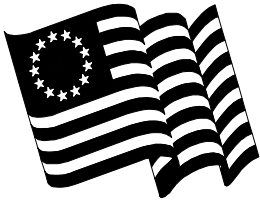


WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall/Winter 2006 - 2007
1080 W. Midland Road
Auburn, MI 48611
(989) 662-4408
www.williamstwp.com



TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Township Office Hours between
Memorial Day & Labor Day are:

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
and Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

Questions may be e-mailed to the appropriate Township department by accessing the Township Website at www.williamstwp.com and clicking on “Contact Us” at the top of the home page.

Please be sure to include your name and phone number since all questions may not be able to be answered by email.

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Thanksgiving: Nov. 23 & Nov. 24
Christmas: Dec. 25 & Dec. 26
New Year's: Jan. 1 & Jan. 2
Martin Luther King Day: Jan. 15
President's Day: Feb. 19
Good Friday: Apr. 6
Memorial Day: May 25 & May 28

TOWNSHIP MEETING SCHEDULES

All meetings are held in the Township Board Room
at 7:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Dec. 12 | Mar. 13 |
| Dec. 28 (6:00 p.m.) | Apr. 10 |
| Jan. 9 | May 9 (Wednesday) |
| Feb. 13 | June 12 |

PLANNING COMMISSION

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| Dec. 4 | Mar. 5 | June 4 |
| Jan. 8 | Apr. 2 | |
| Feb. 5 | May 7 | |

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m.

January 4, 2007 April 5, 2007

The Public is invited and encouraged to attend all Township meetings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Trash pickup will be a day late after the following holidays: **Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Memorial Day.**

WILLIAMS TWP. PARK RESERVATIONS

Beginning December 1, 2006 and continuing through January 10, 2007 (prior to 10:00 a.m.), a sign up sheet will be available in the Township office for anyone wishing to reserve a park rental date during 2007. Only one date per person is allowed. On January 10, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., a random drawing will take place in the Township Hall **of all persons present as listed on the sign up sheet.** The first person's name drawn may choose any available date and so on until all names have been drawn.

**REMEMBER YOU MUST BE PRESENT ON
JANUARY 10TH AT 10:00 A.M. FOR THE
DRAWING.**

The rental fee is \$75.00 and includes use of the park pavilion and one ball diamond (remainder of the park is open to the public). For further information, contact the Treasurer's Office at (989)662-4091.

LOST AND FOUND

During the summer, we acquired many items left in the Township Park. Some of the items are sunglasses, roller blades, bike helmets and clothing. If you think any of these may belong to you, please stop by the Treasurer's office to claim them. Any “lost” items left in our lost & found on January 1, 2007 will be donated to Goodwill.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WILLIAMS TWP. SENIOR DINING CENTER
1080 W. MIDLAND ROAD
AUBURN, MI 48611
OPEN 9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

LUNCH SERVED DAILY 12:00 NOON

\$2.00 SUGGESTED DONATION

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE

1 DAY IN ADVANCE !

CALL MARY AT 662-6521 FOR RESERVATIONS.

- ❖ Tuesday, December 12, 2006 – “Catch the Holiday Spirit” Western Choir Soloists, 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Wednesday, December 20, 2006 - Free Christmas Bingo at 10:00 a.m.
- ❖ Tuesday, April 17, 2007 - Trash or Treasure. The sign up deadline is Friday, April 13, 2007. Call Mary for more information.
- ❖ January 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th, 2007 - Sit & Kick - Sit and exercise with Beth Trahan, YWCA Fitness Director at 11:00 a.m.

SANTA FUN FEST

Come join Santa and Mrs. Claus on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at the Williams Township Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be lots of fun activities for children of all ages. Have your picture taken with Santa and tell him what you would like for Christmas. Cookies and a beverage will be served. Games will be played and you can also do a craft. The cost for this fun fest is free to all.



Hope to see you there!!

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

Put your live Christmas tree out by the road and it will be picked up sometime during the first two weeks in January. Trees must be free from garland and tinsel and can not be in a bag of any kind. Regular yard waste will not be picked up during this time.

SEASONAL, TEMPORARY, PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Williams Township is seeking a township resident knowledgeable in horticulture that is interested in maintaining the flowerbeds in the township park and around the township hall on a seasonal, temporary, part time basis. The season is anticipated to be from approximately May 1st to October 15th. Interested persons can obtain an employment application from the Township Office to submit for consideration.

2006 WINTER PROPERTY TAXES

Your 2006 Winter Property Tax bill should be in the mail by December 1, 2006. If you do not receive your property tax bill by December 1st or shortly thereafter, please call the Treasurer's office (662-4091) so we can get you a copy.

This property tax bill includes (1/3) of the Bay County Operating millage, all Bay County Extra Voted millages, the Williams Township Operating millage, and any special assessments you may have on your property. Winter property taxes are payable December 1, 2006 through February 14, 2007. Please include the top portion of your tax bill when paying by mail so proper credit is given. Tax payments may also be dropped in our drop box, located in the front of the Township Office. If you would like a “Paid Receipt” please include a self-addressed stamped envelope, otherwise, your cancelled check is your receipt. You may also pay your taxes in person at the township Treasurer's office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (please make note of our Holiday closing dates as listed on the bottom of your tax bill).

If you “deferred” your summer 2006 property taxes, they are also due at this time. Also, if you have not yet paid your summer property tax bill, you can still pay it at the township Treasurer's office until February 14th (there will be a 1% per month delinquent interest penalty added). Please call the Treasurer's office at 662-4091 with any questions regarding your property tax bill.

2006 PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

Summer Tax Authority Millage Rate

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Bay County Operating | 3.8172 |
| Delta College | 2.0427 |
| Bay-Arenac ISD Operating | 0.1891 |
| Bay-Arenac Special Ed | 2.8403 |
| Bay-Arenac Career Center | 1.8939 |
| State Education Tax | 6.0000 |
| Bay City School Debt (1992) | 0.5500 |
| Bay City School Debt (2006) | <u>1.8000</u> |

Summer Total 19.1332

Winter Tax Authority Millage Rate

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Bay County Operating | 1.9085 |
| Bay County Library (Tentative) | .9953 |
| Bay County Mosquito | 0.4478 |
| Bay County Senior Citizen | 0.5000 |
| Bay County Central Dispatch | 0.7000 |
| Bay County Medical Care Facility | 0.4984 |
| Bay County Historical | 0.0952 |
| Bay Metro Transit | 0.7476 |
| Williams Township Operating | <u>4.4000</u> |
| Tentative Winter Total | <u>10.2928</u> |

Total Summer & Winter 29.4260

PASSPORT NEWS

Beginning January 8th, Americans traveling by air or sea to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean won't be allowed to return to the United States without a passport.

U.S. citizens may apply for their passports during regular business hours at the township office. A certified birth certificate with a raised seal, not a copy, and two pictures must be presented when making application. Normal processing by the U.S. Department of State takes six weeks but there may be delays if they are inundated with end of the year applications. Two week rush processing is available for an extra \$60, plus charges for overnight air delivery.

The standard passport fee is \$97 for adults and \$82 for children younger than 16. Renewals cost \$30 less. We have application forms, renewal forms and numerous other miscellaneous forms that may be required depending on the applicant's particular situation.

A fill in the blank application is also available online at the only official website for passport information, www.travel.state.gov. Additional information on required documentation and international travel is also available at the website.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Be sure to watch for the Spring/Summer newsletter that goes out in June. It will have the program calendar and other information. If you are new to the area and would like more information regarding this six week program, please call the Township office at 662-2675 and ask for Jackie.

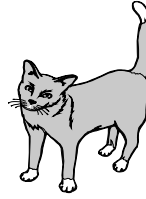
RECYCLE CALENDARS

Your 2007 recycle calendar is available on the Williams Township web site www.williamstwp.com or you can call or stop by the office and pick one up.

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

If you would like to report a violation of any of the Township Ordinances, you may do so by filing a written complaint with the Township Zoning Administrator. Complaint forms are available in the Township Office. The Zoning Administrator will investigate the complaint and take an appropriate course of action.

ANIMAL LICENSES



All dogs and cats four months of age and older are required to have a current rabies vaccination and license. Animal licenses will expire the last day of the month in which the previous rabies vaccination was administered. For example, if the last rabies vaccination was given June 10, 2005 your animal's current license will expire June 30, 2006. Please check your animal's last rabies certificate to see which month its license will come due.

For animals that are currently licensed, a renewal notice will be sent to you (from the Bay County Treasurer) approximately two (2) months before the expiration date. If you are buying a license in person, please bring the renewal notice and your animal's rabies vaccination certificate. If your animal's rabies vaccination expires this year, you must get a new vaccination and show proof of the new vaccination prior to purchasing the license.

The 2006 and 2007 license fees are \$6.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$18.00 for an unaltered animal. Licenses may be purchased at any Township Office, Bay County Animal Control or Bay County Treasurer's Office, and most veterinarian offices.

Licenses not renewed by the last day of the month in which the rabies vaccination was given will be considered delinquent and an additional \$20.00 late fee will be charged. Delinquent licenses will **only** be sold at the Bay County Treasurer's Office and the Bay County Animal Control Office.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR:

RECREATIONAL FIRE PIT PERMITS

Recreational Fire Pits are allowed in Williams Township by permit only. Permits can be obtained for a \$10.00 fee by completing an application and location diagram, and receiving approval from the Township Zoning Administrator. This type of permit is good for 5 years when approved and inspected.

Wood from trees and brush is the only material that may be burned. Burning cannot cause a nuisance or hazard to adjoining persons or property by reason of heat, flame, fly-ash, sparks, smoke, or odor.

TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

We have many residents and volunteers in Williams Township that make it a better place for all of us. It's very easy to take the fine job that these people do for granted. While some of the following positions do receive modest compensation, it doesn't begin to make up for the time and effort expended in their efforts to serve the township. These folks serve the township as members of the Board of Review, Building Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Auburn/Williams Fire Department, Auburn/Williams Fire District Administrative Board, and Auburn/Williams Recreation Association. To the many folks that serve on these boards and committees, thank you for your commitment to Williams Township.

One of my responsibilities as Township Supervisor is to recommend residents to the Township Board for appointment to the above boards as vacancies occur. Openings to be filled by January 1st include 1 member of the Township Board of Review (2 year term), and three members of the Zoning Board of Appeals (1 each for a 1 year term, a 2 year term, and a 3 year term). Please contact me if you have an interest in serving our township as a member of one of these important boards.

WASTE MANAGEMENT TRASH, RECYCLING, & YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Residents are strongly encouraged to place all trash in bags, whether in or out of trash cans (including "Green Monsters"). This will help assure that the trash ends up where it belongs and not blowing around the Township, especially on windy collection days.

Waste Management picks up yard waste weekly on your normal trash collection day through the end of November. Final yard waste collection for 2006 will occur on November 28th and 29th. Weekly yard waste collection will resume on April 3rd and 4th, 2007.

Please do not place grass clippings, yard waste, or any type of debris in ditches. This contributes to poor drainage for you, your neighbors, and the entire township. Thank you for your help and understanding.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF FIRE HYDRANTS

Unauthorized use of a fire hydrant to obtain free water should be reported immediately to 9-1-1. Besides not paying for the water, these unauthorized users typically do not pump out the water that remains in the barrel of the hydrant, which can then freeze in cold temperatures and render the hydrant inoperable when needed in an emergency. Thank you for your help!

FIRE HYDRANTS

Protection for All in Every Season

Do you have a fire hydrant in front of your home or business? Just consider how important that source of water may become if your residence or occupancy was subjected to the effects of a fire. Now ask yourself, "What if that fire hydrant could not be found?"

Life safety and conservation of property have been and will continue to be the primary concerns of the Auburn-Williams Fire Department. With winter approaching, there is concern that some fire hydrants may become obstructed (and thus less visible and accessible to first responders) due to the accumulation of snow, shrubbery, weeds, or other products.

Williams Township is therefore encouraging township residents and business owners to "adopt a hydrant." Primarily, this adoption would entail keeping a three-foot, obstacle free, clearance around the fire hydrant, and ensuring that it is also highly visible (fresh coat of red paint, township will supply the paint). These simple acts could prove some of the most important factors in the protection of lives and property. Please contact the Township Supervisor if you are interested in adopting one or more fire hydrants in Williams Township. **Thank you to the folks that have already adopted a hydrant.** Your help is greatly appreciated.

Township personnel recently serviced all of the Township's nearly 400 fire hydrants. The hydrants are all checked for proper operation, flushed, and pumped out. Assuring proper fire hydrant operation is a very important factor in maintaining Williams Township's excellent Public Protection Classification rating from the Insurance Services Office. Your help in keeping the area clear around a fire hydrant on or near your property is greatly appreciated; it can save the Fire Department precious time in an emergency.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

For proper disposal of all hazardous materials, contact the Bay County Health Department at 895-4006.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Local township roads currently receiving major work are Kiesel Road, between Flajole and Rockwell, and Wilder Road, between Garfield and Carter. These roads have been crushed and shaped with additional gravel applied this fall. A double layer of Chip Seal will be applied in 2007, with a third layer of Chip Seal to be applied in 2008. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated during these road improvement projects.

BRUSH CHIPPING

Williams Township continues to offer a residential brush chipping service. The township chipping service is offered for residents that have trimmed their trees themselves, or to clean up brush after a storm, as an alternative to open burning. Following is the Township's policy regarding brush chipping:

- ✓ Please call the Township Office to be placed on the "Chipping List" when the brush is ready to chip.
- ✓ Brush must be placed at the road shoulder with all ends facing towards the road.
- ✓ Pieces must be small enough and piled appropriately for one person to reasonably handle.
- ✓ Brush must be from your residential address and not hauled in from another location. Commercial tree cutting services and "For-Hire" tree cutters must dispose of the trees and brush they cut and trim.
- ✓ The first 30 minutes of chipping per month is free. Additional time above 30 minutes per month will be charged at a rate as set by the Township Board, currently \$50 per hour. The Township will make exceptions to the 30 minute limitation for a period following a major storm such as the ice storm this past winter.
- ✓ Please limit chipping requests to one per month.

Whenever you have a small amount of brush, an option is to bundle it up for Waste Management to pick up on your normal trash pickup date. Brush for Waste Management pickup must be tied together in bundles up to 24 inches in diameter, up to 48 inches in length, and weighing no more than 50 pounds per bundle, with individual pieces not exceeding 2 inches in diameter.

Your assistance with brush disposal and chipping is greatly appreciated, especially since the township no longer has a Department of Corrections Public Works Crew. You may recall that the Public Works Crew was a victim of state budget cuts when Camp Tuscola in Caro was closed two years ago.

Tom Paige, Supervisor
Office Phone: 662-4241
Email: supervisor@williamstwp.com

FROM THE ASSESSOR

LOWER HOME VALUES?

You probably have heard from various sources that home values are not increasing as fast as they have in the past. In fact, not only are they not increasing, they are actually decreasing in many areas. If in fact they are decreasing, what does that mean for us? How will a decrease in values effect our tax bill?

Well, let's make a few assumptions and see what happens. We'll look at two scenarios. The first is for owner "A". He has been living in the same place for the past thirty years. The State Equalized Value for his home is \$65,000, while his Taxable Value is \$55,256. The second owner, "B", purchased his home two years ago and his State Equalized Value and Taxable Value are both at \$72,000.

These values are adjusted by the ECF, (economic condition factor) and the CPI (consumers price index). The EFC reflects the percentage increase, or in this case decrease, of values of property over the last year or two. For example we'll estimate that values have decreased by 2%. The CPI is determined by the state of Michigan and is applied throughout the State. Last year, the CPI was announced by the State on November 9th and was set at 3.3%, therefore, all Taxable Values increased by 3.3%. The CPI for this year has just been announced to be 3.7%.

Considering these presumptions, the following will show the effect on the State Equalized and Taxable Values for owners "A" and "B". The SEV's will be reduced by 2% due to the lower sales values while the TV's will be increased by 3.7% due to the Consumer Price Index.

| "A" | | "B" | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| SEV | TV | SEV | TV | 2006 Values |
| \$65,000 | \$55,256 | \$72,000 | \$72,000 | |
| <u>- 1,300</u> | <u>+ 2,044</u> | <u>- 1,450</u> | <u>+ 2,664</u> | adjustments |
| \$63,700 | \$57,300 | \$70,550 | \$74,644 | results |

The lower of the two values becomes the Taxable Value. For owner "A", the \$57,300 is lower so it remains as the Taxable Value for 2007. So we can see in an environment where the SEV goes down, the Taxable Value can still go up. For owner "B", the \$70,550 is lower, so (you guessed it) that becomes the new Taxable Value for 2007.

| "A" | | "B" | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| SEV | TV | SEV | TV | 2007 Values |
| \$63,700 | \$57,300 | \$70,550 | \$70,550 | |

We may be in a situation this year where the above scenario will be played out for the first time since the adoption of "Proposal A" in 1994. Hopefully, this example will help explain why, if you hear that values (SEV's) are going down, that your taxable value, in most cases will still go up.

Paul Arnold – Township Assessor
Township Office 662-4408
Home Office 662-6232

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

According to statistics compiled by the Michigan State Police, there were 203 total traffic crashes in Williams Township in 2005. These crashes injured 68 people, killed 1 person, and resulted in 148 property damage claims. A lot of folks had their lives changed in the blink of an eye. Leading causes of these accidents are driving too fast, careless/negligent driving, not allowing a clear distance, and failure to yield.

As I reflect on these statistics, I can easily think of several occasions when I could have left 5 minutes earlier, or made a cell phone call before I got in the car, and reduced the risk of causing an accident. Too often we get caught up in the hectic pace of life today. It's time to slow down and appreciate the beautiful area of Michigan that we live in, and not forget the people and things that are really important to each of us. **Please drive carefully!** -Tom Paige, Williams Twp. Supervisor

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!