

November 2013

# Milton Township Newsletter

**Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday 9:00-5:00

Wednesday (Late hours) 9:00-8:00

Thursday, Friday 9:00-5:00

32097 Bertrand Street Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 684-7262 Fax: (269) 684-1742

Email: [milton@miltontwp.org](mailto:milton@miltontwp.org) Website: [www.miltontwp.org](http://www.miltontwp.org)

## Special Points of Interest

### Voting Nov 5th, 2013

7am-8pm Here at our township hall. See News from the Clerk for more information!

### Holiday Closing Schedule

Nov 11 Veterans Day

Nov 28 & 29 Thanksgiving

Dec 24 & 25 Christmas

Dec 31 & Jan 1 New Years

Jan 20 Martin Luther King

Feb 17 Presidents Day

### Regularly Meetings

#### **Board of Trustees**

3rd Monday Each Month

7:00pm

#### **Planning Commission**

1st Monday Each Month

7:00pm

### Smith Chapel Rental Info

Weddings \$200 plus a \$100 refundable deposit

Funerals \$150

Other rentals are \$75/hr.

with a 2hr minimum -

\$50/hr. thereafter

For more information call

269-684-7262

**Visit our Website:**

**[www.miltontwp.org](http://www.miltontwp.org)**

## News From Our Township Supervisor

### **Lower Taxes!! New Township Hall!! New Playground!!**

The Board of Trustees has approved a 10% reduction in the fire millage for this upcoming winter's tax bill. A surplus was projected to occur in the fire fund and thus the Township board voted to lower the tax to the actual fire costs. You will notice this reduction in your winter tax bill.

The ground breaking for Milton Township's new township hall and playground system occurred on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We have detailed plans available in the township hall for anyone wishing to review these plans. No additional taxes or bonds were raised to fund this project as it is being funded by state shared-tax revenues, current township reserves, and corporate grant money. We are expecting the project to be completed by Summer 2014.

The 1<sup>st</sup> year of our re-evaluation project is coming to a close. This project's intent was to address many of the concerns we had received of assessed values being too high. The State of Michigan requires that assessed values be 50% of true market value. If your property was not selected this year and you believe your property's assessed value is higher than 50% of the true market value, then please give our assessor a call. He can discuss or meet with you to discuss your property's values and work with you to bring them down to that 50% value.

In November, the township will be uploading most of our financial data to our website. We will also be releasing future budget projections and detailed information about where our revenues come from as well as further posting of township documents for your review. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to come to one of our board meetings or give any of us a call to discuss.

We have multiple Internet providers now expanding services within Milton Township. However we are still seeing pockets of areas that do not have high-speed Internet access. Our Administrative Assistant is starting to track addresses so that we can better target neighborhoods that want/need access. If you currently are unable to receive high-speed Internet to your property, please give our office a call and provide your address. We will work with providers to see if we can encourage them to expand to your area.

Have you seen a street light that is burned out? If so, please call our township hall and we will get it replaced immediately.

As always, give us a call, e-mail, or drop by if you have questions, concerns, or ideas for improvement for our township.

Robert Benjamin, Township Supervisor  
(269) 262-0111 [supervisor@miltontwp.org](mailto:supervisor@miltontwp.org)





## News from the Clerk



DISCOVER AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY  
Work the polls on Election Day  
MEET NEW & INTERESTING PEOPLE

If you have ever wondered how to become more active in government, there is an opportunity for you that does not involve running for elected office. During each election, townships are required to have a staff of workers (Election Inspectors) to work at the polls. These are paid positions. Duties include setting up the precinct before the polls open, assisting voters through the voting process, helping to tabulate the results for final submission to the Township and County, securing all ballots and reports, and putting away the voting equipment at the end of the night. Hours assigned may be half a day or all day.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- \* Registered voter in Michigan
- \* Adults 18 years and older
- \* High School Students 16 years and older
- \* Application to local clerk
- \* Attend a 3 hour certification training class every two years

Application forms are available at the township hall. The next three hour mandatory training class will be offered in the spring of 2014. There is no cost to you for this training and your certification is good for two years. For an application or further information do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an e-mail.  
269-591-7975 E-mail: [clerk@miltontwp.org](mailto:clerk@miltontwp.org)

I appreciate any opportunity to serve you.  
Sue Kronewitter, Clerk, Milton Township



## Cass County Road Commission

Cass County residents are fortunate to be only one of three road commission's in the state of Michigan to own and operate their own asphalt plant. With the repairs on the asphalt plant complete, the Cass County Road Commission had another successful year of improvements to over fifty miles of township local roads such as paving, chip and seal, and paint striping.

Thank you to Milton Township and its residents for their patience during the Kestrel Hills Subdivision resurfacing project. This project is an example of your local government working together to provide the best roads possible for the citizens of Cass County.

The brush and spraying program will continue through the winter to complete its first 4-year cycle clearing within the road right-of-ways for safety and line of sight purposes. The spray program suppresses re-growth for 4 years allowing crews to focus on mowing and other important tasks during the year.

As crews prepare for winter we ask our residents to do the same by shaking their mailbox. October 20<sup>th</sup> was the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Shake Your Mailbox Day. It's not too late for homeowners to make minor repairs to prepare the mailbox before winter.

During 2013 the residents of Milton Township have called in 39 service requests for various services. The majority of requests are deer carcass removal, potholes, signage and snow removal. Residents are encouraged to contact the road commission for any concerns of road issues that need to be addressed at 269-445-8611 or contact Terri Wyman at [twyman@casscoroad.com](mailto:twyman@casscoroad.com).

## From Our Township Treasurer



Tidings from the Treasurer

I thank all the residents for the opportunity to serve. As I look back this past year, I reflect what a great community and friendly residents we have in Milton Township.

The township is growing with much activity and renewed hope for a better economy.

I have good news to share. Starting with this December 1st property tax bills, through a link on our township website, you will be able to pay by Credit card. We will continue to explore ways to make interaction with your township convenient.

Please keep in mind, you will receive a copy of your tax bill when Escrowed through your lender. Once your lender pays, we will send you a receipt.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Susan Flowers 269-591-7974 Treasurer@miltontwp.org

### Milton Township Park Plan– Residents Needed for a Focus Group

Did you know that the township has a park that includes a baseball/softball field and a picnic pavilion? The township board is working on a park plan to expand our park and we want your input. We have already had an open house and we received a lot of good feedback. We are working on putting together a focus group. This group will include 6 member of the public, 2 board members, and 4 members from our planning commission. The focus group will walk the township ground and help us layout and put together our plan. **The focus group is meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. to Noon.** If you are interested in being a part of this focus group please contact the township hall at 269-684-7262 or call me directly at 269-340-0122.

Eric Renken  
Milton Township Trustee



### Cass County Updates and Information

A \$15,277,106 balanced budget was approved by the Board of Commissioners in September. This budget is in effect from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

Our Scrap Tire Collection held this past August was a huge success. Almost 3,000 tires were collected. The county received this grant for the cost of this collection from the MDEQ. Cass County will apply again for a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant for 2014. This \$3,000 grant is for the collection and disposal of passenger car tires. Keep your fingers crossed.

We are in the process of interviewing candidates for the open administrator/controller position.

Please visit our county parks. More information on activities can be found at [casscountymi.org](http://casscountymi.org).

Please contact me should you have any county related issues.

Robert L. Ziliak  
County Commissioner  
District 5

MILTON TOWNSHIP  
32097 Bertrand Street  
Niles, MI 49120

NEWSLETTER - Fall 2013 Issue

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## Postal Customer

### Township Board

**Supervisor** Robert Benjamin (269) 262-0111  
supervisor@miltontwp.org

**Clerk** Sue Kronewitter (269) 591-7975  
clerk@miltontwp.org

**Treasurer** Susan Flowers (269) 591-7974  
treasurer@miltontwp.org

**Trustee** Eric Renken (269) 684-7262  
trusteerenken@miltontwp.org

**Trustee** Kelly Sweeney (269) 684-7262  
trusteesweeney@miltontwp.org

### Planning Commission

Richard Hebard, Chair (269) 663-2555  
Kara Boyles, Vice Chair (574) 292-4737  
Kelly Sweeney, Secretary & Ex-Officio (269) 687-1635  
Jeremy Clanton, Member (269) 684-7111  
Ron Jureziz Member (269) 684-8546  
Geoff Klopenstine, Member (269) 684-7262  
Karen Shirk, Member (269) 684-7262

### Zoning Administrator & Code Enforcement Officer

Paul Sniadecki (269) 329-8320  
zoning@miltontwp.org

### Assessor

Douglas Brousseau (269) 699-7619

### Building Inspector

Wayne Hardin (269) 663-2347  
At the Ontwa Twp. Hall in Edwardsburg  
(Tue., Thu., Sat. 9am to Noon)

### Electrical Inspector

Johnny Hamilton (269) 684-7848

### Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector

Ed Wainwright (269) 663-8542

### Board of Review

Roger Kempton, Chair (269) 683-2875  
Steve Sante (574) 220-6085  
Mary Waldrop (269) 684-7262  
Virginia Kraft, Alternate

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Patty Carr, Chair (269) 684-7262  
Sue Kronewitter, Secretary (269) 591-7975  
Jeremy Clanton (269) 684-7111  
Robert Ziliak (Alternate)