

April/May 2010 Issue

Milton Township News

Office Hours:

Monday 9:00-5:00
Wednesday 9:00-1:00
Friday 9:00-5:00



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

Email: milton@miltontwp.org Website: www.miltontwp.org

Special Points of Interest

Clean-Up Day

May 1st 7-11am

School Election

May 4th 7am-8pm

Building/Zoning Workshop

May 8th 9-11am

Community Plan Workshop

May 15th 9am-12pm

Assessing/Tax Workshop

May 19th 7-9pm

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

3rd Monday Each Month

Township Board of Trustees
7:00pm

1st Monday Each Month

Planning Commission
6:30pm

Clean-up Day Scheduled for May 1st

Milton Township is having their clean-up day on May 1st from 7:00 am until 11:00 am at the Milton Township Community Center, located next to the Township Hall.

The following items will NOT be accepted: Chemicals, paint, tires, yard waste, shingles, cement, railroad ties, and dirt. Freon removal will be available for a \$25 charge.

The **Niles Township Fire Department** will also be at the Community Center making address signs available at a cost of \$10 each.

The **Edwardsburg Ambulance Service** will also be offering a blood pressure clinic during the clean-up day.

From Our Township Supervisor

The Milton Township Board has been working hard at getting information out to our residents. We have a bulletin board in our township hall that allows you to see the finances of the township. Also, the secretary maintains copies of the township board minutes for your review. We are in the process of moving information over to our new website also.

In May, the township will have 3 meetings to provide and solicit information regarding Milton Township. If you have any questions regarding these sessions or have recommendations for future workshop-information sessions, please let me know.

Starting May 5th, I will be having office hours on Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm for anyone that wishes to discuss concerns, suggestions, or has questions regarding Milton Township.

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

May 8th 9-11am, Building/Zoning

Workshop, our zoning administrator and building inspector will be available at the township hall for a meet/greet and to answer any questions regarding zoning and building requirements. This is your opportunity to gather zoning and building requirements about that summer project you are planning.

May 15th 9am-12pm, our Planning Commission is having a Community Plan Workshop.

The planning commission is currently redesigning our master plan for the township. This is your opportunity to provide input as to what kind of zoning and growth the township will have over the next 4-5 years.

May 19th 7-9pm, Assessing/Tax

Workshop, our assessor and treasurer will be available to discuss how assessments in Milton Township are assessed and how taxes are collected.

**“Don’t forget
that May 1st
is Milton
Township’s
cleanup day”**

**From Our Zoning Administrator
LET’S TAKE A BITE OUT OF BLIGHT**

We all believe Milton Township is a special place. When we consider the reasons for our good fortune, we realize that it did not happen by chance. Rather, our area is special because most residents conduct their activities, and maintain their property, in a manner to keep it free of blight and undesirable uses.

Milton Township also has Ordinance# 2002-01, adopted April 15, 2002, and effective May 15, 2002, which regulates “...property uses, structures and activities that are blighting factors, which if allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods.” For example, the ordinance prohibits “...the storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish, or refuse, of any kind, without a landfill permit, except domestic refuse stored in such a manner as not to create a nuisance for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) days.” Also prohibited by the ordinance is the existence of “...any structure or part of any structure which, because of fire, wind or other natural disaster, or physical deterioration is no longer

habitable, if a dwelling, or not useful for any other purpose of which it may have been intended.” There are also several other situations that are not permitted by the ordinance.

It is understandable that during a severe winter, the immediate clean-up and/or correction of some potential blight areas might not be easy or quick to do. However, as soon as possible residents can “take a bite out of blight” and clean things up. The time to start is soon. There are also structures in the township which appear to need substantial repair or be demolished. Now is the time to plan for those activities as part of “spring cleaning.” Let’s all try to be good neighbors and property owners by cleaning things up.

Paul J. Sniadecki, Zoning Administrator

TOWNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TRUSTEE ELECTION

There is a Trustee Board Member opening available at the township.

This is an elected position to be decided by the voters on November 3, 2010.

Eligibility: A registered voter living in Milton Township.

**TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE’S
STATUTORY DUTIES**

Township legislator, required to vote on all issues. Responsible for township’s fiduciary health. Other duties as assigned by board.

Deadline: May 11, 2010 to run as a partisan candidate. Notarized petitions must be submitted by this date at 4:00pm to the Milton Township Clerk.

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**

Two terms will be expiring and we need citizens to serve. Eligibility: Over 18 with a willingness to serve.

DUTIES

Working with the 7 member board to prepare, review and update Master Plan. Review subdivision proposals and recommend appropriate actions to Township Board. Take such actions as authorized or required by the Michigan Planning and/or the Zoning Enabling Acts. Other duties as assigned by the board.

Deadline: May 10, 2010

Please submit a letter of interest with a summary about yourself to the attention of Supervisor at the township hall, or by email at supervisor@miltontwp.org.

SECRETARY OPENING

SUMMARY OF DUTIES

The township secretary works during the hours the township is open for business.

Responsibilities are duties as assigned by the board and provided in the job description. Please stop by the township hall for a complete job description, or e-mail the township supervisor and one will be forwarded to you.

Deadline: May 10, 2010

Please submit a letter of interest and a resume to the attention of Secretary Hiring Committee at the township hall.

**ELECTION
INSPECTION
TRAINING**

Anyone who is a resident of Michigan and registered to vote can become a Certified Election Worker.

The process is easy and a great way to contribute to your community.

The Cass County Clerk is presenting a training class at Milton Township on July 8th, from 6:00-9:00pm at the township Community Center.

From the Treasurer's Office

Summer tax collection will start July 1, 2010. If you have an escrow account, be sure your mortgage company requests the tax bill from the township.

Please call the township if you do not receive a bill. It is the responsibility of each property owner to be sure taxes are paid on time. Duplicates of bills can be obtained from the township office.

Dog tags will not be sold at the township during the summer. New dog tags may be purchased at the Cass County Treasurer's Office.

I will be available May 19 from 7-9pm along with the township assessor to answer questions regarding tax collection. Please stop by if you want to learn more about assessments and property taxes.

Linda DeBroka, Treasurer

Commissioner's Corner

Cass County Updates and Information

In January, I was elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioner's. Issues that I am advocating this year, include openness in government, equality and cooperation.

It has been a real challenge with the resignation of our Administrator/Controller. We have appointed an Interim Administrator/Controller Charles Clarke, while the search continues for a full-time replacement.

Did you know that worn out and sun faded flags can be taken to the American Legion, 25751 U S 12, Edwardsburg, MI or the VFW, 131 South Broadway, Cassopolis, MI for a dignified disposal with a ceremony? Each location has a "flag box" located outside by the entrance door so you can drop off a flag anytime even when no one is around.

Mark your calendar: Cass County Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Electronic Waste

Collection will be on the third Saturday in May on May 15, 2010 from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon at the Cass County Fairgrounds in Cassopolis, MI.

For your enjoyment please visit one of our seven county parks. The largest three are: Dr. T.K. Lawless Park (820 acre nature park known especially for its mountain bike trails); Fred Russ Forest Park (Newton's Wood) come and see Michigan's largest tulip poplar tree; and the Arthur Dodd Memorial Park (located along the Dowagiac Creek).

Don't forget to check out the Cass County website at www.casscountymi.org for more information.

Please contact me should you have any county related issues.

Robert L. Ziliak
Commissioner, District 15

TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

Treasurer Linda DeBroka 269-684-7262
treasurerdeboka@miltontwp.org

Clerk Jacqueline Boggs 269-684-8793
clerk@miltontwp.org

Trustee Sharon Ward 269-683-9505
trusteward@miltontwp.org

Trustee Robert Harvey

Planning Commission

Diane Shields, Chair 269-663-2962
Richard Hebard, Vice-Chair 269-663-3324
Jackie Pflug, Secretary 269-684-5081
Kelly Sweeney, 269-683-2564
Ronald Jureziz, 269-684-8546
Jeremy Clanton, 269-684-7111
Sharon Ward, Trustee 269-683-9505

Zoning Administrator

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

We're on the Web at
www.miltontwp.org

Assessor

Douglas Brousseau
Edwardsburg, MI
(269) 699-7619

Building Inspector

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

Electrical Inspector

Johnny Hamilton 269-684-7848

Mechanical Inspector

David Swanstrom 269-684-5271

Plumbing Inspector

Ed Wainwright 269-663-8542

Board of Review

Roger Kempton 269-683-2875
Robert Thibodeaux 269-683-8659
Steve Sante 574-220-6085

Zoning Board of Appeals

Roger Kempton 269-683-2875
Diane Shields 269-663-7508
Linda DeBroka 269-684-7262

MILTON TOWNSHIP
32097 Bertrand Street
Niles, MI 49120

APRIL/MAY 2010 Issue

STD MAIL

Permit 449

Niles, MI 49120

Postal Customer