

July 2011



WILLIAMSTOWN

Township News

Happenings

from Supervisor Martin

Art Tour The weather cooperated much better this year and it showed with the sales and attendance numbers being up from last year. Of course, a key factor of the success goes to this year's committee consisting of: Gretchen Fielek, Ron Cook, Marjory Clay, Tom and Jane Johnson. Many behind the scene hours go into creating a successful event and many thanks go out to the committee. I also want to thank all of the artists who participated. There is wonderful talent in our area and it truly was a joy to view all of their works. With this year's monies raised towards the **playground equipment**, there is enough to purchase a major portion of the project. Look for the improvements to be completed by the end of the summer.

Police Protection The Township Office, along with the Meridian Police Department, have received many appreciative calls from the residents. The 80+ hours of patrol have really made a noticeable presence within the Township. The largest concern voiced by residents has been to create a safer environment by getting drivers to slow down. The department has also been helping residents create Neighborhood Watch Groups. The calls for service have averaged 100 per month and the Township has seen over 1800 patrol hours since January 1st. The Police Services Committee is very pleased with the service Meridian Township Police Department has delivered. The Township has stayed well below budget on the hours charged outside of the guaranteed 80 hours a week for patrol. Please remember to change the non-emergency number on your magnets to 517-332-6526.

Township Garage Sales The garage sales during recycling were such a success last year that they are back in full swing this year. While recycling, residents are able to set up to sell or stay and shop. For more information contact the sale coordinator at 655-9828.

Spring Clean Up The Township hosted a major spring clean up during May recycling by collecting bulk items, scrap metal and sensitive documents. Turn out was great and participating residents were pleased to have the service. Should we have another clean up this fall? Please let me know your feedback.

My email is martinm@williamstowntownship.com. I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

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

Property Taxes

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 7:00 (extended hours) on Wednesday, 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. At the 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. 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 Thursday, September 15 will be considered to have arrived on September 14. **All taxpayers who pay by mail or in the drop slot MUST check the box on the tax stub in order to receive an official property tax receipt by return mail.**

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 September 14. For example a payment on September 15 will 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, 2012 must be turned over to the Ingham County Treasurer for collection.

REMINDER: Anyone eligible for a Summer Deferment must have their application in by September 14.

Where does your property tax money go? There are four general categories: Schools, Ingham County, Special Voter Approved Millage and Williamstown Township. The example below is for a home in the Williamstown School District, however homes in other school district will have similar tax allocations.

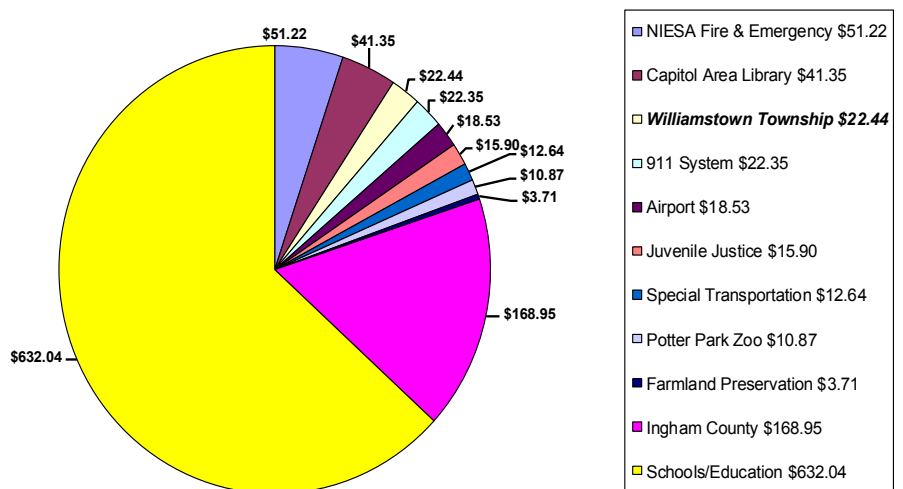
Out of every \$1,000.00, \$632.04 is allocated for education. The funds go to Williamstown Community Schools, Ingham Intermediate School District, Lansing Community College and the State Education Tax.

The entities with voter approved special millages received \$176.57 out of the \$1,000.00. These entities are NEISA Fire and Emergency (\$51.22), Capitol Area Library (for operations only) (\$41.35), 911 System (\$22.35), Lansing Airport Authority (\$18.53), Juvenile Justice (\$15.90), Special Transportation (\$12.60), Potter Park Zoo (\$10.87) and Farmland Preservation (\$3.71).

Ingham County and Williamstown Township receive \$168.94 and \$22.44 respectively. **Yes, your local Township receives only \$22.44 from every \$1000.00 in property taxes. Your local property taxes plus State Revenue Sharing are the main sources of income for the general services the Township provides.**

On the winter tax bills there will be special assessments which are not based on millage. They include the assessment for Williamstown Township police protection and may include assessments for drain improvements or street lights.

Where Do My Property Taxes Go? Out of Every \$1,000.00, See Where They Go.



Township Calendar Dates

Board Meetings

Tuesdays 7:00

July 12th

Check the Web

For

Future Board Meeting Dates

July 19th (Board of Review)

Planning Commission Meetings

Tuesdays 7:30

July 19th

August 16th

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

Recycling & Garage Sale

Saturdays 9:00-3:00

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th

October 8th (last garage sale)

November 12th

Burning within the Township

At the June 7th meeting, the Board approved revisions to the Burn Ordinance. The following are highlights of the changes. For a complete review of the ordinance please stop by the Township Office.

- ◇ The last full weekend of **Sept, Oct, April & May** have been **added** as burn dates for brush and other yard waste in the Limited Burn Areas.
- ◇ Regulations for Outdoor Wood Furnaces have been added. Permit information and standards are available at the office for review.
- ◇ Burning of household trash, grass and leaves has been prohibited in all districts by ordinance except Ag-Sf & Ag-C, **now** It is prohibited in all districts. All areas (except Pebblebrook Subdivisions) are allowed, as in the past, to burn brush and other yard waste provided they comply with the burn ordinance.

Planning

The Planning Commission has been busy working through the revisions of the Zoning Ordinance and hope to be finished by the end of the year. Other important issues that are being addressed:

- ◇ The Master Plan review process will begin in June and will include the new Trails and Greenways Plan, which was funded by the EECBG Grant. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the planning process of the future of our Township.
- ◇ The draft language of a new Grand River Green Zone was presented at a public forum on May 24th and the process to adopt the new article will begin.
- ◇ A Zoning Amendment to allow Medical Marijuana Primary Caregivers as a home occupation or/and as a Special Use in the B-1, B-2 and I-1 districts. A Public Hearing was held on May 17th and deliberation on June 21st. After deliberation, the Planning Commission will forward their recommendation to the Board for consideration.

The Planning Commission is always interested in citizen participation! Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Building Permits

Please check with the Township for the need of a permit on any improvements you are planning. A setback permit is required for sheds and other structures; a building permit is required for roofs, decks, porches, etc. If you are unsure, please call and the staff will be glad to answer any questions. Permits may take up to 2 weeks so please plan accordingly.

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
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