

Office Hours:

Effective July 1st, 2013

Monday - Tuesday 9:00-5pm

Wednesday 9:00 - 8pm

Thursday - Friday 9:00-5pm

32097 Bertrand Street Niles, MI 49120

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

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

Special Points of Interest

Township Open House

June 22nd, 9am-1pm
Township Hall/Smith Chapel

Fourth of July Closing

The township office will be closed on 7/4/2013 in observance of the fourth of July.

Passenger Tire Collection

August 19-23, 2013
DeerPath Recyclers
56625 Wood House,
Dowagiac, MI

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

3rd Monday Each Month
Township Board of Trustees
7:00pm

1st Monday Each Month
Planning Commission
7:00pm

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

First, I want to let you know that the township will have new office hours starting July 1st. The township hall will be opened Monday through Friday 9-5pm, Wednesday 9am-8pm. We are keeping our late Wednesday hours for those who have requested them.

We need two new members to serve 3-year terms for our planning commission. If you are interested, please send me a letter of interest no later than July 5th. You must be a township resident to be considered.

We have several projects going on that the Township would like to have your input and participation. On **June 22nd, from 9am-1pm**, the township will be holding an open house that will cover 3 of our ongoing projects.

The township is considering building a new township hall. The new building will have enough space to accommodate our elections, office space needs, serve as a bus stop for the school districts, and serve as a community center. The building would be located on the same property. We currently have a proposed design and renderings for public review. During the open house, the architect will be available to answer questions and take input for any additional improvements or changes to the plans.

The township also is currently designing a 5-

year park plan and recreation plan for our township properties. This park and recreation plan will also allow Milton Township to become eligible for grants from the state. During the open house, we are asking for residents to provide input into the type of items they would like to see the township develop in its parks over the next 5 years. The township board will be leveraging grants to accomplish these goals. More information is contained later in this newsletter.

Finally our open house will have one of our assessors available to discuss the current reevaluation project. As stated in previous communications, the township board wants to make sure that assessments reflect 1/2 half of true market values. We are concerned that some properties may be overvalued which is unfair to those property owners. During the open house, feel free to bring your assessment related questions for him to address.

This open house and the input you provide will help shape our community for many years into the future. I hope you can drop by for 15 minutes and provide your input for our Township's future.

Robert Benjamin, Township Supervisor

(269) 262-0111 / supervisor@miltontwp.org

SMITH CHAPEL OPEN HOUSE — JUNE 22, 2013 - 9AM-1PM - 29858 REDFIELD ST, NILES, MI 49120

Please come and learn the history of the oldest Methodist Church in Southwestern Michigan during Saturday's open house. Smith Chapel is the oldest known church building in Cass County, and probably also the oldest in southwest Michigan. Built in 1840 by settlers on Beardsley's Prairie in what became Milton Township, the chapel is the most visible product of an early colonization of the area by settlers from Delaware. The work of Methodist circuit preachers led to the organization of a church on July 1, 1839. Cannon and Charlotte Smith, formerly of Delaware, sold the land and donated liberally to build the chapel which was named in their honor. In 1879, contractor W. S. Beswick was hired to remodel and modernize the church. The chapel is no longer used for regular worship, but is occasionally the site of weddings and funerals.

The area known as "Smith Chapel" includes a one-story, gable-roofed, wood frame chapel covered with clapboard siding. The chapel features a gabled entrance with a transom surmounted by an oculus in front. Round-arch windows with wooden hood molds light the sanctuary. The chapel stands on a rubble fieldstone foundation. A gable-roof, clapboard-sided privy is located at the rear of the church. Milton Township owns the chapel and rents it for weddings, funerals, and meeting events.

View pictures of the early settlers and the people that built the chapel, and the early homes in the area. Talk to the Smith Chapel Historical Commission members and learn even more about Smith Chapel.

For more information please contact the historical commission at (269) 932-5242.

Milton Township Developing 5-Year Park and Recreation Plan

Milton Township is about to begin the process of preparing a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Once the Plan is adopted, it will serve as an official Township document establishing a direction for the future of parks and recreation in the community.

The Township does not currently have a Parks and Recreation Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires that a Parks and Recreation Plan be prepared and approved by DNR staff for a community to be eligible to apply for grant funding. The Township has hired our planner of record, Williams and Works to help guide us through this process.

Milton Township encourages the public to share thoughts and ideas on the future of recreational facilities

in the community. A community Open House will be facilitated on Saturday, June 22nd from 9am to 1pm at the Milton Township Hall, located at 32097 Bertrand Street, Niles, MI 49120. The format of the Open House is informal; participants can come and go as they please at any time between 9am and 1pm.

The purpose of the Open House is to give residents the opportunity for expressing their family's recreational needs. This will help the Township write a meaningful Parks and Recreation Plan.

The Township wants **YOU** to help bring ideas for our parks' future.

For more information, please call the township at (269)

NEWS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Voting Questions/Answers

HOW: Do I register to vote in Milton Township? To register to vote you must be . . .

- ◇ a U.S. citizen;
- ◇ at least 18 years of age by election day;
- ◇ a resident of Michigan and Milton Township, where you are applying to register to vote.

WHERE: You can register to vote for federal, state, and local elections by:

- ◇ Mail
- ◇ Cass County Clerk's Office
- ◇ Milton Township Clerk's Office
- ◇ Any Secretary of State Branch office. A mail-in voter registration form is available at the Secretary of State's website: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf

The mail-in voter registration form is also made available to eligible residents who are not registered voters when they renew or replace a driver's license or state ID card online through Express SOS:

- ◇ <https://onlineservices.michigan.gov/ExpressSOS>.

WHEN:

- ◇ At least 30 days before the date of the election.
- ◇ You must also re-register to vote whenever you move to a new city or township.

MOVING: If you move within the county or township, you must update your address. Michigan voters must use the same residential address for voter registration and driver's license purposes. Consequently, if you submit a driver's license address change, it will be applied to your voter registration. Similarly, if you submit a voter registration address change, it will be applied to your driver's license. This can be handled through:

- ◇ Milton Township Clerk
- ◇ Secretary of State Branch office
- ◇ Mail or at any other location where voter registrations are accepted.

Any questions please feel free to give me a call:
Sue Kronewitter, (269) 591-7975 / clerk@miltontwp.org

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Tidings from the Treasurer - Susan Flowers

The past 7 months that I have held office has been exciting and gratifying. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and if we have not met, I hope we will soon.

July 1st, tax bills will be mailed and due by September 16th. You will receive a copy of your bill even if it is escrowed and paid by your lender. This is to keep you informed and serves as a record for you.

Don't forget, starting July 1st, the township will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9-5pm and

Wednesday 9-8pm for your convenience.

Starting this year you will notice a 1% administration fee that was approved by the Board of Trustees. This fee goes directly to Milton Township to cover the collection and administration costs of assessing and tax collection for the township.

Please call with any questions regarding your taxes or if your mailing address has changed.

Thank you and I look forward to serving and meeting you.

— Susan Flowers

(269) 591-7974 / treasurer@miltontwp.org

ZONING INFORMATION - "PARKING" IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS

By Paul J. Sniadecki, Zoning Admin/Ordinance Enforcement Officer

Residents and Property owners are reminded that Article XV of the Township Zoning Ordinance has requirements for the outdoor parking of certain types of motor vehicles on occupied lots in the Rural Residential, Single Family Residential and the Medium Density Residential Zoning Districts.

Article XV, Section 15.01 C. of the ordinance specifically provides that: ***Parking of motor vehicles in residential zones shall be limited to passenger vehicles, one (1) camper-type recreational vehicle per dwelling unit, and not more than one (1) commercial vehicle of the light delivery type, not to exceed one (1) ton, shall be permitted per dwelling unit. The parking of any other type of commercial vehicle or bus, except for those parked on school or church property, is prohibited in a residential zone. Parking spaces for all types of uses may be provided either in garages or parking areas conforming to the provisions of this Ordinance.***

These ordinances provisions are in place to help maintain the visual harmony of our residential areas. Please note vehicles that can be parked ***inside*** a lawfully erected garage or pole barn type structure would not be "counted" for purposes of enforcing the current provisions of our Zoning Ordinance relative to parking. Also, the outdoor parking of motor vehicles is not permitted on vacant land. Further, any motor vehicle parked outside needs to be operative and properly licensed for use on public roadways. Our "Zoning Map" is available on our website and also at the Town Hall.

Commissioner's Corner

- Cass County has again this year received a Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant. This grant is a \$3,000 grant for the collection and disposal of **passenger car tires**. We will be able to collect up to 3,000 tires under this grant. There will be two collection sites. From August 19, 2013 through August 23, 2013 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. tires can be taken directly to DeerPath Recyclers, 56625 Wood House, Dowagiac MI. The other collection will be on Saturday, August 24, 2013 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Cass County Fairgrounds, 590 O'Keefe, Cassopolis, MI.
- The collection of Household Waste, Electronics, Hearing Aids, Glasses and Flags was again a big success. One item that surprised me was the 388 old US Flags that were collected. Hopefully you won't see as many torn flags flying across the county.
- 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

MILTON TOWNSHIP
32097 Bertrand Street
Niles, MI 49120

NEWSLETTER - June/July 2013 Issue

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TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

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

Clerk Sue Kronewitter (269) 591-7975
clerk@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) 663-3324
Kara Boyles, Vice Chair (574) 292-4737
Kelly Sweeney, Secretary/Ex-Officio (269) 683-2564
Jeremy Clanton (269) 684-7111
Ron Jureziz (269) 684-8546
Sandra Redman (269) 684-7262
Diane Shields (269) 684-7262

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer

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

Assessor

Douglas Brousseau
Edwardsburg, MI
(269) 699-7619

Building Inspector

Wayne Hardin
At the Ontwa Twp. Hall in Edwardsburg
(269) 663-2347
(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 (269) 591-7975
Diane Shields (269) 684-7262
Robert Ziliak (Alternate)

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