUR TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

TOWNSHIP BOARD (ELECTED)

Supervisor - Mickey Martin
 Clerk - Howard Dahlstrom
 Treasurer - Al LeBlanc
 Trustee - Martin Wright
 Trustee - Frans Wilbrink
 Trustee - Rick Williams
 Trustee - Robert Hayes
 Constable -

HIRED STAFF

Building Inspector - Mark Miller
 Assistant—Michelle Morse
 Caretaker—Benjamin Moline
 Sexton/Maintenance—Mark Tabor

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Deputy Clerk - Bob Cwierniewicz
 Deputy Treasurer—Harold Husse
 Supervisor Asst. - Gwen Chirico-Brandon

PLANNING COMMISSION

Rex LaMore—Vice Chair
 Gerald Eidt-Secretary
 Ronald Cook
 Michael Fielek
 Rutgar Hoag
 Maurice Veenstra
 Wanda Bloomquist
 Martin Wright, Township Board Rep.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Gerald Eidt
 Robert Tetzlaff
 Kurt Guter

BOARD OF APPEALS

Dali Giese
 Dan Kraft
 Kurt Guter
 Mickey Martin, Supervisor

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Aage Jensen
 Stephen Patoprsky
 Mark Stevens
 Rick Williams

CABLE COMMISSION

Gerald Brazil
 Norma Johnston
 Ivonne Key
 Al LeBlanc-Twp. Board Rep

NIESA REPRESENTATIVES

Ronald Wiegandt, Alternate Twp. Rep.
 Frans Wilbrink, Twp. Board Rep.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Conrad Taschner
 Greg Lammers
 George Monroe (City of Williamston)

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jerry Fulcher - Chair
 Betty Challis
 Christine Nilsson
 Jan Morris
 Tom Trepky
 Frans Wilbrink, Township Board Rep.

TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION COMM.

John McLaughlin— Chair
 Richard Kill
 Terry Monahan
 Mickey Martin, Township Board Rep.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Tom Johnson
 Rutger Hoag
 Steve Eyke
 Clay Braden
 Conrad Bappert
 Frans Wilbrink, Twp. Board Rep.

REPRESENTING OUR TOWNSHIP

United States Senator	Carl Levin (D)	e-mail:	senator@levin.senate.gov	377-1508
United States Senator	Debbie Stabenow (D)	e-mail:	senator@stabenow.senate.gov	203-1760
United States Representative	Mike Rogers ®	web:	www.house.gov/mikerogers	702-8000
Michigan State Senator	GretchenWhitmer(D)	web:	sengwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov	373-5397
Michigan State Rep. (Dist 67)	Barbara Byrum (D)	e-mail:		373-0587
Michigan State Rep. (Dist 69)	Mark Meadows	e-mail:		
Ingham County Comm. (Dist 13)	Randy Schafer (R)	web:	www.ingham.org	655-1325