

July 2010



WILLIAMSTOWN

Township News

Police Protection

In the last three years the Ingham County Commissioners have drastically reduced the budget of the Ingham County Sheriff's Department. Over the last two years the out county Townships of Ingham County have been in discussions with the county commissioners and the sheriff's department attempting to change their directions of cuts. We appealed to their sense of commitment to the residents that personal safety was a top priority.

Unfortunately, at this time, the Ingham County Commissioners have voted to eliminate all out county police services as of January 1, 2011.

The safety and security of Ingham County citizens is and always has been our highest priority. With the Ingham County Commissioner's intention to eliminate coverage the twelve (12) out county Townships and one Village listed below have each passed a resolution to place on the November ballot the question of raising money to fund police services for their residents:

Alaiedon, Aurelius, Bunker Hill, Ingham, Leroy, Leslie, Locke, Onondaga, Stockbridge, Vevay, White Oak, Williamstown and the Village of Dansville.

While no one wants to raise taxes, we are proposing a yearly maximum amount of \$150 or \$12.50 per month for a residential unit and \$250 for a commercial or industrial unit.

If the ballot question passes, the Townships and the Village will form a police board and provide police services for all the residents collectively. The unification of Ingham County Townships over the issue of public safety is unprecedented. We are all working together to provide the best service to the residents of rural Ingham County.

The Townships and the Village will work from now until the November election to inform our residents on this critical issue.

Williamstown Township Board

Property Tax Information

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Summer property taxes are due every year on [September 14](#). The Treasury Department will be [open from 9:00 to 5:00 \(extended hours\) on Tuesday, September 14 to take 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.

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

1. **Township Hall** – Summer taxes may be paid with cash or check at the township office.
2. **By Mail** - Send your check and 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. ***NEW* At Independent Bank** - Cash or check payments may now be made at Independent Bank (1245 E. Grand River location ONLY). You **MUST HAVE YOUR PAYMENT STUB** in order to pay your bill at Independent Bank. Payments for **summer** taxes WILL NOT be accepted at Independent Bank after [September 14th](#).

Payments that are in the drop box or Township mailbox **before the start of business** on Wednesday, September 15 will be considered to have arrived on [September 14](#). All taxpayers who pay by mail or in the drop slot will receive an official property tax receipt by return mail, **ONLY** if they have requested one by checking the box on their tax stub.



Cemetery News

If you haven't yet seen the completed columbarium it is worth a drive through the cemetery to see it at the crest of the hill. A dedication is planned for later this summer. The columbarium is unique to this area and is meant to address the increasing demand for interment of cremated remains. Burial niches are available for purchase by non-residents as well as residents of our community. Although the cost for non-residents is somewhat higher, it is still very competitive with comparative costs in other areas.

The township website now offers access to a lot of information about the cemetery, including individual burial records. Part of the record includes the specific burial plot for an individual which can be located on a schematic diagram of the cemetery. To access this information just go to the township website and under departments listed click on "cemetery" and then click on "cemetery register" just above the photo.

Cemetery rules and regulations are also available on the website. It is important that everyone be aware of these and adhere to them since it makes mowing and trimming safer and overall maintenance more efficient.

Greg Lammers, Cemetery Committee Chairman

2nd Thursday Educational Series

As part of the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant, the Township will be offering a series of workshops on the 2nd Thursday of the month to promote energy conservation beginning in August. Workshops will be held at the Township Hall at 7:00.

Topics being covered are: Composting your kitchen and yard waste, the

benefits, design and installation of rain gardens and residential applications of wind and solar. Further information on the workshops will be available on the website in the near future.

[Dates for the workshops will be August 12th, September 9th and October 14th.](#)

Art Tour

Despite the uncooperative weather, the response to the first Fine Art Sale and Studio Tour under the leadership of Gretchen Fielek was considered a resounding success! Over \$1600 was raised for playground equipment to be placed at the Township Hall from ticket sales and the generous donation of a portion of artist sales. Thank you also to Sally Stewart and Ron Cook for design work on the postcard and poster.

Planning Commission Addressing:

- Trails & Greenways Amendment to the Master Plan
- Grand River Green Zone
- Medical Marihuana Caregiver as a Home Occupation
[Public Hearing on July 20th, 7:50 pm](#)
- Amendments to the Wetland Ordinance
[Public Hearing on July 20th, 7:35 pm](#)

Please call the Township for more details. Information on the Public Hearings will be available for review at the Township Office beginning July 6th, 2010.

Light bulb Exchange

As part of the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant awarded to the Township, the Township will be hosting a light bulb exchange for the residents of the Township on [August 14th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm](#). Residents will be able to exchange one incandescent bulb for one CFI bulb. Trustee Williams will be heading up the exchange during recycling.

The Township Garage Sale has been growing this year with Township residents taking advantage of the opportunity to sell their wares during recycling. Tables are available on a first come basis or bring your own. Customer base is quite large with recycling going on in conjunction with the garage sale and both buyers and sellers have left happy! For more information, contact the Township or visit the website: www.williamstowntownship.com.

Election & Voter Registration Info

The remaining two scheduled elections for 2010 are the Primary on [August 3rd](#) and the General Election on [November 2nd](#). The last days of voter registration for the two elections are [July 6th](#) and [October 4th](#). If you qualify to become an absentee voter and would like to be added to the permanent absentee voter list, please contact the Township Clerk's office.

Branch School



The Branch School is nearing completion and was host to its first event on May 7th & 8th as part of the first Fine Art Sale and Studio Tour. Over the summer the Historical Committee will be finishing the exterior in preparation of the Open House scheduled for [October 2nd from 2-6pm](#). The volunteer hours given to the restoration of the school are overwhelmingly evident in the details of the restoration. The donation of items for the school

have been greatly appreciated. Any articles, pictures or memorabilia about the school are still being sought to give a complete picture of the history of the school. Please contact Tom Johnson with any information you may have at 655-1030.

[Open House](#)

[October 2nd 2-6pm](#)

[Ribbon Cutting at 3 pm](#)

Parks & Recreation

The Township ball fields can now be reserved for games, practices and/or family events through the Township Office by calling 655-3193. The reservation fee is \$25.00 for the ball diamonds per game, \$10.00 per 2 hour practice and \$25.00 for the soccer fields (2 games or 3 hour block). Monies received from the field reservation fees will be used towards keeping the fields in good shape and continued improvements.

A big THANK YOU goes out to the many volunteers who have given their time and talents to making field improvements. The park would not be what it is today without their support.

THANK YOU also goes out to Ryan McGuire for his contribution to the Township of 3 bike racks. The project was completed as part of his Eagle Scout Project. You will find two at the Township Park and one at the hall ready for use!

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:

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
Wanda Bloomquist
Ronald Cook
Dali Giese
Rod Imhoff
Ger Schultink
Martin Wright– Twp. Board Rep.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Bill Bailey
Dan Demitroff– Red Cedar Rec Rep.
Wanda Bloomquist-- Twp. Board Rep.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

John McLaughlin- Chair
Richard Kill
Terry Monahan
Mickey Martin- Twp. Board Rep.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Tom Johnson– Chair
Rutgar Hoag
Steve Eyke
Gloria VanDusen
Ann Campbell
Dan Goodnoe
Jo Ann Goodnoe
Joan Wright
Frans Wilbrink- Twp. Board Rep.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Wilbur McNinch- Chair
Bob Lombardini
Andy Sheets
Sally Martin Stewart

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Greg Lammers– Chair
Andy Andersen- Member at Large
Tim Grossman—Williamston City Rep.
Mickey Martin– Twp. Board Rep.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Gerald Eidt
Kurt Guter
Edward Timm

BOARD OF APPEALS

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

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Aage Jensen
Stephan Patoprsty
Mark Stevens

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

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

NIESA REPRESENTATIVES

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

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