

TOWNSHIP OF SUMMIT

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

2010 Newsletter

From the Supervisor's Office – We're again taking advantage of this year's Assessment Change Notice mailing to include some information on current events in the township. Each of the major departments has included topics which may be of interest to you. I would call your attention to the township's website, www.summittwp.com. Here you will find information on meeting dates for the various township boards and commissions, the township Master Plan and Recreation Plan (revised and adopted last year) as well as a complete searchable listing of all township ordinances and more. 'Take a look.

We continue experience misuse/abuse of the township Recycling Center. When the recycling dumpsters are full, please come back another time. DO NOT leave your recyclables on the ground. If you observe someone doing this please obtain a license plate number and report it to the Township Sheriff Deputy at 788-4113, ext 237. The Recycling Center has been very popular with most all of our residents but if this misuse/abuse continues we may have to terminate this service.

We've enclosed a brochure from the **Community Foreclosure Coalition (CFC)** which provides valuable information to help homeowners avoid mortgage foreclosure. The brochure provides information on what to do and what to avoid. If you or someone you know is faced with this possibility, please contact the CFC at www.communityforeclosurecoalition.org or the local phone numbers contained in the brochure.

As you may realize, Summit Township is not immune from the fiscal crisis facing most local government. We have already taken steps to reduce expenditures through employee furlough days and a wage freeze. Even so, decreasing revenues from both State and Local taxes will require that we reduce services or ask for a millage to maintain them. Consequently, we will be placing a millage request on the ballot in August to support the continued police and fire service levels throughout the Township. We will have additional specific information available upon completion of our 2010 – 11 fiscal year budget in March.

From the Assessor's Office – The enclosed Assessment Change Notice shows information of interest for the 2010 property tax cycle. The taxable value of your property is based on two factors – the CPI multiplier and the millage rate. This year's Consumer Price Index (CPI) multiplier is .997 (less than 1.00 for the first time since passage of PROPOSAL A in 1994). This multiplier times your 2009 taxable value is compared with your 2010 assessment. Whichever is less is the value used for your tax bill. The other factor needed for calculating the tax bill is the millage rate. If millage rates remain the same as last year, most owners will see a reduction in their 2010 taxes. The exception to this is if the property has transferred during 2009. If the property transferred, any benefit the previous owner had would be adjusted for the new owner of the property. Answers to questions are available by calling 788-4113 ext 233 or 234.

From the Clerk's Office – Summit Township registered voters may participate in the election of School Board members on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. This will include only those voters in Vandercook Lake, East Jackson, and Hanover-Horton school districts as Jackson Public School District has opted for the November election date. As always, polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every election day. Please note the change in polling location for Precinct 2 (updated Voter ID Cards will be mailed prior to the August election).

Precinct 1

Fire Station #2
2507 Spring Arbor Rd.

Precinct 2 and 3

First Church of Christ
2395 S. High St.

Precinct 4

Lumen Christi
3483 Spring Arbor Rd.

Precinct 5 and 6

Fire Station #1
2121 Ferguson Rd.

Precinct 7 and 12

Summit Township Hall
2121 Ferguson Rd.

Precinct 8,10 and 11

Vandercook Lake School
1000 E. Golf Ave.

Precinct 9

City Fire Station
1705 Pringle St.

Voters wishing to obtain Absentee Ballots must submit their request in writing, by letter or by filling out an application, prior to each election as Michigan Election Law requires.

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From the Treasurer's Office – Property tax and water & sewer bills may be paid at Citizens Bank branch offices at 2229 Fourth Street, 4515 Francis Street and 1514 West Morrell Street or at the Township offices at 2121 Ferguson Road. These bills may also be paid electronically. Enrollment instructions are on the back of your property tax bill or you may call 788-4113, ext 231 if you need assistance.

From the Building Official's Office – Construction activity continues to be significantly below prior years and the Building Inspector's oversight of Township facilities maintenance and modification responsibilities provides excellent expertise and management of these buildings while helping with the fixed costs of the department. Remember, the installation of any fence requires a permit and inspection for compliance with regulations.

From the Fire Chief – Though we haven't had much snow yet this year, keeping a fire hydrant located on your property shoveled out will help reduce the time it takes to set up for firefighting operations. If there is a fire in your home or neighborhood, time is of the essence for saving lives and property. Some other things to keep in mind – check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors every month and practice your emergency escape plan. If you plan to do any burning, please call the fire department at 788-4115 to see what is permissible and to obtain a permit.

From the Department of Public Works – We want to remind you that, effective April 1st, residential sewer rates will be increasing by \$2/month. Commercial sewer rates will be increasing proportionally. This is the last step in a five year program approved by the Township Board of Trustees in 2006. We plan to conduct a study of water service rates this year as they have not been adjusted since 1996. In an effort to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible in the future, we also wish to remind you that sump pumps are not allowed to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. This practice results in ground water being treated as waste water and an unnecessary cost for this treatment.

2009 Accomplishments – We were very fortunate to have accomplished a number of significant projects during this past year. Among them are:

- Completion of the Vandercook Lake Community Center (formerly Fire Station #3) renovation in cooperation with Jackson Community Ambulance (JCA) and the Vandercook Lake Lions Club. This has significantly improved the facility, providing a 24 hour fixed base of operation for JCA and was accomplished at no cost to the Township.
- Installation and connection of sewer main to Jackson Community College and the installation of an emergency bypass for lift station #1, state funded installation of water service and well abandonment for 53 residents in the "Teen" Streets area of the Township and the utilization of community service groups to paint more than 1400 fire hydrants.
- Continuing contracts with the Jackson County Sheriff for police services, Jackson Transportation Authority for fuel purchasing, Leoni Township for sewer can maintenance and repair and Napoleon Township for building inspection services provides economies to all involved parties.
- The Zoning Ordinance was amended to address Wind Energy Systems. Regulations cover setbacks from property lines, height, noise, size of lots where units may be located and compliance with building and electrical codes. Summit Township was the first unit of government in Jackson County to address this emerging technology.
- Adopted a revised Flood Plain Ordinance to comply with recent changes in State and Federal regulations and incorporating revised Flood Plain Maps which will become effective in May.
- The completion of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification survey for the purpose of rating the structural fire suppression delivery system has resulted in a split class rating improving major portions of the Township. The end result is a reduction of commercial/industrial fire insurance rates in those areas.
- Both the Assessing and Zoning Departments have been involved with the ongoing LUCA Program of the US Census Bureau. This program allows the Township to participate in the verification of addresses including additions and deletions. Activity will continue through various stages until the actual census count in April of 2010. Updated census information is available on the Township website (summittwp.com).