GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Fall Newsletter 2009 Page 1

Greenwood Township Office Hours

Tuesday Wednesday

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Phone/Fax:** 810-387-4044

Spring Hill Cemetery Maintenance

Harriet McCallum 387-3680

Greenwood Township Website:

www.greenwoodtownship.com

General email: greenwood@iwarp.net
Supervisor: tgill@iwarp.net
Clerk: gwclerk@iwarp.net

Treasurer: gwcierk@iwarp.net gwtreasurer@iwarp.net

Zoning Administrator:

gwzoneadmin@iwarp.net

Wind Energy Speaker

I would like to invite you to an informational meeting on Small Scale Wind Energy Systems here in our Township. Glenn Pape the Regional Land Policy Educator for the MSU Extension Office for southeast Michigan will give the presentation and answer any questions you have on Personal Wind Turbines. The informational meeting will be given at the Greenwood Township Hall on October 14, 2009 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. There is no admission fee. If you have any questions regarding the meeting please contact me at 810-387-4137.

Heather Stewart Greenwood Township Planning Commission Secretary (See Page 2 for more details.)

Words of the Supervisor

By Terry A. Gill, Greenwood Township Supervisor



Spring 2009 Road Trip

Every spring the Greenwood Township Board members take a "road trip" with employees of the St. Clair County Road Commission to determine what is needed to maintain our Township roads. After this year's road trip the Greenwood Township Board voted to approve the following road contracts for 2009:

- 55 loads of 23 A gravel (2,860 tons)
- 27 loads of 22 A limestone (1,508 tons)
- 2 solid applications of 21% Calcium Chloride at a rate of 3,000 to 4,000 gallons per mile
- Boom Axe brush mowing to clear small brush that destroys drainage
- Mowing a second and third pass to all local roads to provide clear vision and control the growth of small brush
- Replace crossroad culverts as approved by the Supervisor

The following road ditching projects were also approved:

- 650' of ditching cleanout on the west side of Bricker Rd. north of Metcalf Rd
- 2150' of ditching cleanout on the east side of Duce Rd north of Hewitt Rd.
- 2300' of ditching on the north side of Metcalf Rd between Greenwood Rd and Duce
 Rd
- Replace crossroad culverts as approved by Supervisor
- 800' of ditching on the east side of Bricker Rd., north of Oatman Rd.
- 1,350' of ditch cleanout on the west side of Bricker Rd., north of Metcalf Rd

In July, the Board approved an agreement with the Sanilac County Road Commission to do 300' of ditching on the south side of Fisher Rd., west of Bricker Rd.

Contact Numbers Township Board Supervisor Terry A. Gill 387-3379 Clerk Cyndee Jonseck 324-9295 Treasurer Tina Tromblev 324-2290 Trustee Carol Kaltz 387-2246 Jim Vincent Trustee 387-2525 **Other Numbers** Paul D. Vincent 387-2393 Assessor Zoning Administrator Arlene Johnson 324-2287 Building Inspector David Hayduk 387-3860 (Best between 7am - 9am) or cell 810-650-0316 Electrical Inspector Paul Raicevich 586-873-2660 Mech/Plbg Inspector Dan Jex 810-531-3030 Fire Station 324-2305 Hall Rental Joan/Doug Huston 387-3481

Playground Equipment Upgrade

It has been many years since the playground equipment on the Township Hall property has been upgraded. After carefully budgeting for several years the Township Board voted to use the Recreation money to fix and replace some of the old equipment bringing it up to current safety codes. The four toddler spring rocking riders were replaced and so were the swing seats and chains. Two toddler swings were added. A new play structure will be built in two phases. Phase I will be completed this summer and hopefully Phase II will be added next summer.

Be sure to bring your kids and grandkids over to try it out!



News From the Kenockee Fire Department



Reflective Address Marker Order Forms are available in the Township Office or at the Kenockee Fire Department. These are large numbered reflective signs that can be posted on your mailbox pole or your house. They are extremely valuable in helping fire and rescue find your house in an emergency. The cost is \$15.00. Checks make checks payable to Kenockee Firemans' Fund. For further information, call the Fire Dept at 810-324-2305.

Smoke Alarms are available at the Kenockee Fire Department or at the Greenwood Township Hall. You may receive two free alarms per household.

Permits for all open burning are required in Greenwood Township under State of Michigan Ordinance. Renew permits annually. There is no charge for the permit. You may renew yours or pick up a copy of the permit at the Twp Hall.

Small Wind Energy Presentation

Glen Pape is the Regional Land Policy Educator for Southeast Michigan. He is a specialist in land policy including planning and zoning, providing training for local units of government including Planning Commissions and Board of Appeals.

Small wind turbines allow homeowners, farmers, small business owners and public facilities to generate clean and reliable energy for on site use.

As a new technology, many communities do not address this type of use within their ordinance. Given the emerging technologies and the lack of public understanding of the issues and science around these devices, communities should be fully informed in all aspects of regulating wind energy conversion devices.

For information on small wind turbines come join Mr. Pape Wednesday October 14, 2009 at the Greenwood Township Hall from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. There is no admission fee for this seminar.



In the "Zone"

By Arlene Johnson, Greenwood Township Zoning Administrator

Greenwood Township's Zoning Administrator, Arlene Johnson, will be at the Township Hall on Thursdays from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm. You may also contact Arlene Johnson by calling her home office at 810-324-2287.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I start a small business in my home?

Some residents of Greenwood Township have expressed interest in starting businesses within their homes. The provision in the Township Ordinance that addresses this request is found under the definition of "Home Occupations". A Home Occupation is customarily conducted within the dwelling, attached building, or accessory building of no more than 600 square feet total including storage and employs only members of the immediate family. For complete details of the ordinance requirements, including sign compliance, contact the Zoning Department. All Home Occupations **must** receive zoning approval and be a permitted use in the district in which they are located.

Is a building permit required for all signs located in the Township?

The Greenwood Township Zoning Ordinance is very specific when addressing various types of signs. Prior to erecting any sign in the Township with the exception of real estate signs and campaign signs, a building permit is required. All signs have provisions in the Zoning Ordinance that must be adhered to. Contact the Zoning Department for a zoning compliance review prior to constructing any sign in Greenwood Township.

What are the fees for Zoning Compliance reviews?

There are no fees charged for Zoning Compliance reviews. All construction in the Township, e.g., pole barns, swimming pools, signs, ponds, dwellings, etc., require Zoning Compliance reviews. Check with the Zoning Department prior to any type of construction.

Greenwood Township				Greenwood Township	
Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting					Planning Commission Meeting
January 14, 2010				October 21, 2009	
Other meetings as required				Planning Commission Members	
ZBOA Members			Chairperson:	Bette Donaldson 324-2481	
Chairperson:	Doug Nowicki	324-2262		Vice-Chair.:	Mike Walsh 324-2175
Vice-Chair:	Lynn Zepp	387-9609		Secretary:	Heather Stewart 387-4137
Secretary:	Debra Dams	324-2104		Members:	John Schoen 327-6238
Members:	Tina Bricker	387-2244			Doug Nowicki 324-2262
	Keith Iseler	387-9603			Marvin Roberts 387-3831
Alternate:	Pete Bullard	650-7453			Jim Vincent 387-2525
Meetings are at 7:30pm at the Township Hall 9025 Yale Road				Meetings are at 7:30pm at the Township Hall 9025 Yale Road	

Michigan Works Summer Youth Jobs Program

By Terry A. Gill, Township Supervisor



You may have been wondering who those teenagers were who had been picking up trash along the roads and ditches in the Township leaving behind orange bags to be hauled away by the Road Commission. These teens and their Job Coach, as well as one teen helping me out in the office, were part of the Michigan Works Summer Youth Jobs Program.

The teens also cleaned up the Township Hall grounds, dug up and replanted a tree that was in the way of the new play structure, dug two flower beds, painted the flag pole and on rainy days cleaned windows and washed the tables and chairs used by the renters of the Township Hall. The teen working in the office helped me re-label all the old assessing cards, making sure that they were filed properly and that they match the computer records.

All of this help did not cost the Township any money at all. The program has employed 5 teens and one Job Coach for the summer. Three of these workers are residents of Greenwood Township.

You would be surprised by the amount of trash and the types of things that were found along the roads. Nineteen bags of trash were collected on Duce road alone. Twice the job coach had to call the Sheriff's office. Once when a full sized cooler full of bones was discovered which, thankfully, turned out to be deer bones. And once when a wallet was found.

Now that the teens have worked so hard to spruce up the township, maybe people will think twice before littering in the future.



Assessor's Perspective By Paul D. Vincent, Township Assessor

In order to upgrade our current Assessing information Jeff Johnson will be assisting me with measuring buildings. His vehicle will have a Greenwood Township sign on it. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process please feel free to contact the Township Hall.



Waste Management Holiday Schedule For 2009 & 2010

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26, 2009 Monday – Wednesday collection on schedule Thursday - No collection scheduled Collection one day behind Friday – Saturday

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25, 2009 Monday - Thursday collection on schedule Friday -No collection scheduled Collection one day behind – Saturday

Calendar Year 2010

New Year's Day – Friday, January 1, 2010 Monday – Thursday collection on schedule Friday - No collection scheduled Collection one day behind – Saturday

Memorial Day - Monday, May 31, 2010 Monday -No collection on scheduled Collection one day behind -Tuesday - Saturday

Independence Day -Sunday, July 4, 2010 Sunday Holiday- No change in schedule Collection on schedule Monday - Friday

Labor Day - Monday, September 6, 2010 Monday - No collection scheduled Collection one day behind Tuesday – Saturday

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 25, 2010 Monday – Wednesday collection on schedule Thursday – No collection scheduled Collection one day behind Friday – Saturday

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25, 2010 Monday - Friday collection on schedule

Missed Pick Up

If your garbage is not picked up call Waste Management's toll free number (800-796-9696) Mon. - Fri. between 7:30am and 5:30pm. Use the Greenwood Township missed pickup account number:

815-99-984.

Greenwood Township Newsletter

Foreclosure or Financial Crisis: Resources to Help with Pets

If you are experiencing financial difficulty making it difficult to keep your pet here are some resources that may be of help.

No Paws Left Behind www.nopawsleftbehind.org/paws –resources for pet owners facing foreclosures and resources for struggling shelters and rescues.

Finding Pet Friendly Housing –If you must move out of your house here are some sites to locate pet-friendly housing and low-cost veterinary care: www.pets911.com or call 1-888-PETS-911 (1-888-738-7911)

.www.petswelcome.com

www.peoplewithpets.com

A national program called Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) provides assistance to help disabled and terminally ill people in select cities keep their pets. For more information visit: www.pawsusa.homestead.com

Michigan State Police Update

Avoid becoming the victim of break-ins either in your car or home by:

- ✓ Always locking your car doors, even if it is parked inside your garage.
- ✓ Keep valuables out of sight from anyone with prying eyes, nothing valuable seen means no interest by thieves.
- ✓ If you notice any unfamiliar vehicles at a neighbor's home, note the color, make, model and plate if you can, then call the police.
- ✓ Don't store valuables in your home in the obvious places (under a mattress, in your dresser drawers, etc.) Thieves know where most people store them and usually look there first. Be creative!
- Never leave your keys in your ignition or leave the car idling unattended! Keep your windows shut (and locked) when you're not at home, even if you take a quick trip to the store

Little Known Michigan Motor Vehicle Code Laws

Anything hanging from the rearview mirror is considered a "dangling ornament" and a "vision obstruction", no matter how small. Avoid getting stopped for this common offense. MCL 257.709(c)

Wearing your seatbelt with the shoulder strap under your arm, as apposed to across your chest, is a violation of the seatbelt law. You can still receive a ticket for improperly wearing your seatbelt, not to mention get seriously injured in a crash. MCL 257.710(e)

Golf carts are prohibited from driving on ANY roadway or right-of-way, regardless of whether a slow moving vehicle sign is attached (orange triangle). In order to make any golf cart "street legal" there is a long list of equipment the cart must have installed, including (but not limited to) a seatbelt, turn signals, brake lights, license plate, horn and headlights.

If you have questions about this topic, please visit the MSP website at www.michigan.gov/msp or contact one of the Greenwood Township Troopers by calling the Richmond Post at 586-727-0200.