

March 2011



WILLIAMSTOWN

Township News

Police Protection

from the office of the Meridian Township Police

The Meridian Township Police Department appreciates this opportunity to address Williamstown Township residents regarding police services. Meridian Police have been on patrol in Williamstown Township for several weeks and the experience has been very positive. Many officers have been assigned to patrols and spending time getting familiar with the Township's layout. There have been numerous reports from citizens expressing their appreciation; in addition, the officers have indicated they have been well received.

The Department has been in existence since 1948. In the beginning, the Sheriff's Department covered Meridian Township with part-time Deputies. As Meridian grew, law enforcement ranks increased. In 1979, Meridian Township chose to separate from the Sheriff's Department and begin its own police department. Today, the Department's strength is 39 sworn officers. This number is down from a high of 46 in 2000.

The Meridian Township Police Department provides a number of services that, over time, we plan to implement. A top priority in Williamstown Township is our effort to introduce ourselves to neighborhood leaders. Community policing is the foundation of the Department's services. Without this foundation, we are less effective in our law enforcement and crime prevention efforts. We rely on each resident to help by reporting crimes and suspicious activity. Your assistance is invaluable. We also understand the importance of our communication to the community. Officers are assigned to neighborhoods that request one. The assigned officers communicate regularly with neighborhood leaders to update them regarding neighborhood incidents and crime trends in the area and within the Township; furthermore, having a neighborhood officer is an effective way to alert the Department regarding neighborhood concerns and traffic issues. If you would like to have an officer assigned to your neighborhood, contact the Department at 853-4800. Becoming organized and informed with a Neighborhood Watch Program is another way neighborhoods can fight back against crime. Again, please contact us and we will help you get started. Nixle.com, an internet-based alerting system, is one resource the Department uses to keep residents informed.

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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

Closed Friday, April 22nd, 2011

Police (continued)

Residents are encouraged to register at Nixle.com so they can be alerted to emergencies, crimes, traffic bulletins, and crime trends via cell phones and email notifications. Sign up at Nixle.com today.

The Department's officers are licensed as Medical First Responders. Medical First Responder is the first level of medical licensure for the State of Michigan. Patrol officers carry additional medical equipment, including *automated external defibrillators (AEDs), in the patrol cars*. This service could help stabilize a patient prior to the arrival of NIESA. The Williamstown Township Board has chosen to provide that service to residents. This tiered level of medical response is more than the majority of communities in Michigan experience.

In March, the Department will be hosting a Youth Academy and invites area high school students to attend. This Academy gives young adults exposure to law enforcement and, in some cases, may assist students in making a decision to pursue a career in criminal justice. We will also offer a Citizens' Academy in September. The Academy gives citizens an opportunity to learn about the role of police in our community. Police officers and other special guests present topics such as uniform patrol, traffic enforcement and investigations, criminal investigations, crime scene investigations, courts, and many other intriguing subjects. Call 853-4800 for more information or to reserve your seat. Former attendees speak highly of their experience in the Academy.

On occasion, a citizen will have a concern regarding police services or an officer's performance. The Department investigates each citizen complaint and responds back in writing with the finding. Customer treatment is paramount. For 2010, 15 citizen complaints were investigated. A small portion of the complaints were sustained and handled administratively. Please know, however, that we had in excess of 24,000 citizen contacts for the same period. Surveys are sent randomly to individuals who have had contact with the Department. Completed surveys help to assess services and the Department's work in the community. If you have a concern, feel free to contact any supervisor at 332-6526. In addition, Chief of Police David Hall encourages residents to contact him at 853-4800 with questions or concerns. The Department enjoys hearing about successes and positive situations too. Supervisor Mickey Martin can also be contacted. Communication is frequent between Supervisor Martin and Chief Hall; she will pass on any concerns or observations residents may have. Magnets with contact information have been provided for Police contact information.

Meridian Township Police Department
5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI 48864
www.meridian.mi.us

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 676-2431

Administrative: 853-4800

Fine Art Sale and Studio Tour

Despite the weather for the inaugural Sale and Tour, participating artists, attendees and the Township felt it was a successful event and look forward to this year's event highlighting the diverse and exceptional talent of resident artists in our community. The committee, consisting of Gretchen Fielek, Ron Cook, Marjory Clay, and Tom & Jane Johnson, hopes to double the attendance of last year and see an increase of sales for participating artists. Monies raised towards the construction of play equipment last year were \$1608. Construction will be completed in stages with the 1st stage beginning this summer. Please stop in and see the plan for the play equipment!

Date's are: Friday, May 6th from 4:00pm to 9:00pm & Saturday, May 7th from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available from all participating artists and at the Township Hall.

For more information please check the website: www.williamstowntownship.com

Township Calendar Dates

Board of Review: Monday, March 14th & Tuesday, March 15th by appointment.

Art Tour: 4:00pm-9:00pm Friday, May 6th & 9:00am-5:00pm Saturday, May 7th

Spring Clean Up & First Garage Sale: 9:00am-3:00pm Saturday, May 14th

Board Meetings Tuesdays 7:00

March 1st
April 5th
May 3rd

Planning Commission Meetings Tuesdays 7:30

March 22nd
April 19th
May 17th

Recycling Saturdays 9:00-3:00

March 12th
April 9th
May 14th
(spring clean up and garage sale)
June 11th
(garage sale)

EECBG Grant

The Township has been busy with updates to the Township Hall as a result of the Grant award received from the state. A geo-thermal system was installed to replace the inefficient heating and air conditioning units along with a back up generator. This will enable the Hall to be used for an emergency shelter in the future. Interior lights were replaced to utilize CFL's. Other improvements that will be evident by the end of April will be the replacement of exterior parking lights to LED, a new bus shelter and stop being added at the park on Grand River Ave. and a permanent incinerator toilet replacing the rental at the cemetery. The Township will report on anticipated savings once the retrofits are completed.

Burning

*****Beginning April 1st it will be illegal to burn household refuse, garbage and trash.*****

State Mandated

Burning permits are required to burn in the Township and may be obtained at the Township Office during office hours. Once a permit is obtained, you must call or stop in to activate your permit prior to each burn. The burning of construction material is prohibited throughout the Township along with the use of burning barrels.

Other restrictions apply depending on your zoning.

Recycling, Spring Clean-up and Garage Sale

Recycling is held monthly on the second Saturday of the month at the Township Hall from 9am to 3 pm. The diversity of collected materials has continued to grow! The **garage sales** were such a success, they will be back again this year starting in May. This year the Township will offer a **Spring Clean-Up** (residents only) on May 14th, collecting metals (ex.: washers, storm doors, etc), large bulk items and providing a secure documents container for shredding of sensitive material. All items must be free of Freon. Please check the website for more information.

Items collected include:

- Plastics: #1-#7
- Cans & Aluminum
- Glass Bottles & Jars (clear & colored)
- Newspaper
- Cardboard & Boxboard
- Office Paper
- Styrofoam

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

4990 N. 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

Who does what at the Township:

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
Wanda Bloomquist- Twp. Rep.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

John McLaughlin- Chair
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

Ronald Wiegandt- 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