

March 2012



WILLIAMSTOWN

Township News

Property Assessments

New Assessments: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) mandated by the State this year is 2.7%. Taxable Values on properties may 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 1.027 for the 2012 capped value. The Taxable Value can never be higher than your assessed value so some properties will not see the 2.7% increase.

How to protest: If you wish to protest your assessment you may do so by appointment at the March Board of Review. The BOR meets March 12th and 13th. Please call the office for an appointment. If you are unable to protest in person you may submit a written protest to the Township. All written protests must be received by 4 pm March 13, 2012.

March - Budget Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the 2012-13 Budget is set for March. Please call the office or go to the Township website to confirm the date. The proposed budget is available for your review during business hours. Your Board of Trustees work diligently on managing the 3/4 of 1% tax that is collected from property taxes.

Planning Survey Enclosed

The Planning Commission is interested in your comments and concerns. As part of the Master Plan review the Planning Commission is asking that you take a few minutes and respond to the enclosed survey. This will be used to help guide the commission in updating the Master Plan. The completed survey can be mailed, dropped off at the Township Hall during office hours, or deposited in either the box next to the front door or the white box next to the post office box along the north drive. Thanks in advance for your participation!

Township Hours

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

Feb 29th: Treasury will hold hours of 9am-7pm to accept tax payments before they are turned over to Ingham County for collection on March 1st.

April 6th: Closed in observance of Good Friday.

Police Services

Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 332-6526

Spring Clean Up: Saturday, May 12th

Due to the success of last year's Spring Clean Up, the Township will be hosting this free event again in May for **residents of the Township**. This is a great time to clean up around the homestead, bring your personal documents in need of shredding, and recycle any metals (other than those containing Freon) along with your monthly recycling. Look for further details to be available on the website!

Recycling Update: The Township is excited about changes taking effect with recycling that will help streamline collection and help defer the cost of providing this service. Northwest Refuse out of Jackson will begin collecting our recycling in March. The following items will be collected:

- Glass: clear and all colors - can be mixed
- Plastic: 1-7, except 6 (Styrofoam) collected separately. BAGS must be marked with recycle symbol. ****No garbage bags****
- Paper: magazines, junk mail, newspaper, office paper - can be mixed together
- Corrugated cardboard and boxboard - broken down
- Tin cans & aluminum – please rinse and crush
- Styrofoam

Please flatten items as much as possible to help the Township handle more and obtain the maximum price for our commodities.

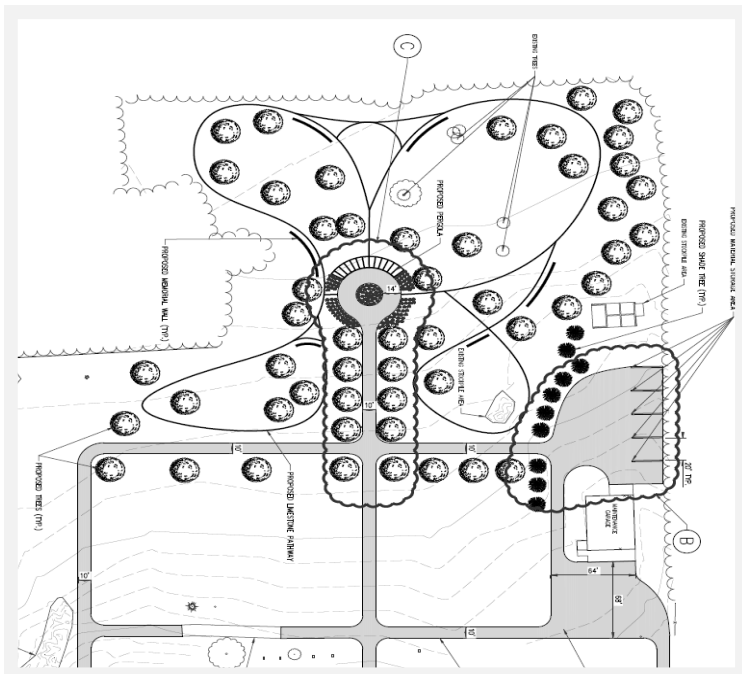
Collection is always the second Saturday of the month from 9am to 3pm.

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Summit Cemetery Improvements

The Cemetery Committee has recently completed updating the Cemetery Master Plan and is currently working on putting the plan into action! The updates should serve the residents for the next 50 years. The first phase of the improvements will begin after Memorial Day when construction will begin on extending the roads to the back portion of the cemetery. This section will contain a scattering garden with a memorial wall and a section for natural burials.

Volunteer Opportunity: The Township is hoping a resident with horticultural or landscaping experience would be willing to lend advice on the landscaping of the new section. Contact Supervisor Martin for more information.



Township Calendar Dates

Board Meetings

Second Tuesday: 7:00

Wed. March 7th

April 10th

May 8th

June 12th

Planning Commission Meetings

Third Tuesday: 7:30

March 20th

April 17th

May 15th

June 19th

Recycling

Second Saturday: 9:00-3:00

March 10th

April 14th

May 12th

June 9th

**** Check the web for future meeting dates and agendas****

Art Tour: May 4th and 5th

Local artists and their guests are gearing up for another successful art tour to show off the talented residents living in our Township as well as raise funds to purchase play equipment for the Township Hall! Artist participation is up and St. Katherine's has been added as a venue stop on this year's tour, as well as 5 studios and the Township Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to expose yourself to the talent that abounds in the Township as well as help the artist raise money for playground equipment.

This year, attendees will have an opportunity to enter into a drawing for art being donated by participating artists. Another way the artists are giving back to the community is by painting the backs of the park benches to be permanently installed at the Township Park along the trails. This will be a nice addition to the park!

More information can be found at the website: www.art-tour.williamstowntwp.org

Historic Barns Seminar

The Historical Committee is currently working on collecting information on historic barns within the Township. On **Thursday, June 14th at 7:00**, Steve Stier, President, and Brad Brogan, past President, of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network will be giving a presentation on the restoration and preservation of historic barns as well as collecting information on types of barns within the Township to be part of a state-wide survey being compiled.



"Cowpile" Watercolor by Cindy Evans

Important Reminders

Burning Regulations: Burning is allowed only with a permit and limited in higher density areas. Please be considerate of your neighbors by following the guidelines set by the Township Burn Ordinance. Permits are available during business hours.

Building, Grading and Set Back Permits:

A permit is required for barns, sheds of any size, reroofs, decks and ponds. If you are unsure whether a permit is required, the staff at the Township will be happy to assist you. It will help you avoid additional fees, possible removal and restoration.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

4990 Zimmer Rd.
Williamston, MI 48895

www.williamstowntownship.com
517-655-3193

YOUR TOWNSHIP BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

Supervisor – Mickey Martin	martinm@williamstowntownship.com
Clerk – Ernie Gaffner	gaffnere@williamstowntownship.com
Treasurer – Janet Eyster	eysterj@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee – Robert Hayes	hayesr@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee – Frans Wilbrink	wilbrinkf@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee - Rick Williams	williamsr@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee -Martin Wright	wrightm@williamstowntownship.com

Website Updates

The Township has been working hard to keep the website updated with pertinent information that you can access 24/7. A new feature is a scrolling board that provides the most recent changes, dates and information that is frequently requested. If you haven't visited the website recently, please do and let the Township know what you think. A new link will be added soon to view your property information. The goal is to make the website informative and easy to use!

New Business License Ordinance

At the January Board meeting the Board passed a new Business License Ordinance that will assist the Township in acquiring information to provide more adequate police and fire protection; for efficiency and economy in furnishing public services with the Township; for general planning purposes; and to establish a registry of businesses operating within the Township for the general information of the public and for the promotion of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township.

Registration forms will be going out soon to all area businesses within the B-1, B-2, OS-1, and AG-C districts. Please feel free to contact the Township with any questions you may have. The ordinance is available for review at the Township Hall.

Voting Dates & Locations

- ◆ February 28th– Presidential Primary
- ◆ July 9th– Last day to register to vote for the August Primary
- ◆ August 7th– State Primary
- ◆ October 9th– Last day to register for the November General Election
- ◆ November 6th– General Election

Precinct #1 voters are all Township residents east of Zimmer Road and they vote at the Williamstown Township Hall, located at 4990 N. Zimmer Road.

Precinct #2 voters are all Township residents west of Zimmer Road and they vote at St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, located at 4650 N. Meridian Road.

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

