

DECEMBER 2009

THE Cottrellville Township Informer

Visit the New Township Website!

We have a new web page for Cottrellville Township. It has a lot of information on it, including a calendar of events, minutes from various meetings and permit forms & applications.

www.cottrellvilletwp.org



As township information is received, it will be posted on the web site as another way of keeping you informed.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SUPERVISOR

by Supervisor Tom Raymond

It's hard to believe that we have completed our first year as a fully elected Township Board! We have started laying watermain for Water District No. 3 and No. 4, hoping for completion by January 31st, 2010, energized and ready to hookup for residents to use.

We are installing all new water meters for everyone along the river road and adjoining streets which have both municipal water and sewer. These should be done by the first of the year as well. Though your water bills will be going up because of the increase in water rates from our water suppliers, hopefully, these new meters will us get a clear picture of our actual usage through the master meter from Marine City. These new meters are replacing meters, many of which were close to 30 years old, and were just plain worn out.

OUR ASSESSOR & TREASURER'S OFFICE HAS BEEN BUSY...

By now you have received your 2009 winter property tax bill in the mail. If you haven't or you just want to check the amount the mortgage company is escrowing for you, contact the Treasurer's Office. You can pay your taxes during regular township business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until noon.

We have the black mailbox drop box at the southwest corner of the township hall where you can drop your payments for taxes, assessments or water bills into a safe locked box at times other than our regular business hours.

You also have the ability to have your water bills taken out of your bank account by ACH payments each quarter. If this is something you are interested in contact Treasurer Dian Courtney and sign the paperwork to have it take effect. You can also pay your property taxes at the Marine City Branch of the Fifth-Third Bank. You can pay your water bills at the Marine City Branch of the Citizen First Bank.

We have been losing close to \$70,000 per year in water and sewer revenue because approximately 529,000 gallons of water through our master meter but could not be billed out to our customers. Please bear with us in trying to hold down the costs of water by making everyone pay their fair share of the water they are using. You can help yourself save money on your water bills by making sure you repair dripping faucets and shower heads, leaking toilets, and outside hose bibs. Dropping a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank will tell you if you have a siphoning toilet that is wasting water. If you need other ideas, call the Township Hall.

Town Hall Meeting - We are considering putting another "Town Hall" meeting together in the near future with residents who are also interested in municipal water for their area. If you are interested, please contact me by e-mail, and perhaps we can sit down with someone from the other areas wanting water we'll discuss it among your neighbors.

"Friends of the Hungry in Our Cottrellville Community" are going to be putting together another Free Food Pantry, Wednesday, February 24th, 2010. A Semi-load of food is \$1,200 & \$400 buys several hundred pounds of meat. We fed over 300 families last time. If you can give even a small donation or a few hours of your time, you can make a difference in some of your neighbors' lives. Cash or make checks payable to "Cottrellville Township

-Donations."

Agendas & Our Website - If you would like to receive copies of the Township Board Agenda each month by e-mail, please drop us a line with your e-mail address and we will oblige you. You can also receive the agendas for our Planning Commission, our Parks & Recreation Committee and our Historical Society. The Minutes of these Meetings are put on our Website shortly after the meetings are held, many still in the "unapproved draft" stage (prior to formally adopted for the record.) Our Web site is: www.cottrellvilletwp.org

This site has our latest events, information on our general and zoning ordinances and permits. Check this out and see what you might be missing!

Township Hall Decorations - This year a group of our township residents and their families got together and decorated the Township Hall. Many thanks for the help from Patricia Runyon, Ken Saunders, Don Armstrong, Don Chopp, Gary Simons, Jr., Hank & Bev Kopec, Mary Agnes & Wes Simons, Bob & Vi Pfaff, and my wife, Vicky Raymond. The feedback from other neighbors and residents has been very favorable. If you get a chance, drive by the township hall after dark and see the lights & decorations. We had fun putting it together!

FROM OUR TOWNSHIP BOARD, & THE EMPLOYEES OF COTTRELLVILLE TOWNSHIP TO YOUR FAMILIES, HAVE A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT

In the last few weeks, we have been receiving complaint forms, faxed, and letters without the name or signature of the person making the complaint. We are interested in helping you with your complaint, however, if we have more questions, or when we have completed the work on your issue,

we have no way to contact you to tell you. If you have a complaint, please sign & date your letter and see that it has been marked "PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL" to the attention of the "Supervisor" (unless he is the object of your complaint), and I will assign it to be worked on by the staff member who has the most expertise in the matter. No one will have to access to your identity.

YOUR TOWNSHIP PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Your Parks & Recreation Committee has been working hard all summer, starting with the "Kids to Kids Sale" (yard sale for anything you want to see in a flea market type atmosphere) and "Perennial Flower Exchange." Our Annual Township Picnic brought a huge audience of Classic Car and Antique Tractor buffs. This, by far, was our best township picnic to date! The top two most popular car and tractor owners in each group were selected by popularity of the guests of the picnic, and were awarded \$50 gift certificates by our gang. We hope they will come back again next year with a little coaxing!

Farmer John was invited to entertain us at the Halloween party with the "Barn Yard Express" farm animals program. What an entertainer! We'll be inviting him back again! Between Farmer John and Troy Davis, our Events Coordinator Michelle Davis's husband, driving the kids around the park on hayrides, this Halloween's event was another success!

Parks & Rec member Stefano Casadei spruced up the playground area with new mulch

this summer. Nice job Stefano!

Park & Pavilion Rental - January 1, 2010 we will begin taking reservations for our Township Park and Pavilion Rental for the spring and summer. This is on a "first come/first served" basis. Please contact the Clerk's Office for your fun in the sun, for family reunions, birthday parties and graduation gatherings.

New Parks & Rec Member - Our most recent member of the Parks & Recreation Committee is Joni LeRoy, recently appointed by the Township Board. Welcome aboard Joni! We are Blessed with pretty terrific workers on our committee. In addition to Michelle Davis, and Stefano Casadei, we have Vickie Perreman, Jynil Schneider and Mary Agnes Simons. We recently had a committee member retire after many years of service, Mrs. E. Sue Terhune. If it weren't for the great support system of these members' spouses, we wouldn't be able to put these events on so successfully. If you know one of these members, and would be interested in joining our group, approach one of them and see what you think of

the work we do. Perhaps you don't have time to serve on the Committee, but we can always use the help with the events. Come volunteer and watch those kids smile!

Santa Day - Our next event is for Santa Day at the Township. We invite Santa to visit the Hall and parents take pictures of the little ones with Santa. So bring your cameras! This event is on Sunday, December 13th, 2009 at the Township Hall. Please join us for "Cookies & Cocoa with Santa!"

Easter Egg Hunt - Of course, the opening of our Township Park in the spring starts with the Easter Egg Hunt. This event is scheduled for Sunday, March 28th, 2010.

Remember, you can watch the corner of the Township Hall lot for the big white sign announcing the event on the following weekend so you know when to come. You can also check the "Community Calendar of Events" in the Voice Newspaper, and/or our Township Web Site: www.Cottrellvilletp.org for the latest and greatest events going on for your township!

IMPORTANT NOTICE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE OF COTTRELLVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
At the December Board meeting, it was decided to change the meeting date of the COTTRELLVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD from the first Wednesday of each month, to the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month, effective, January 13th, 2010.



PLAY BALL!
ON THE NEW
BASEBALL DIAMOND!

The Cottrellville Township Parks & Recreation Committee is inviting you to bring your teams! The first season, we allowed free playing! We are taking reservations for the 2010 season now! Contact the Township Clerk's Office for information (810) 765-4730

Presorted
Standard
Postage Paid
Port Huron, MI
Ready, Set, Mail!
Permit #1228

Cottrellville Township
708 Marsh Road
Cottrellville, MI 48039-2715
Mon. - Fri.: 9:00am - Noon
810-765-4730

YOUR PLANNING COMMISSION AT WORK

Our Township Planning Commission welcomed two new members to our Commission. Mr. Stefano Casadei and Mrs. Patricia Runyon. Both are residents who will bring some new blood to our Commission, both living in the rural part of our township. Welcome aboard Stefano and Pat!

Our Township Attorney is reviewing the ordinance on "noxious weeds" to help us keep up the grass cutting in neighborhoods where many homes have been abandoned due to mortgage foreclosures. We have sent our "bicycle path" ordinance off to Mr. McNamee as well for final reviews, prior to adoption by the Township Board.

A wind turbine ordinance is currently "on the table" at our next meeting. We meet the fourth Wednesday of the month, (except this month it is Dec. 9th, due to the Christmas Holiday) and we will be considering language on outdoor furnaces. If you have any input on these items, please give the Clerk's Office a call or show up for our meeting—we can always use the extra advice!

Elected Officials

Tom Raymond - Supervisor
Dian Courtney - Treasurer
Violet Pfaff - Clerk
Bernie Pelc - Trustee
Beverly Kopec - Trustee

Appointed Officials

Mary Agnes Simons - Deputy Clerk
Renee Mazey - Deputy Treasurer

Assessor

Barbara Schutt

Planning Commission - Mary Agnes Simons - Chairperson

Meets 4th Wed. of Every Month

Georgia Phelan - Secretary
Isla Boskee / William Jenuwine / William Drake / Bernie Pelc
Patricia Runyon / Stefano Casadei / George Kunnath

Zoning Board of Appeals - George Kunnath-Chairperson

Jason Arlow / Pat Jenuwine / D.H. Konyha- Alternate

Parks & Rec. Committee - Mary Agnes Simons-Chairperson

Meets 2nd Mon. of Every Month at 7:00

Stefano Casadei / Vickie Perreman / Joni Leroy
Michelle Davis / Jynil Schneider / E. Sue Terhune, Retired

Department of Public Works

Don Chopp / Jonathon Chopp

Board of Review - Alice Jehle - Chairperson

Dale Simons / Dennis Basinski
Ron Willowitz - Alternate

Building Department

Bill Klaassen - Bldg. Insp. / Plan Reviewer
Fred Ouellette - Elec. Insp. / Plan Reviewer
Kelly Smith - Mechanical Insp. / Plumbing Insp.

All meetings are held at Cottrellville Township Hall unless otherwise notified and begin at 7:30 p.m.