

TOWNSHIP OF SUMMIT

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

2011 Newsletter

From the Supervisor's Office – We're continuing to take advantage of the annual Assessment Change Notice mailing to include some information on current events in your Township. Each of the major departments has included topics which may be of interest to you. I would also remind you that you can access information on 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 as well as a complete searchable listing of all Township ordinances and more. Take a look.

First, I would like to thank you for your support of the police/fire millage which voters overwhelmingly approved last August. As you know approval of this millage enabled the Township to avoid any reductions in these vital services. No doubt you're also aware of the circumstances in the City of Jackson. It's important that you know we are monitoring this closely and will take any necessary steps to be certain that the millage you approved is not used to subsidize these services in the City.

Voters turned down a request for .25 mills to support and expand public transportation services in the Township. The Jackson Transit Authority is reviewing the services provided to us and as yet has not implemented any reductions. However, this could happen in the future.

During this past year we created a Recycling Committee to assist with oversight, evaluate operations and make recommendations for improvement of the recycling center. In addition to periodic cleanup efforts the Committee also conducted a survey of the people who use the site. In the near future we will review these findings and consider recommendations from the Committee. We would again ask that 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. If you have any interest in assisting the Committee please let us know.

Medical marijuana has precipitated a lot of interest recently. The Board of Trustees, by resolution, imposed a moratorium on the sale and distribution of medical marijuana and tasked the Planning Commission to develop a recommendation as to the appropriate zoning for this activity. We expect this to be forthcoming within the next few months.

From the Assessor's Office – The enclosed Assessment Change Notice shows information of interest for the 2011 property tax cycle. Your property taxes are based on two factors – the CPI multiplier and the millage rate. This year's Consumer Price Index (CPI) multiplier is 1.017. This multiplier times your 2010 taxable value is compared with your 2011 assessment. Whichever is less is the value used for your tax bill. The exception to this is if the property has transferred during 2010. If the property transferred, any benefit the previous owner had would be adjusted for the new owner of the property. Once again we expect that most residents will see a reduction in the taxable value of their property. The other factor needed for calculating the tax bill is the millage rate. Keep in mind that the millage has increased so taxes will be based on this new rate.

Starting this spring, the Assessing Department will begin conducting field work to verify data and update photographs of properties within the Township. Those conducting the field work will have Township issued identification with them. If you have any questions regarding this or any other property tax topic, please contact the Assessing Department at (517)788-4113, extension.233. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

From the Clerk's Office – Election of School Board members for voters in Vandercook Lake, East Jackson and Hanover-Horton school districts will be Tuesday, May 3, 2011. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All polling locations remain the same with the exception of **Precinct 9** which will change for the **May school elections only** (updated Voter ID cards will be mailed to those in East Jackson school district prior to the May election).

Precinct 9

East Jackson High School

1566 N. Sutton Road

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. Also, please check our website - www.summittwp.com 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.

From the Building Official's Office – The State of Michigan has adopted the 2009 version of the Building Code effective February 9th, 2011. Among the many changes is a new “Energy Code”. This specifies higher insulation levels in new construction – whether a new structure, a building addition or remodeling. Other changes include a requirement for a Carbon Monoxide Detector near sleeping rooms, a Programmable Thermostat, Arc Fault Protectors in bedrooms and more. If you have any questions about a project you are considering, please contact your Building Inspection Department (517)788-4113, extension 257.

From the Fire Chief – We would like to remind you of the critical need for keeping a fire hydrant located on your property cleared of snow. This 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 Sheriffs Detachment - If you're going to be away for an extended 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. 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 and verify the requesting party. Any reluctance to provide this information would be a strong indication the request is fraudulent.

From the Department of Public Works – There will not be a sewer rate increase this year, however we continue to manage our costs very closely and conduct periodic rate studies to determine the need for an increase in sewer and/or water rates in the future. We also wish to remind residents that sump pumps are not permitted to be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. This practice results in ground water using up needed sewer capacity along with causing unnecessary treatment cost.

2011 Accomplishments – We were very fortunate to have accomplished a number of significant projects during this past year. Among them are:

- Introduction of the electronic poll book at polling locations has been a successful transition into our future age of technology. The laptops were provided by a grant through the Help America Vote Act at no cost to our residents and over 40 of our election officials were trained and successfully implemented their use during the past two elections.
- Two significant road projects were completed by the Jackson County Road Commission in the Township this year. The remainder of East McDevitt Road was resurfaced and configured for bike lanes. Bike lanes were recommended by the Township Recreation Planning Committee and are consistent with our Recreation Plan. Spring Arbor Road was resurfaced from Warren Avenue to Robinson Road along with new traffic signals at Robinson Road.
- The Water & Sewer Department continues to invest in the upkeep and maintenance of infrastructure to assure the integrity and reliability of these systems. This year the water tower on Robinson Road was repaired and painted inside and out and new roofs were constructed on three water pumping stations.
- 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.