



Milton Township Newsletter *October 2014*

32097 Bertrand Street Niles, MI 49120

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

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm



Points of Interest

Open House

November 1, 2014

Come see your new building!

10pm– 2pm

Daylight Savings End

November 2, 2014

Election Dates

November 4, 2014

Gubernatorial

Holiday Closing Schedule

November 11 Veterans Day

November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25 Christmas

December 31 New Years Eve

January 1 New Years Day

Regularly Meetings

Board of Trustees

November 18 & December 9

Planning Commission

November 4 & December 2

Smiths Chapel Rental

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:

Ann Brown 269-932-5242

<https://www.facebook.com/smithschapelnilesmi>

smithschapelnilesmi

News From Our Township Supervisor

The new township hall and playground is ready and we have started moving into the building. The move will take several days as we are also organizing records while we move into the new facility. You will see improvements in traffic allowing a safe corridor for our children who are using the township as a bus stop. There should be no more waiting outside in the incremental weather to vote as our new township hall has increased voting space.



We will be holding an open house Saturday November 1 from 10-2 pm and will provide guided tours. Refreshments will be served.

A permanent reduction of your township and fire millages will be occurring during this year's winter taxes. The township millage will be dropping to 0.7987 from 0.7997. The fire millage will be dropping to 0.999 from 1.000. The ambulance assessment will remain \$20.

With the building project finished, your township is resuming its emergency weather siren project. The township will be installing 1-3 sirens a year until the entire township is covered. The next siren will be located on the Southwestern Michigan College campus. A map showing approximately where the sirens will be installed is located on the township's website and available at the township hall.



The township has started a yearly striping project with the Cass County Road Commission. A third of the roads in Milton Township, along with all newly paved roads, will be receiving new striping each year. This will provide for all roads to be restriped every 3 years.

As always, give us a call, e-mail, or drop by if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for improvement in our township. We really want to hear from you.

Robert Benjamin, Supervisor
(269) 262-0111

Clerk's Office News

Steve Sante, Clerk

clerk@miltontwp.org

269-591-7975



Milton Township has one remaining election this year (2014). Be sure to mark your calendars for the November 4, 2014 Gubernatorial General Election.

A sample ballot for the August election can be found on our website at: www.miltontwp.org. Select "election information" on the left side of the web-page. I strongly recommend reviewing the ballot prior to Election Day. You may return your completed ballot to the office before the close of the polls on November 4th, 2014.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Prior to each election, absentee ballots will be available from my office. Please call me at 269-591-7975 and I will make arrangements to get you a ballot if needed. I will hold special office hours on Saturday November 1, 2014 from 9am—2pm.

ELECTION RESULTS: The state of Michigan provides a web site that is updated as soon as election results are sent in by the counties. If you go to www.electionmagic.com, Michigan election results dating back to 2000 are available. If you have any difficulty figuring out how to move around the site, give me a call and I will be glad to help you navigate your way either on the telephone or at my office.

I truly appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve as your township clerk. If there is ever anything I can do to assist you please don't hesitate to contact me.

Visit our website!

Lots of great information on our website! Updated weekly!

www.miltontwp.org

Cass County Updates and Information

- Our credit rating was recently increased to AA++. This is the highest rating the county has ever attained and is a result of the efforts of the Commissioners, Elected Officials and Department Heads.
- The Board of Commissioners recently adopted the new budget that is in effect from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The newly adopted budget was \$15,930,220 and is over \$700,000 less than last year's budget. The primary reason for the reduction was the result of a change in the health insurance contribution rates by employees along with reductions in the individual budget line items. Prior to adopting the budget the BOC held a workshop at Billieville at the Edward Lowe Foundation in Cassopolis. County Department Heads, Elected Officials and the Board of Commissioners brainstormed on ways to reduce the budget and yet maintain our current services.
- The county collected 2,739 old car tires at an event that was free to county residents as a result of a grant received from the Michigan DEQ. Everyone that took advantage of this free collection was much appreciative. The county is once again working with the Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium to apply to the Michigan DEQ for a 2015 tire grant - let's hope the county receives this worthwhile grant.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Collection was a big success. There were approximately 200 vehicles that participated and Milton Township had the second largest turn out. Good Job Milton Township!!!! Mark your calendar for May 16, 2015 for next year's collection at the fairgrounds. See you there.
- Please visit our county parks. More information on activities can be found at casscountymi.org.

Please contact me should you have any county related issues.

Robert L. Ziliak
County Commissioner
District 5

Tidings from the Treasurer—Susan Flowers

I want to thank all of the residents for allowing me the opportunity to work as your Treasurer. I am enthusiastic in meeting you and assisting with any questions about your property tax bills.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING YOUR TAX BILL(S) BY EMAIL? Contact me, Susan Flowers at Treasurer@miltontwp.org with your name, property tax ID and email address. You will receive your December tax bill in your personal email box.

Are you in need of a break? For future reference, Summer Tax Deferments are available. This defers your taxes until February 14th of the following year.

IF your income is less than \$35,000 a year and you meet any of the following:

- 62 or older
- Paraplegic, quadriplegic
- Eligible service person, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower
- Blind
- Totally or permanently disabled
- If your property is classified or used for agriculture and your gross receipts for the agricultural or horticultural operations in the previous year is more than your household income for the proceeding calendar year.



Election Signs

With the November election approaching, residents of Milton Township may want to support candidates or ballot initiatives through campaign signs. This is just a reminder that the Zoning Ordinance permits election signs to be a maximum of six (6) square feet in size. No election sign can be placed closer than 10 feet from a neighbor's property line, or in a manner that obstructs or confuses vehicle traffic. No sign can be placed on your property without your permission, and no signs are permitted on utility poles. Eileen Glick, Zoning Administrator

Avoid Car-Deer Crashes

Each fall the annual crop harvest coupled with the beginning of hunting season and the "rut," (deer mating season) makes deer movement more prominent and the number of car/deer crashes increase. Motorists are reminded to use extra caution when driving in rural areas of Michigan. Deer are generally more active in the early morning (pre-dawn) hours or the hours just after dusk but could be on the move at any time.

Motorists should take the following precautions when driving in rural areas to avoid having a crash involving a deer:

- When possible, use high beam headlights at night and be aware that deer could be standing on or near the side of the roadway.
- Drivers should watch approaching vehicles and observe a break in oncoming headlights beams; it could be a passing deer. This technique allows extra time to slow your speed and be alert for the deer.
- Watch for reflections from the deer's eyes.
- Typically, where there is one deer there are often several. Do not assume you missed the deer because more could follow. BE ALERT!
- If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch it. A frightened or wounded deer can cause serious bodily injury. Remain in your car, make sure you and your passengers are safe, and call the police to obtain a crash report for your insurance company. You should report this as you would any other crash.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up!

MILTON TOWNSHIP
32097 Bertrand Street
Niles, MI 49120

NEWSLETTER - Fall 2014 Issue

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Township Board

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

Clerk Steve Sante 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
Karen Shirk, Vice Chair 269-684-7262
Kelly Sweeney, Secretary & Ex-Officio 269-687-1635
Kara Boyles, Member 574-292-4737
Jeremy Clanton, Member 269-684-7111
Geoff Klopenstine, Member 269-684-7262
Scott Kretchman, Member 269-684-7262

Zoning Administrator & Code Enforcement Officer

Eileen Glick, 269-591-7982
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, 269-683-2875
Virginia Kraft, 269-684-7262
Mary Waldrop 269-684-7262
Thomas Talley, Alternate

Zoning Board of Appeals

Patty Carr, Chair 269-684-7262
Jeremy Clanton 269-684-7111
Susan Flowers 269-591-7974
Robert Ziliak (Alternate)