



# Williamstown Township News

*A publication of the Williamstown Township Board  
Serving Williamstown Township residents in the  
Williamston, Okemos, Haslett and Perry School Districts  
July 2009*

*Williamstown Township, 4990 N. Zimmer Road, Williamston MI 48895  
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## From the desk of Supervisor Mickey Martin

Dear Residents:

It does not seem possible that we are already into the second month of the summer. I do hope you can all enjoy some time relaxing in the sun at some point this summer. I have several issues to inform you of; some ongoing and some new.

**Sheriff Protection:** The issue of public safety in Ingham County and Williamstown Township is of utmost importance. The Ingham County Commissioner's plan is to make drastic cuts to the Ingham County Sheriff's Departments and leave huge swaths of the County with virtually no police protection.

The plan, designed to reduce costs, would leave townships to fend for themselves for police protection, eliminating county funding of the Ingham County Sheriff's Department coverage for outlying areas. Proposed by a small group of members of the Ingham County Commission, the plan suggests townships could "buy back" sheriff services with additional funds, though it would not return tax dollars townships already sent to the County for police and other services.

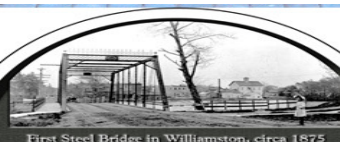
Williamstown Township officials are diligently working for you in this fight to retain public safety services but we need your help. A Town Hall meeting was held regarding this issue, but there is still more work to be done. Please contact the Ingham County Commissioners and let them know you want them to keep public safety for all. Their contact information can be found at [www.ingham.org](http://www.ingham.org).

**Williamston Road: Construction is ahead of schedule and work should be completed before the end of the summer. Your patience has been appreciated.**

**Revenues:** Along with everyone else, the Township's revenues are declining. The clerk, treasurer and myself are working on a proposal of cuts to present to the Board in August for this current budget. The Township is also creating a seven-year budget proposal for planning future operating expenditures and large expenditures such as road repair and maintenance. A sub committee, led by Treasurer Janet Eyster, has been created to draft this proposal.

**New! Trees at the Williamstown Township Park on Grand River Ave:** Forty hardwood trees were planted this spring. Thank you to all of the volunteers who spent many hours planting and improving our park.

**Historical signs at the columbarium are now in place at Summit Cemetery.** Thanks to the cemetery committee; Gregg Lammers, chair, Andy Anderson and Scott VanAllsburg, for all of their time and effort into this. We are planning a dedication later this summer. Please watch the paper and our website for the date.



First Steel Bridge in Williamston, circa 1875

### Early Cemetery History

The earliest burial places in the township were in the village of Williamston. One was in the two hundred block on the north side of Church Street and the other was on the north side of Grand River Avenue near the Red Cedar River. Since neither of these sites were entirely satisfactory, this site for Summit Cemetery was selected in 1860. Initially, just a little over three acres were purchased with subsequent expansions leading to the current fourteen acres. Shortly after the establishment of Summit Cemetery, remains of 26 interments that had been made at the other sites were relocated here, including Oswald and Mary Williams and Richard and Nancy Putnam. Over 400 military service veterans are buried here, representing all wars beginning with the war of 1812. (April 2009)

# Notes from Treasurer Janet Eyster

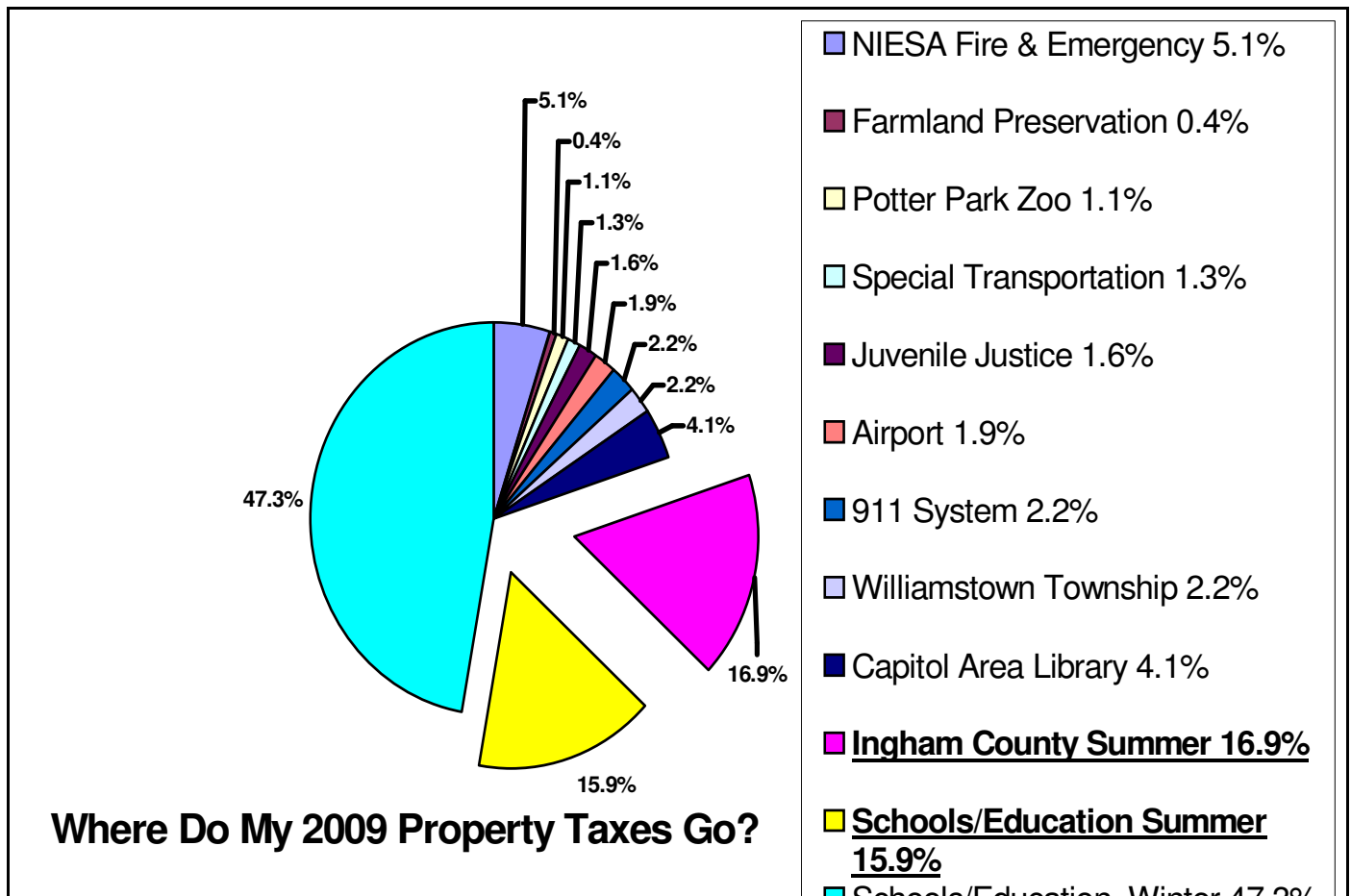
## REMINDER: Summer Property Taxes are Due on September 14

**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 on Monday, September 14 (outside of our regular hours) to take tax payments only. 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.

Tax payments need to actually arrive in the office in order to be processed – **postmarks cannot be accepted as a payment date**. Tax payments can also be left 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.

Payments that are in the drop box or Township mailbox **before the start of business** on Tuesday, 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.

State law requires an additional charge of 1% of the tax owed to be charged on the first day delinquent and the first of every month that taxes are unpaid after the September 14 due date. A payment on September 15 will therefore incur a 1% interest charge and a payment on October 1 will incur a 2% interest charge. Summer taxes that are still unpaid on March 1, 2010 must be turned over to the Ingham County Treasurer for collection, which involves additional fees for the taxpayer.



**Property Tax Collection**

Property taxes are collected twice a year. In the summer about 1/3 of the taxes are collected. Your tax bill includes 6.3814 mils for Ingham County and 6.0000 mils for the State Education Tax. The two separated wedges represent the summer taxes. The remaining 2/3 of the taxes are collected next winter. **Note:** out of every \$100 of taxes you pay this year, Williamstown Township receives only \$2.20.

## News from Clerk Ernie Gaffner

On May 5th, a local school election was held, as Williamston Community Schools was seeking approval of a .75 mill "Recreation Millage". The millage passed in both Williamstown Township and in the total school district. Williamstown Township voters cast 643 votes on the millage. The results were 350 YES and 293 NO votes. Beginning with the December 2009 property tax notices, an additional .75 mills for Williamston Community Schools will appear on the notice, indicated as a Recreational Millage for the school district.

## Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is continuing review of the zoning ordinance and is currently working on Article 4 and Article 5 and will continue review of the entire ordinance during regular meetings. Your participation is encouraged and appreciated! The Planning Commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

## Historical Committee

The Branch school received four inkwells that were used in the old school desk from David O. Finney from Tustin, California to be displayed once the school is completed. These show the history and change of inkwell use in the schools. The first inkwell was patented in 1887, the second in 1910, the third in 1927 and the fourth and last in early 1940. Gifts as these will help bring the school back to its original glory and are very much appreciated.

On Thursday, May 28th, the Old House Group had its second meeting with Steve Eyke of LaFollette Builders presenting common problems encountered in the maintenance of old houses. After the presentation and questions the group adjourned to tour two owner restored homes on Barton Rd. Both were built in the late 1860's or early 1870's. Thank you Steve for an excellent presentation!

## Cemetery News

### Contact information for Summit & Foote Cemeteries Needed

If you, or someone you know, have a loved one at either of our cemeteries, we are in desperate need of updated contact information. The Township has enacted a Cemetery Ordinance for the long-term upkeep of our cemeteries which contains current Rules and Regulations. It is our desire to distribute a copy of this Ordinance and/or our Rules and Regulations to all family members, friends, and heirs that may be affected by it, as well as to have current contact information on file for future correspondence. You may call the Township office at 517-655-3193, or mail the information to the Township office.

## Parks and Recreation

An overwhelming "Thank You" goes out to Jerry Fulcher, Tom Trepky and Betty Challis for over 30 years of combined service to the Parks and Rec Committee. They have overseen the design and improvements to the Township Park and have coordinated many volunteer hours to the park. Please, if you see any of them, express your gratitude!

A grant has been submitted to facilitate additional improvements to the park which would include trail improvements, a pavilion and restrooms.

If you, or a group you know of, is interested in a service project, please feel free to contact the Township. There are several volunteer projects available. The Parks & Rec committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

## Recycling

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month**

9 am – 3 pm  
Township Hall

Please remember that there are **no early or late drop-offs** and all material must be put in its appropriate bin. If items are not sorted properly, ALL materials end up in the landfill and the Township is charged double for the recycle container rental. For a list of accepted materials, visit our website: [www.williamstowntownship.com](http://www.williamstowntownship.com)

## Burning

A Master Burning Permit is required before burning within the Township and is available at the Township office – activation is required **each time** you burn. Leaf burning is **only** allowed in the RE, AG-SF, and AG-C zones. **Burning is not allowed in limited burn areas in July and August.** For our complete burn ordinance and regulations, visit our website: [www.williamstowntownship.com](http://www.williamstowntownship.com)

# Calendar of Events

## July

**3rd**– Closed for the holiday  
**7th**– Township Board Mtg 7:00 pm  
**11th**–Recycling 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
**15th**–Communications Comm Mtg 3:30pm  
 Parks & Rec Committee Mtg 7:00 pm  
**21st**– Township Board Mtg (tent) 5:30 pm  
 Planning Commission Mtg 7:30 pm

## August

**4th**– Township Board Mtg 7:00 pm  
**8th**– Recycling 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
**18th**–Township Board Mtg (tent) 5:30 pm  
 Planning Commission Mtg 7:30 pm  
**19th**–Historical Committee 7:00 pm  
 Parks & Rec Committee Mtg 7:00 pm

## September

**1st**–Township Board Mtg 7:00 pm  
**12th**–Recycling 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
**15th**–Township Board Mtg(tent) 5:30 pm  
 Planning Commission Mtg 7:30 pm  
**16th**–Parks & Rec Committee Mtg 7:00 pm

# WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

### TOWNSHIP BOARD (ELECTED)

Supervisor - Mickey Martin  
 Clerk - Ernie Gaffner  
 Treasurer - Janet Eyster  
 Trustee - Martin Wright  
 Trustee - Rick Williams  
 Trustee - Frans Wilbrink  
 Trustee - Robert Hayes

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Deputy Clerk - Shirley Mitchell  
 Deputy Treasurer- Lori Hurst

### HIRED STAFF

Building Inspector - Mark Miller  
 Supervisor Asst - Michelle Morse  
 Caretaker– Mac Donnelly  
 Advisor—Benjamin Moline  
 Sexton/Maintenance- Mark Tabor  
 Code enforcement - Mark Miller  
 Webmaster: Wendell Proudfoot  
 Planning Asst: Wanda Bloomquist

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Michael Fielek- Chair  
 Rex LaMore- Vice Chair  
 Gerald Eidt- Secy  
 Wanda Bloomquist  
 Ronald Cook  
 Ger Schultink  
 Rutgar Hoag  
 Rod Imhoff  
 Martin Wright, Twp. Board Rep.

### BOARD OF REVIEW

Gerald Eidt  
 Kurt Guter  
 Edward Timm

### BOARD OF APPEALS

Michael Fielek- Chair  
 Dali Giese  
 Dan Kraft  
 Kurt Guter  
 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.

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Bill Bailey  
 Jan Morris  
 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  
 Dave Robinson- Secy  
 Bob Lombardini  
 Andy Sheets  
 Sally Martin Stewart

## **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)	web: sengwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov	373-5397
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)	web: www.ingham.org	655-1325