

Milton Township News

Office Hours:

Monday 9:00-5:00
Wednesday Noon - 8pm
Friday 9:00-5:00

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

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

April 27, 2013 7-11 am
This event is the BIG SPRING CLEAN for Milton Township Residents. Free Dumpster and Shredding Services .

Address Signs & Blood Pressure Checking
will also be available..

Election Day
May 7, 2013 ,7am - 8pm

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

Greetings from Milton Township. For our first newsletter this year, I wanted to give you a heads-up on some of the activities and services available to you.

Please take a look at the articles this quarter related to the SMCAS ambulance service and to the upcoming reassessment projects. If you have any concerns regarding either of them, give us a call. **Notary Services** are now available at the township hall at no-charge for Milton Township residents during normal business hours.

On March 28th, **MSU Extension office** will be providing a free workshop called Understanding Community Food Systems. One of the topics will be how a home garden fits into the greater picture of a community food system. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The township 2013-14 budget is available online and is posted at the township hall for review. We also have the 3-year road maintenance plan

available for review. Every year we look to re-adjust road maintenance priorities based on your input. Let us know if you know of any road issues that we have not addressed via our road maintenance plan. Also, the township has posted a policy that all non-paved roads will receive dust control twice-a-year as part of its road maintenance. I do not have the dates for this year's applications yet.

We have new hours for township business. Some of the feedback during the past few months, was to have later hours for residents who many work during the day. Your township offices are now open Monday 9-5, Wednesday 12-8pm, and Friday 9-5. Just a reminder that the township emergency weather siren located on the corner of Gumwood and Bertrand is tested on the first Saturday of each month at 12pm.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or suggestions..

Robert Benjamin, Supervisor

NEWS FROM SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE (SMCAS)

On behalf of the SMCAS management and crews, I'd like to thank the Milton Township Board and residents for giving us the opportunity to again provide coverage to all of Milton Township. With assuming coverage in Milton Township, the Milton Township Board has graciously allowed us to lease the Community Building Garage and we are renovating it to house one Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance and crew in Milton Township 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We will also place a second ambulance at this location allowing our off duty crews that live close to that station, to be able to respond to and staff an additional ambulance as needed, during extremely busy times. This ambulance and crew will also be covering portions of South Niles Township and areas of Howard and Pokagon Township's, thus reducing response times to those areas as well.

SMCAS will transport patients to the hospitals of their choice, unless the patient is critically ill or injured, then the patient will be transported to the closest appropriate hospital able to handle the critical emergency that is present. SMCAS routinely transports patients to St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Memorial Hospital of South Bend, Lakeland Hospital in Niles and St. Joseph, Borgess Lee Memorial in Dowagiac and Elkhart General Hospital.

SMCAS will bill all insurance carriers on behalf of the patient. If the patients insurance information is not available to our crews upon reaching the receiving hospital, our billing office will send a billing statement and insurance request form to the address provided to us at the time of the call. It is important that this insurance request form be completed and sent back to the SMCAS billing office as soon as possible or that someone calls the SMCAS office to provide the insurance information over the phone, to ensure that the patient's insurance is billed in a timely fashion. If you don't have insurance or have a deductible or co-pay, then we do recommend obtaining the SMCAS Membership, which offsets these costs, as outlined in the membership agreement.

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(Continued from Page 1) NEWS FROM SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE (SMCAS)

We encourage any resident that has questions on services, billing, our membership program or other questions or concerns to please call our office and we'll be more than happy to help you. We will also be holding an Open House of the renovated building, with the date and time to be announced as soon as we have a firm completion date on the renovation.

Contact: Timothy L. Gray, NREMTP, CCEMTP, IC, Executive Director, Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service

Commissioner's Corner

- Mark your calendar - May 18, 2013. The annual Cass County Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Waste, Used Tire, Used Flag, Hearing Aids and Used Eye Glasses collection is again scheduled for the 3rd Saturday in May. The collection is from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Cass County Fairgrounds, 590 O'Keefe Street, Cassopolis, MI.
- Did you know? The Cass County Jail has successfully obtained 100% compliance with all of the rules for jails and lockups through the Department of Corrections for thirteen consecutive years. No other county in the state has ever attained this status.
- For several years the county has been contracting Equalization Services to an outside firm. Now with the new equalization requirements from the state, the Board of Commissioners voted to bring the Equalization Department back into the county. We are in the process of interviewing for the different positions for the new department. The required level four assessor position and expense will be shared with St. Joseph County Michigan.
- On April 13, 2013 there will be a "Spring Festival" at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. It will be a fun filled family event. If you have not visited this park it would be a perfect opportunity to do so.

Please contact me should you have any county related issues.

Robert L. Ziliak, County Commissioner, District 5

NEWS FROM CASS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING (COA)

Cass County Council on Aging Lowe Center is home to hundreds of activities—adult learning programs, communal meals, parties, craft making, dance clubs, a thriving fitness center and more. The facility is run by a staff of 70 that includes administrative personnel and a cadre of home care aides.

The demand for programming for age 60 + is growing as never before throughout Cass County. In 2009, it was obvious that the Cassopolis facility was bulging at the seams, so the COA took on a capital campaign to build another facility in Dowagiac. Programming is now doubled and meals, leisure activities, exercise activities and innovative learning programs are offered in both Cassopolis and Dowagiac. According to the 2010 census, the second largest sector of the Cass County population was made up of those 45 to 64 years of age. By the year 2025, this sector will be made up of those who are living longer—moving into the prime retirement years. The goal of the COA is one of constantly planning and preparing to meet these growing needs.

There are numerous services that can virtually come right to the door of those in Milton Township. All these services are

designed to help those who are getting older in age. There is nothing like a hot, nutritious meal delivered right to your door every day. The COA's Meals on Wheels program is supported by volunteers who drive to homes throughout Cass County to deliver meals. If you or a loved one needs a little extra care, call the COA's Home Care division. We can help you arrange to have an aid available for help with light housekeeping, shopping, bathing and other non-skilled nursing activities. This type of service can help someone stay in their home and enjoy life more.

In addition, the Lowe Center features a beautiful Adult Day Service program. Seniors are in a living room setting and receive support from wonderful caregivers who plan daily activities and provide hot meals. With advance arrangements, the COA can pick up your loved one and drive them home. It is also a way to gain much needed relief from the hard work of caregiving. Even if you utilize our Adult Day Service a few times a week, that means you have time to catch up on shopping or have a day for yourself.

We invite you to take advantage of all the COA has to offer, please stop in at either the Cassopolis or Dowagiac locations. You may find you would like to join the adult university, book club, fitness center, bingo, bridge and euchre games or stop by for a nutritious hot meal and make new friends.

NEW FROM THE TREASURER, SUSAN FLOWERS**HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES**

- 1) Printed receipts are now prepared upon request instead of automatically. This change has saved money for your township.
- 2) Internal accounting and balancing procedures were implemented resulting in immediate time savings as well as increased accuracy and efficiency.
- 3) Additional and extended Office Hours were offered during December and February to be of service to residents during evenings and weekends.
- 4) Technology has been updated starting with the use of a barcode scanner for processing tax payments this winter.

DOG LICENSE ISSUANCE

Our computers and programs are in the process of upgrade. This

upgrade posed a concern in providing Dog License service to Milton Township residents. The software the county uses requires the use of DOS and is unsupported with our new systems. A request to the Cass County Commissioners to upgrade their software has been made so we can again provide this service. Unfortunately we will be unable to issue dog license tags until further notice. Several veterinary office are issuing dog tags and you can also obtain the form from us and mail to the Cass County Treasurer. We apologize for any inconvenience as it is our goal to serve your needs.

HARDSHIP APPLICATIONS-PROPERTY TAX

We have applications for hardships to defer taxes if you need consideration. Suggestions and discussion are welcome, please E-mail treasurer@miltontwp.org Susan Flowers

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSORS OFFICE**PROPERTY ASSESSMENT RE-EVALUATION**

All of the Real Estate in Milton Township will be re-evaluated over the next five years. Every parcel will be visited and inspected. Each house/structure will be reviewed and measured with a sketch of the exterior being made. This field inspection will also include determining construction detail such as heating, plumbing, interior finish, amount of basement, fireplaces, air conditioning, etc. A digital photograph of each house will also be taken. A self addressed post card requesting physical details of the improvements will be left by the field appraiser at any property where no one to interview was available.

The Township will be divided into five areas and roughly one fifth will begin being appraised in the early summer of 2013 and continue through 2017 with the results being reflected on the annual Assessment Rolls. The township will notify each property owner located in the relative one fifth area each year by first class mail, of the upcoming site visit to their property due for re-evaluation.

The legally required Assessment Change Notice will continue to be mailed by first class mail to all taxpayers along with those to

be evaluated each area each year with a review process being provided. Your appraisal record card will be available for review at the beginning of the year following your property being re-evaluated once the new information has been input and completed. All appraisers will be furnished with photo identification cards and/or letters of introduction.

As a result of this re-evaluation, you may notice some changes in your resulting Assessed Values, either up or down. The new Assessed Values are required to represent 50% of Market Value. PLEASE REMEMBER, SINCE PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL A IN 1994, CHANGES IN YOUR ASSESSED VALUE DO NOT AFFECT YOUR TAX BILL ADVERSELY! Your Tax Bill is based upon your Taxable Value, which is increased annually, (according to the mandate of Proposal A) by the Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less, unless new construction was added, which was not previously assessed or there was a transfer of ownership in the prior year.

Should you have any questions or wish to review your new record card, you will have an opportunity for such a review once the project has been completed for your property, and we have mailed you, via 1st class postage, official notice that new record cards are available.

NEWS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

VOTE ON MAY 7th! The township will be voting on renewal proposals of the Edwardsburg Public Schools Operating Millage. If you are not registered, the last day to register to vote in this election is Monday, April 8, 2013. **ABSENTEE BALLOTS** for this election can be requested from the Clerk's office. The last day to acquire an absentee ballot is Monday, May 6, 2013, by 4:00pm. Requests from that day must be voted in the township hall clerk's office. Saturday, May 4, 2013 I will be available at the township from 9:00am to 2:00 pm to receive requests for absentee ballots. Voters may request to be put on the permanent absentee voter list. If they are over 60 years of age or disabled. Those applications are automatically mailed to everyone on this list prior to every election.

IDENTIFICATION: An acceptable form of photo identification (driver's license/state ID/passport/student ID from accredited college) is required to receive a ballot at the polls and to be issued an Absentee Ballot at the township hall. This identification procedure is mandated by Michigan law.

ELECTION INSPECTORS: I am always looking for anyone interested in serving as an election inspector. Students from 16-18 years of age can be certified to work elections in Michigan. Anyone who is interested in becoming an election inspector, please contact me. I can usually be found working in the township during the hours we are open, or can meet you by appointment. If you have any questions please call or e-mail me at: clerk@miltontwp.org Sue Kronewitter, Clerk

MILTON TOWNSHIP
32097 Bertrand Street
Niles, MI 49120

NEWSLETTER - March 2013 Issue

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 449

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

Treasurer Susan Flowers (269) 684-7262
treasurer@miltontwp.org

Clerk Sue Kronewitter (269) 684-7262
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
Sandra Redman, Secretary (269) 687-1635
Ronald Jureziz, (269) 684-8546
Jeremy Clanton, (269) 684-7111
Diane Shields (269) 684-7262

Kelly Sweeney, Ex-Officio Member, (269) 684-7262

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer

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

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
Mary Waldrop (269) 684-7262
Steve Sante (574) 220-6085
Virginia Kraft, Alternate

Zoning Board of Appeals

Patty Carr (Chair) (269) 684-7262
Diane Shields (269) 684-7262
Sandra Redman, (269) 687-1635
Robert Ziliak (Alternate)