

MARATHON TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

December, 2009

Complaints to the Township

From the Supervisors Office, Fred Moorhouse

The largest number of complaints revolve around taxes, roads and blight, with taxes taking the number one honor. It's difficult to imagine how property values can decrease and property taxes increase, but it can be attributed to Proposal A.

The second highest number of complaints revolves around the condition of our roads. Every time we receive a complaint, I take a drive down the road and relay the information to the Road Foreman and the Road Commission. A drier summer and good brine applications helped to keep our back roads in fair condition this year. From the time the first brine solution was applied in June until the middle of October, very few complaints were received.

Several proposed road projects remain on the agenda for this year. Because tiling the roads helps to prevent major problems in the spring, three tiling projects have been discussed with the Road Commission. Tiling Barnes Lake Road west of Lonsberry Rd, the intersection of Flint River and LeValley Road, and Fostoria Rd north of Barnes Lake Rd still may get done this year.

The third largest number of complaints revolves around blight issues. Thirteen cases have come across my desk since I took office. Four of them have been ongoing blight issues for several years, but circuit court action or the possibility of it should bring these cases to successful conclusions in the very near future. Some cases involve the Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, Township Attorney and the Township Board. Follow up is always necessary to bring these issues to a successful conclusion.

Christmas Drop Box

The Township has placed boxes in the meeting room of the Township Hall to collect donated canned goods, paper products, cleaning supplies & personal hygiene products. Items collected will be given to families in our community who may be struggling this Holiday season. Any donations you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

2010 census day is April 1, 2010

PLEASE TAKE PART - IT'S IN OUR HANDS

From the Clerk's Office, Dawn Johnson

The census occurs every 10 years. In 2010 it's more important than ever, especially in Michigan. The population numbers collected from the census are used in numerous ways including the allocation of dollars for food & shelter programs, Head Start, grants to educational agencies, schools, roads, public transportation, & senior services, just to name a few. The numbers reflect who we are, what our community looks like, how it has changed and how those changes impact our daily lives.

Over 400 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities, based on census data. Because Michigan's population is on the decline, it is imperative to get every resident in our community counted. Marathon Township is at risk to lose valuable monies if we don't count every single person. To find out how you can make sure you are counted, please refer to the attached CENSUS flyer. Remember, **OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS.**

Southern Link Trailways

The Southern Links Trailway has just completed the next section of the trail between Otter Lake and Millington, which will make the total length 10.2 miles from Columbiaville to Millington. Please stay informed and support local fundraising for the maintenance of the trail by visiting the website: southernlinkstrailway.com. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends Group to help support the trail, please contact Ray Benson at 810 691-8880. The meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Otter Lake Community Center.

Hollenbeck Cemetery

Marathon Township has recently employed Wayne Nelson as the sexton for Hollenbeck Cemetery. Recent improvements to the cemetery include painting of the fence and a new circular driveway. Under consideration for the near future is the placement of new grave markers to make it easier to locate individual plots.

2010 Change Notice

From the Assessor's Office, Tom Valentine

Property owners need to be aware that State Law MCL 211.24c requires assessment change notices to be sent to taxpayers whose properties see an ***increase*** in assessments from one year to the next. Much of Marathon Township will be seeing a ***decrease*** in assessments from 2009 to 2010 because of the sagging real estate market. If you normally receive an assessment change notice, but don't receive one in February 2010, it is because your assessment is going down. If you would still like to receive an assessment change notice for your property, come to the Township Hall after February 22, 2010, to pick up one. If you own property in other Michigan Townships or Cities, you may or may not receive an assessment change notice from that unit of government. The Consumers Price Index which generates the rate of inflation factor for property taxes in Michigan is -.3% for 2010. That means if you don't do anything to your property in 2009, your property axes will decrease .3% for 2010.

The normal office hours for the Assessor are Wednesdays 9 to 4.

Recycling Program **Please Recycle**

Marathon Township is participating in the Lapeer Community Recycling Program. So far, records show that not many Marathon Township residents are taking advantage of the program. It's a good feeling to know that by doing our part will make life better for our children and grandchildren. Collections are on the first & third Saturdays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. First Saturday at Lapeer Cinema on Demille St in Lapeer.

Third Saturday at North Lapeer Recycling 5728 Lapeer Rd. (Deerfield Twp). Accepted are Newspapers, magazines, paper, cardboard, tin, steel cans, plastic and clear glass bottles and jars.

For more information please contact the office at 793-2002 on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

March Board of Review

The meeting for the March Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 8th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. And Thursday, March 11th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Marathon Township Board meets second Tuesday of the month

Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tax Collection

Holiday Hours

From the Treasurer's Office, Sandi Glesenkamp

The office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and December 31st. There is a drop box located to the left of the front door. Please do not leave cash. Include your property number on the check. Taxes left in the drop box and opened on January 4th (next business day) will be posted as December 31, 2009.

Winter taxes are normally due by February 14th without penalty and interest. However, the 14th falls on a Sunday and Monday, the 15th is Presidents Day, so the 17th will be the last day to pay without interest and penalty. The taxes will go delinquent to the county on March 2nd so postmarks ***are not*** accepted.

Garbage Pick up **Update on Survey**

The office received several negative responses to the Township-wide garbage pick up. Thank you for your comments. Everything will remain as is with individual garbage contracting.

How are we doing?

Over the past year, this Township Board has made a conscious effort to handle problems that have been made aware to us existing in our community. We always appreciate hearing from you regarding issues that may need attention. Many times we simply are not aware of a situation until it is brought to our attention.

Contacting the Governor

Have you ever found yourself wishing that you could let the governor know of a concern that you have that affects you or your township? If so, you can e-mail the governor by visiting her Web site:

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-35316-65331--00.html>

Please note that the governor only accepts e-mails through the above Web site. Other methods to contact the governor are by Fax 517 241-1707

Our State Representative is Kevin Daley and he can be reached at 517 373-1800 or e-mail kevindaley@house.mi.gov