

TOWNSHIP OF SUMMIT

2121 Ferguson Road
Jackson, Michigan 49203
517-788-4113 - www.summittwp.com

2016 Newsletter

From the Supervisor's Office – As in prior years, we're taking advantage of the annual Assessment Change Notice mailing to include some information on current events in your Township. You may also access the Township website at www.summittwp.com for specific information from each of the Township departments.

I'd like to start out addressing a couple of "hot topics" that have been in the news for some time now.

First - water quality. As a result of the issues that have been in the news regarding the City of Flint, we have had a number of inquiries regarding our Summit Township water supply and system. As you probably know, each June we publish and mail every water customer a Consumers Confidence Report (CCR) which summarizes the information gathered from hundreds of water samples taken and analyzed over the previous year. Your water quality meets/exceeds the standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). You can access a copy of this report on our Township website.

Second - roads. The State has adopted legislation that will provide for additional funding for roads, but it will not begin until 2017. Even then, the revenue to be generated is phased in and it will take several years to achieve the "full funding" outlined in the legislation. Further, it does not provide funding for neighborhood/local streets. This means that the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT), at best, will only provide 30% towards the resurfacing/rebuilding of streets in this category (as they are doing currently). The remaining 70% will need to come from a special assessment paid by the benefiting property owners. To learn more about how to establish a special assessment district for your streets, please contact the Assessor's Office.

Following are items of interest from each of the major areas of your Township government.

From the Clerk's Office – The Presidential Primary is March 8th, 2016. It is a "closed" primary, so each voter must request a partisan (Republican or Democrat) ballot. Our precinct locations will remain the same: Cornerstone Christian Church, Summit Township Hall, and Jackson Free Methodist Church. Please note the polling location where you are to vote. This will eliminate confusion on Election Day and the process will be smoother for both voters and election workers.

2016 will be an active year as we will also be having an election May 3rd (Proposition for 911 System Funding), August 2nd (Primary) and November 8th (General). Keep in mind that we are always looking for election workers. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact the Clerk's office for information and an application.

As a reminder, we do not maintain a permanent mailing list for Absentee Ballot applications. However, we will be happy to supply our residents with an application for a ballot via phone request. You may also visit the Township Office to fill out an application or mail in a request with all required information. Please remember that a valid picture I.D. must be presented to receive an Absentee Ballot in person. Also, per election law, an Absentee Ballot can only be handed to the voter for whom it is intended.

One last thing to remember, voters who decline to show their I.D. at the polls CANNOT vote.

From the Treasurer's Office – As you prepare to file your income taxes you may need property tax information. You may access your information by going to the Home Page on our website and clicking on "**Property Tax Data**". After creating an account you can look up information such as your taxes, legal description, taxable & assessed values.

To take advantage of "paperless" (email) billing for your water & sewer service send a request to dtreasurer@summittwp.com and include your address and email. Property taxes may be paid in person at First Merit Bank branch offices at 4515 Francis Street and 1514 West Morrell Street or at the Township offices at 2121 Ferguson Road. Also, please check our website for information on two electronic payment options. The first – a direct debit opportunity is offered at no cost to you. This can also save you time and money by eliminating check writing and postage. The second – use your credit card. There is a convenience fee charged to utilize this method.

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From the Assessor's Office – The enclosed Assessment Change Notice shows information of interest for the 2016 property tax cycle – your assessed and taxable values for the upcoming year. Your property taxes are based on two factors – the CPI multiplier and the millage rate. This year's Consumer Price Index (CPI) multiplier is 1.003. This multiplier times your 2015 taxable value creates your 2016 taxable value. This is compared to the assessed value and the lesser of the two is used to compute your tax bill. The exception to this is if the property has transferred during 2015. If the property transferred, any benefit the previous owner had would be adjusted for the new owner of the property. We expect that most residents will see a flat to slight increase in the taxable value of their property. The other factor needed for calculating the tax bill is the millage rate. The specific rate(s) being applied will be listed on the summer and winter tax bills. Department employees have been doing field work to verify information on structures/update photos and this will continue throughout the year. Employees wear Township of Summit identification and will leave a notice at the properties visited.

From the Building Official's Office – If you have any questions about a construction project you are considering, please contact the Building Inspection Department (517) 788 4113, extension 257. Getting answers to questions before you begin can save time and money. The 2015 edition of the State of Michigan Residential Code will go into effect this month. It contains some added language for clarification and additional requirements for the "Energy Code".

In case you didn't know, Jackson County is one of the "Highest Potential for Radon Gas" counties in Michigan. You can obtain short term test kits from the Jackson County Environmental Health Department (517-788-4433) for \$11.00. This is a 3 to 7 day test and will indicate what the radon level is in your home.

From the Department of Public Works – As in prior years the Department of Public Works has completed a number of projects to keep the water and sewer systems in good repair. This year the most significant involved the relining of a major section of the Francis Street sewer interceptor. This was in lieu of a complete replacement of the sewer main and was accomplished at a fraction of the cost and minimum inconvenience due to road closures. We are also renegotiating our sewage treatment contract with the City of Jackson. **Please note, sump pumps are not permitted to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system.** This practice results in ground water using up needed sewer capacity and causes unnecessary treatment cost.

From the Fire Chief – 2015 was a good year for the Summit Fire Department. In January we took delivery of the second of two new rescue pumpers that allowed us to reduce our fleet from five to three while increasing our efficiency as well as effectiveness. We added ice rescue equipment and are in the process of training our personnel. We are also seeking highly motivated individuals that are interested in joining our Paid-on-Call ranks as a Firefighter. If you are interested please visit our web site and review our requirements and application process. Run totals for 2015 are as follows: Fire related 133, Emergency Medical Services 1,750, Other 597. Total run count for 2015 was 2,480.

From the Sheriff's Detachment – If you're going to be away for an extended period of time, you may request periodic vacation checks of your residence by simply completing a request form which you can obtain at the Township office or the Sheriff's office Website – www.jcsd1.org<<http://www.jcsd1.org>>. Just drop it off at the Township office.

All door-to-door solicitors are required to register with the Township. Please call 911 to report any suspicious activity or anyone you suspect may not be registered. A description of the person(s) and any vehicle(s) would be very helpful.

Also, be on the alert for phone and internet fraud. Before sending money or providing sensitive documents to anyone, ask for a call back number or physical address to verify the requesting party. Any reluctance to provide this information would be a strong indication the request is fraudulent. Never provide sensitive information to anyone soliciting information from you.

Bank and credit/debit card fraud has been on the rise. Be sure to carefully go through your monthly statements and do periodic credit checks to assure your cards have not been compromised. Shredding of documents containing personal and sensitive information can help alleviate the theft of information.

2015 Activities/2016 Plans –

- Major road work in the Township will affect Robinson Road between McCain Road and Main Street. The Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT) expects this work to begin in the April/May time frame.
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved the Township's application for a grant to develop a non-motorized trail from Weatherwax Drive along Horton Road to the City Limits. The City and County have also received approval of grant applications that will enable the development of trails connecting Cascades, the InterCity, Weatherwax, Sharp Park and Fourth Street trails.
- A new Verizon cell tower to be located next to the Ferguson Rd. fire station at the Township Office Complex is under construction and expected to be operational by mid-year.