

TOWNSHIP OF SUMMIT

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

2014 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.

"Fix our roads!" That's one of the most frequently voiced concerns we hear. Just so you know, the County is responsible for all roads in our Township but the limited resources available for major repair and resurfacing are barely sufficient to maintain our primary roads. Unfortunately, other than basic pothole repair there aren't enough resources to address our neighborhood streets. The County is developing a policy that will help, but will only cover a portion of the cost for work needing to be done. If you are interested in having your neighborhood streets repaired/resurfaced the funding needed could be obtained by creating a "Special Assessment District". This would require a petition of at least 51% of benefiting property owners be submitted to the Township Board and if approved the costs paid by those residents in the Special Assessment District. Please contact our Assessor's office for details regarding this process.

From the Clerk's Office – At this time there are three (3) elections which will affect Summit Township residents in 2014:

- May 6th – East Jackson School District for approximately 30 Summit Township registered voters that reside in the East Jackson School District. These voters will receive notice directing them to the Polling location for this election only.
- August 5th – Primary Election for a variety of State/Local issues and candidates
- November 4th – General Gubernatorial Election

The State Bureau of Elections will be implementing a number of changes this year. Among the more significant:

- Those wishing to appear on the August ballot for Precinct Delegate must now register with the County Clerk instead of the Township Clerk.
- Photo ID will be required to obtain an Absentee Voter ballot from the Township Clerk's office.

From the Treasurer's Office – Property tax and water & sewer bills may be paid at First Merit 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 Assessor's Office – The enclosed Assessment Change Notice shows information of interest for the 2014 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 1.016. This multiplier times your 2013 taxable value is compared with your 2014 assessment. Whichever is less is the value used for your tax bill. The exception to this is if the property has transferred during 2013. 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.

This year the Assessing Department will continue 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 Building Official's Office – If you have any questions about a construction/remodeling project you are considering, please contact your Building Inspection Department (517)788-4113, extension 257.

From the Department of Public Works – We continue to manage our costs very effectively which means that again this year there will not be a sewer or water rate increase. Periodic studies are routinely done to determine the need for rate increases and we will notify you well in advance should this become necessary. 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.

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From the Fire Chief – Due to the heavy snowfall this year it is particularly important to keep a fire hydrant located on your property clear. 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<<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 and 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.

With this harsh winter, remember to leave more space between you and the car in front of you and be cautious when pulling onto streets or intersections where snow piles are obstructing the view.

2013 Activities/2014 Plans –

- Technological upgrades accomplished this year include equipping meeting/training/conference rooms with multimedia capabilities to take advantage of the many advances in electronic communication. In addition, the Township website has been completely overhauled and updated. Take a look – www.summittwp.com.
- Acquisition of an easement along the Southeast side of Horton for the development of a non-motorized pathway between Weatherwax and Park Roads. A joint project with the City of Jackson to connect this to the Inter-City Trail is being explored.
- The installation of a replacement water main along the Southeast side of Horton Road is underway in advance of the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT) rebuilding/resurfacing project scheduled to begin this spring. In addition, Weatherwax Road will also be rebuilt. Watch for detours while this work is being done.
- Two new fire trucks have been approved and ordered with delivery anticipated May 1st and October 1st. After a thorough review, the combined Rescue/Pumper concept was determined to meet the needs of our citizens most effectively. This will also enable the Township to reduce from a total fleet of 5 trucks to 3.
- New contracts with Napoleon Township providing water system operations, Columbia Township providing Assessor Consulting Services and Grass Lake Township providing Building Official/Inspection Services have been implemented. This is in addition to the continuing contracts Summit Township has with the Jackson County Sheriff for police services, Jackson Transportation Authority for fuel purchasing and Napoleon Township for building official/inspection services. These relationships continue to provide economies to all involved parties. We are always looking for opportunities to improve our efficiency and to add value for you.
- Zoning/Planning activity has increased significantly this past year with the most notable project being the new Klavon's restaurant at East McDevitt Road and Oak Lane scheduled to open late this spring.