

December 2011



WILLIAMSTOWN

Township News

Township Happenings from Supervisor Martin

Neighborhood Watch: Officer Jeff Adams of the Meridian Township Police Department is working with 12 Neighborhood Watch Groups that have formed within the Township. If you are not currently part of a group, please consider hosting a neighborhood meeting to see if others are interested in forming one. This is a great way to keep abreast of what is happening within the township regarding break-ins, patrols, etc. and to get to know your neighbors better. For more information on forming a watch group contact Lt. Ken Plaga of the Meridian Police Department at 517-853-4800.

Property Checks: If you are heading to warmer climates for the winter or will be out of town for an extended period of time, the Meridian Police will check on your property while you are away. You can either call 517-853-4800 or complete the form on their website: www.meridian.mi.us under Township Departments/ Police, then click on the Property Check request form to provide the needed information.

Power Outages: Several residents, Detroit Edison representatives, and myself met to address the power outages that occur within the Township. Fallen trees are the number one reason for outages. There are many areas that have older growth and dead trees prime for falling in high winds and inclement weather. DTE can only remove trees in the line easement. Residents can help the situation by keeping trees trimmed that are adjacent to the power line easement. More importantly, if you experience an outage contact DTE regardless if your neighbor has or not. This helps them locate the outage or disruption of service quicker and with more accuracy as they are not always aware of disruptions of service. The number to call is 1-800-477-4747.

Zimmer Road Improvements: Beginning in 2013, Zimmer Rd. will be receiving needed improvements which will include a stoplight at Zimmer and Grand River, bridge restoration, and road reconstruction from Grand River to Haslett Rd.

Parks and Recreation: The Township Board approved amendments to the Parks Ordinance and guidelines for special uses at the Township park/facilities. Landscaping was put in place at the new Township Park parking area through a grant from ITC. New gates will be installed to help curb vandalism and the benches along the trails are receiving much needed facelifts. If you enjoy the Township Park, please consider contacting me about serving on the committee. My email is martinm@williamstowntownship.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

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

The Township offices will be closed Dec. 23rd and 30th for the holidays.

Property Taxes

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Winter property taxes are due every year on February 14. Taxes that are not paid by February 14 will be charged a 3% penalty.

There are **FOUR** different ways you may pay your property taxes:

1. **Township Hall** – Summer and winter taxes may be paid with cash or check at the Township office.
2. **By Mail** - Send your check with payment stub by mail to the Township office. Please note that tax payments need to actually arrive in the office in order to be processed – **postmarks cannot be accepted as a payment date.**
3. **Drop-off Box** - Leave your payment in the bronze drop slot beneath the bulletin board by the front entry of the Township hall, only if payment is made by check, and the stub from the bottom of the tax bill is included with the check. Residents should not leave cash in the drop slot.
4. **At Independent Bank** - Cash or check payments may be made at Independent Bank (1245 E. Grand River location ONLY) between December 1, 2011 and February 14, 2012. You may pay the current season ONLY and you must have the stub from your tax bill.

Remember to check the box on your tax stub if you would like a receipt sent to you.

For taxpayers wishing to make payments during 2011, the Township will be open regular office hours December 27, 28, and 29, but will be closed on December 30. You may make your payment at Independent Bank during their regular business hours: M-Th 7:30-5:00, F 7:30-6:00, Sat. 7:30-1:00.

The last day property taxes may be paid at the Township hall is February 29. On March 1, all bills are then turned over to the Ingham County Treasurer for collection. The Township Hall will be open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Wednesday, February 29, for property tax payments **ONLY**. From 1:00 to 7:00 PM the Township Hall will be open for all services including tax payments. Regular office hours are 10:00 to 4:00 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 1:00 to 7:00 on Wednesday. The office is closed on Mondays.

REMINDER: Anyone eligible for a Poverty Exemption must have their application in before 4:00 PM on December 12.

Historical Committee



The Historical Committee is taking up the task of doing a pictorial inventory of the historic barns within the Township. This, along with the inventory of historic homes will be wonderful information to have for years to come.

Join Us! If you are interested in being a part of the Historical Committee please contact Supervisor Martin at 655-3193. The committee is looking for others dedicated to the historic preservation of the Township.

Do you have, or know of, an old upright piano in good condition looking for a home? The committee would like one for the Branch Road School. For further information contact Tom Johnson at 655-1030

If you haven't had an opportunity to see the school since it's restoration, please plan on attending the 3rd Annual Fine Art Sale and Studio Tour when the school will house several resident artists on May 4th and 5th, 2012.

Township Calendar Dates

Board Meetings

Tuesdays 7:00

December 6th

January 10th

February 14th

March 13th

Planning Commission Meetings

Tuesdays 7:30

No meeting in December

January 17th

February 21st

March 20th

Recycling

Saturdays 9:00-3:00

December 10th

January 14th

February 11th

March 10th

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

REROOF PERMITS

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- Building Permit Applications **MUST** be submitted, approved, and Permit issued, **BEFORE** starting your project.
- Allow 14 days for Permit issuance.
- **NO** inspections will be scheduled until a Permit has been issued.
- **24 hr. notice** is required when scheduling inspections.

PERMITS ARE ALSO NEEDED FOR:

Ponds, grading, sheds of any size, decks, porches, etc.

If you are unsure of when a permit is needed, please contact the Township for clarification and to avoid additional fees, possible removal and restoration.

~Williamstown Township Building Inspector

Thank You!!

The generosity of Township residents and businesses is part of what makes Williamstown Township a great place to live! A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

Pat Graham for the beautiful Japanese maple in memory of Tom Graham.

Cardinal Fabricating for the donation and installation help of the new gate at the Township Park.

Jim Coates for the grills being placed at the Township Hall and Township Park in memory of Chris Graham.

Derek Gauss, Dan Robitaille, Dallas Thornton and Adam Palmatier for the construction of the new dugouts at the Township Park.

Drew Payton, Eagle Scout candidate for construction of the addition to the maintenance building at Summit Cemetery for the new incinerator toilet.

ITC, for the \$2,000 grant for plantings at the new Township Park parking area.

Many of the improvements seen at the Township Hall, Park, Branch School, and Cemeteries would not have been realized without these generous gifts of materials and labor.

Planning

The Planning Commission's role is an important part of preserving and guiding the quality of life that residents enjoy within the Township. During the economic downturn, planners across the country are becoming aware of the need to change the direction that has been taken over the past 50 years to fit current lifestyles and to curb the continual sprawl of unsustainable development. During this down time the Planning Commission has been busy reviewing and updating the Zoning Ordinance, reviewing and updating the Master Plan, and working with residents to preserve the character of the Township while creating tools to be used in future development along Grand River.

The Planning Commission meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 except in December. Citizen participation is always welcome and encouraged! We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

4990 Zimmer Rd.
Williamston, MI 48895
517-655-3193

www.williamstowntownship.com

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

Please contact Supervisor Martin if interested in serving on a committee!

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Deputy Clerk - Shirley Mitchell
Deputy Treasurer- Lori Hurst

HIRED STAFF

Building Inspector– Tim O’Neil
Code Enforcer– Tim O’Neil
Supervisor Asst. - Michelle Morse
Sexton/Maintenance- Mac Donnelly
Caretaker– Mark Tabor
Cemetery Advisor—Benjamin Moline
Webmaster- Wendell Proudfoot
Planning Asst.- Wanda Bloomquist

PLANNING COMMISSION

Michael Fielek- Chair
Rex LaMore- Vice Chair
Gerald Eidt- Secy
Joscelyn Brown-Timm
Ronald Cook
Dali Giese
Rod Imhoff
Ger Schultink
Martin Wright– Twp. Board Rep.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Bill Bailey
Dan Demitroff
Mark Steinberg
Wanda Bloomquist- Twp. Rep.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

John McLaughlin- Chair
Richard DeShon
Brian Bird
Mickey Martin- Twp. Board Rep.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Tom Johnson– Chair
Ann Campbell
Steve Eyke
Dan Goodnoe
Jo Ann Goodnoe
Rutgar Hoag
Gloria VanDusen
Joan Wright

Frans Wilbrink- Twp. Board Rep.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Wilbur McNinch- Chair
Jim Conroy
Bob Lombardini
Joyce Messing
Andy Sheets

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Greg Lammers– Chair
Andy Andersen- Member at Large
Scott Van Allsburg—Williamston City Rep.
Mickey Martin– Twp. Board Rep.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Gerald Eidt
Kurt Guter
Edward Timm

BOARD OF APPEALS

Michael Fielek- Chair
Kurt Guter
Dan Kraft
Mark Miller
Mickey Martin- Supervisor

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Aage Jensen
Stephan Patoprsty
Mark Stevens

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

Marv Thomson, Chair
Kurt Guter
Norma Johnston
Ivonne Key
Nancy Williams
Rick Williams-Twp. Board Rep

NIESA REPRESENTATIVES

Joyce Messing- Alternate Twp. Rep.
Robert Hayes- Twp. Board Rep.

POLICE SERVICES - MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

Chief: Dave Hall 332-6526

Emergency: 911 Non Emergency: 332-6526

ALSO REPRESENTING OUR TOWNSHIP:

United States Senator	Carl Levin (D)	web: levin.senate.gov	377-1508
United States Senator	Debbie Stabenow (D)	web: stabenow.senate.gov	203-1760
United States Representative (Dist. 8)	Mike Rogers (R)	web: www.mikerogers.house.gov	702-8000
Michigan State Senator (Dist. 23)	Gretchen Whitmer (D)	e-mail: sengwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov	373-1734
Michigan State Rep. (Dist. 67)	Barb Byrum (D)	e-mail: barbbyrum@house.mi.gov	373-0587
Michigan State Rep. (Dist. 69)	Mark Meadows (D)	e-mail: markmeadows@house.mi.gov	373-1786
Ingham County Comm. (Dist. 13)	Randy Schafer (R)	e-mail: commschafer@aol.com	655-1325