

# WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP NEWS

Fall/Winter 2010 - 2011

1080 W. Midland Road

Auburn, MI 48611

(989) 662-4408

[www.williamstwp.com](http://www.williamstwp.com)

## TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday- 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Thanksgiving-November 25 & 26

Christmas-December 23 & 24

New Year's -December 30 & December 31

Martin Luther King's Birthday- January 17

President's Day-February 21

Good Friday-April 22

Memorial Day-May 27 & May 30

## Township Meeting Schedules

All meetings are held in the Township Board Room at 7:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

## Board of Trustees

November 9	December 14
December 28 (4 pm)	January 11
February 8	March 8
April 12	May 10

## Planning Commission

December 6	January 4
February 7	March 7
April 4	May 2

The Public is invited and encouraged to attend all Township meetings.

## PASSPORT DAY

Saturday-January 15, 2011

Township Office

9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

## Questions?

You may now e-mail your questions to the appropriate Township department.

Supervisor, Paul Wasek – [Supervisor@williamstwp.com](mailto:Supervisor@williamstwp.com)

Treasurer, Connie Hoverman– [Treasurer@williamstwp.com](mailto:Treasurer@williamstwp.com)

Clerk, Amy Charney – [Clerk@williamstwp.com](mailto:Clerk@williamstwp.com)

Zoning Administrator/Electrical Inspector –

[Bklemish@williamstwp.com](mailto:Bklemish@williamstwp.com)

Building Inspector – [LHouck@williamstwp.com](mailto:LHouck@williamstwp.com)

*Please be sure to include your name and phone number because all questions may not be able to be answered by email.*

## Join our Seniors!

Bingo every Monday & Wednesday. Cards, games and puzzles every Tuesday & Thursday. (looking for euchre players!) Indoor walking Monday through Thursday. Free Blood Pressure Clinic on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month! Lunch is served daily at 12:00 noon.

**Suggested donation is \$2.50 per meal.**

**Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.**

Call Mary at 662-6521.

## Coming Events

November 11 – Closed Veterans Day.

November 18 – Magic Show

December 7 – Christmas Sing-a-long with guitarist, Betty Sherzer.

December 14 – Catch the Holiday Spirit with Western H.S. Choir 11:00 A.M.

December 21 – Christmas Party, 9:30 A.M.

January 20 – Township Update with Supervisor, Paul Wasek

For more information please visit us at :

[www.williamstwp.com/seniordining.asp](http://www.williamstwp.com/seniordining.asp) .

## 1100 W. Midland Rd. Property



This past summer the Williams Township Board of Trustees approved the purchase of 1 ½ acres, directly west and adjacent to the Auburn-Williams Fire Department building and the Township Park. There are currently no specific plans for this land except to be ready for potential expansion as our Township continues to grow in population. A pole building currently stands on the property and will be used as additional storage, if needed. The area will be cleared of excess brush and weeds and will be maintained by our DPW staff.

## Williams Township Park Reservations

Beginning December 1, 2010 and continuing through January 12, 2011 (prior to 10:00 a.m.), a sign up sheet will be available in the township office for anyone wishing to reserve a park rental date during 2011. Only one date per person is allowed. On January 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., a random drawing will take place in the township hall of **all persons present as listed on the sign up sheet**. The first person's name drawn may choose any available date and so on until all names have been drawn.

### **REMEMBER YOU MUST BE PRESENT ON JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> AT 10:00 A.M. FOR THE DRAWING.**

The rental fee is \$100.00 and includes use of the park pavilion and one ball diamond (remainder of the park is open to the public). For additional information, contact the treasurer's office at (989) 662-4091.

## 2010 Winter Property Taxes

You should receive your 2010 Winter Property Tax bill by December 1, 2010. If you do not receive your property tax bill by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> or shortly thereafter, please call the Treasurer's office (662-4091) as soon as possible so that we can get a copy to you in a timely manner.

Your winter property taxes are due and payable without penalty between December 1, 2010 and February 14, 2011.

### **WINTER PROPERTY TAXES PAID AFTER FEBRUARY 14, 2011 WILL BE CHARGED A 3% LATE PENALTY. SUMMER 2010 PROPERTY TAXES PAID AFTER FEBRUARY 14, 2011 WILL BE CHARGED A 6% INTEREST PENTALTY AND A 3% LATE PENALTY.**

Property tax payments may be made by mail, by using our drop box, or in person at the Treasurer's office. When paying by mail or when using the drop box, please include the bottom portion of your tax bill along with your check so that proper credit can be given.

Our office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (please see top of tax bill for our Holiday closing information). Our drop box is located in the front of our office just east of the front office door. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is very secure! Please do not be afraid to make use of it. Please do not mail or drop cash. If you would like a stamped "Paid" receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope, otherwise your cancelled check is your receipt.

If you have deferred your summer property taxes, they are also due at this time. If you have not yet paid your summer tax bill you can still pay it at the township Treasurer's office. All property tax bills not paid by February 28, 2011 will be turned over to the county treasurer's office as delinquent.

## Moving and haven't sold your home?

It's not uncommon for people to move to a new home without having sold their previous home. One result of this circumstance would be the loss of the Principal Residence Exemption for the home they left. This would increase their

property tax bill by 18 mills because normally you can only claim that exemption for one home at a time. Two years ago, the State of Michigan passed legislation that would allow a conditional exemption for as long as three years.

There are certain "conditions" that must be met in order to be eligible. Basically, your new home must be in the State of Michigan and your previous home must be up for sale and not be rented. If you or someone you know may be in this situation, contact the township assessor either at the township office 662-4091 or his home office 662-6232 and request the form for "Conditional Rescinding".

## Taxable & Assessed Values

The amount of taxes we pay is determined by multiplying the millage rate by the Taxable Value. While we have some say in the millage rate because we as a body of voters choose to approve or disapprove increases or renewals, the Taxable Value is primarily changed by the Consumers Price Index. The CPI is computed by using the Federal Government monthly rendering of the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Last year was the first time in fifteen years where the CPI actually decreased slightly. This year, however, effects of inflation are starting to show and the CPI was determined to be 1.7 %. That means that a property with a taxable value of \$40,000 would increase by 1.7% to \$40,680. The increase of \$680 in taxable value would increase your actual taxes by approximately \$21.

We are now in a position that the Assessed Value can also affect the Taxable Value.

If the Assessed Value falls below the Taxable Value, the Taxable Value also falls to that level. We will be seeing an increase in assessed values for farm ground and probably a small decrease in residential properties. The exact increase or decrease has not been determined at the time of this printing.

## 2010 PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

### Summer Tax Authority Millage Rates

Bay County Operating	5.7257
Delta College	2.0427
Bay-Arenac ISD Operating	0.1891
Bay-Arenac Special Ed	2.8403
Bay-Arenac Career Center	1.8939
State Education Tax	6.0000
2006 Bay City School Debt	<u>2.8000</u>
<b>PRE Total</b>	<b>21.4917</b>
School Operating Millage	<u>18.0000</u>
<b>Non-PRE Total</b>	<b>39.4917</b>

### Winter Tax Authority Millage Rate

Bay County Library Improvement	0.9953
Bay County Library Operating	1.0000
Bay County Mosquito	0.4500
Bay County Senior Citizen	0.5000
Bay County Central Dispatch	0.7000
Bay County Medical Care Facility	0.5000
Bay County Historical	0.0952
Bay County Gypsy Moth	0.1000
Bay Metro Transit	0.7476
Williams Township Operating	<u>4.4000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.4881</b>

**(Plus Special Assessments)**

## Need A Passport?

U.S. citizens may apply for their passport books and passport cards during regular business hours (and after hours by appointment) at the township clerk's office. A certified birth certificate with a raised seal, not a copy, and two pictures must be presented when making application. Normal processing by the U.S. Department of State takes approximately four to six weeks; two week rush processing is available for an extra \$60.

All U.S. Citizens must now present a valid U.S. Passport Book or U.S. Passport Card when entering the United States from a foreign country, **including** Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The standard passport fee is \$135 for adults and \$105 for children younger than 16. The standard fee for the passport card is \$55 for adults and \$40 for children younger than 16. The passport card was designed for entry at land and sea ports-of-entry and is **not** valid for international travel by air. We have application forms, renewal forms and numerous other miscellaneous forms that may be required depending on the applicant's particular situation.

A fill in the blank application is also available online at [www.williamstwp.com](http://www.williamstwp.com), the township website.

For questions or additional information, please contact Amy or Pam at 662-4408.

## Dog and Cat Licenses

If your dog or cat is licensed with Bay County, the county will send you the form for your pet's new license in the mail a month before the old license expires, which is also when your pet needs their rabies vaccination.

Licenses may be purchased at most veterinary offices, at any township office, Bay County Animal Control, or the Bay County Treasurer's office.

Please bring the form sent by the county and proof of the rabies vaccination. Licenses for a new animal may be purchased by providing proof of rabies vaccination and if your animal was spayed or neutered, proof will also be required.

## Waste Management Trash, Recycling, & Yard Waste Collection

Residents are strongly encouraged to place all trash in bags, whether in or out of trash cans (including "Green Monsters"). This will help assure that the trash ends up where it belongs and not blowing around the township, especially on windy collection days.

Waste Management picks up yard waste weekly on your normal trash collection day through the end of November. Final yard waste collection for 2010 will occur on November 23rd and 24th.

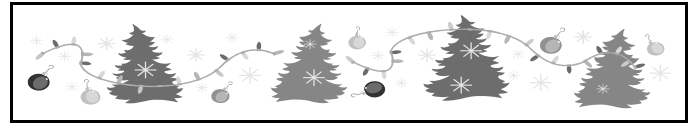
More information regarding trash, recycling, and yard waste services provided by Waste Management in Williams Township is available at [www.williamstwp.com/trash.asp](http://www.williamstwp.com/trash.asp).

## Hazardous Materials

For proper disposal of all hazardous materials, contact the Bay County Health Department at 895-4006. Information is also provided in the Health Department-Environmental Health department of the Bay County website at [www.baycounty-mi.gov](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov).

## Christmas Tree Pick-Up

Put your live Christmas tree out by the road and it will be picked up on your regular trash collection day during the first two weeks in January. Trees must be free of garland and tinsel and can not be in a bag of any kind. Regular yard waste will not be picked up during this time.



## Roadside Brush Chipping

Williams Township continues to offer a roadside residential brush chipping service. Simply call the office to have your brush picked up. The township chipping service is offered for residents that have trimmed their trees themselves, or to clean up brush after a storm, as an alternative to open burning. The township's chipping policy is available at [www.williamstwp.com/chipping.asp](http://www.williamstwp.com/chipping.asp) or by contacting the township office.

## Fire Hydrant Service Completed

Township employees Jim Carlin and Dale Dzurka recently serviced and flushed all of the Township's nearly 400 fire hydrants. All hydrants are checked for proper operation, flushed, and pumped out by Jim and Dale. Assuring proper fire hydrant operation is a very important factor in maintaining Williams Township's excellent Public Protection Classification rating from the Insurance Services Office. Your help in keeping the area clear around a fire hydrant on or near your property is greatly appreciated; it can save the Fire Department precious time in an emergency.

## Ordinance Violations

In 2010 Williams Township adopted an ordinance to control and regulate the growth of noxious weeds in our township. Property owners will be responsible for the removal of certain weeds, grasses and other vegetation in excess of 10" in height or in spread. Copies of this adopted ordinance are available on our website or you can pick one up at the township office.

If you would like to report a violation of any of the Township Ordinances, you may do so by filing a written complaint with the Township Zoning Administrator. Complaint forms are available in the Township Office. The Zoning Administrator will investigate the complaint and take an appropriate course of action.

## **Township Boards and Committees**

We have many residents and volunteers in Williams Township that make it a better place for all of us. It's very easy to take the fine job that these people do for granted. While some of the following positions do receive modest compensation, it doesn't begin to make up for the time and effort expended in their efforts to serve the township. These folks serve the township as members of the Board of Review, Building Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Auburn/Williams Fire Department, Auburn/Williams Fire District Administrative Board, and Auburn/Williams Recreation Association. To the many folks that serve on these boards and committees, thank you for your dedication to Williams Township.

One of the Township Supervisor's responsibilities is to recommend residents to the Township Board for appointment to the above boards as vacancies occur.

We currently have an opening for an Alternate Board of Review member. Please contact the Supervisor if you have an interest in serving our township as a member of one of these boards or committees. Applications are available at the Township Office, or at [www.williamstwp.com](http://www.williamstwp.com) in the Supervisor section.

## **Open Burning**

Open burning is allowed in Williams Township by permit only. Two types of permits are available, an Open Burning Permit, and a Recreation Fire Pit Permit.

Open Burning Permits, good for a maximum of 4 days only, may be obtained by calling the township office with the dates you plan to burn, name, address, location of burning, and phone number. A person that open burns must also comply with the Williams Township Burning Ordinance and Guidelines.

Recreational Fire Pits are allowed in Williams Township by permit only. Permits can be obtained for a \$10.00 fee by completing an application and location diagram, and receiving approval from the township Zoning Administrator. This type of permit is good for 5 years when approved and inspected.

Wood from trees and brush is the only material that may be burned with either type of permit. Burning with either permit cannot cause a nuisance or hazard to adjoining persons or property by reason of heat, flame, fly-ash, sparks, smoke, or odor.

Unfortunately, the Fire Department is dispatched to nuisance open burning fires several times each year. The Township's Cost Recovery Ordinance does authorize the Fire Department to charge the property owner in the event they are dispatched to a nuisance open burning fire. Please obtain a permit and follow the Township's Burning Ordinance and Guidelines.

## **Road Improvement Project**

9 Mile Road, between Hotchkiss and Salzburg and between Townline 14 and Chip Road, is currently receiving major work. This road has been crushed and shaped with additional gravel applied. A double layer of Chip Seal will be applied in 2011, with a third layer of Chip Seal planned for 2012. Flajole Road, between Salzburg and Hotchkiss and between Wilder

and Wheeler, has been chipped and sealed and will receive its third and final layer of chip seal in 2011.

Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated during these road improvement projects.



## **Fire Safety Tips** **Fire Chief, Mike Snyder**

There's barely a chill in the air, but Fall is the time to have a professional inspect your furnace, fireplace and other heating appliances. It is also important to be prepared for problems that may arise with your home heating equipment. Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to help alert your family if any of your home heating equipment is releasing too much CO and putting your family in danger. Also, take a few minutes to make sure that all your home's smoke detectors have fresh batteries and are tested. Each year, the Auburn-Williams Fire Department responds to several emergency calls where the proper operation of Carbon Monoxide detectors and Smoke Detectors helped avert a tragedy by providing early warning of a home heating problem.

Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) highlight the additional fire risks that portable space heaters pose. In their home heating fire risk report (<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/heatingfull/pdf>), NFPA stresses that portable kerosene and electric space heaters require special attention to ensure their safe operation. Key safety considerations include:

1. Only used portable space heaters approved by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Labs (UL).
2. Keep anything that can burn (such as furniture, curtains, and paper) at least 3 feet away from portable space heaters.
3. Turn off portable space heaters when leaving a room or going to bed.
4. Store fuel for kerosene heaters outside of your home.
5. Ensure that the home has a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm to provide early warning of portable heater combustion problems.

The non-profit Home Safety Council has an extensive number of home fire safety resources and checklists for a variety of hazards, including home heating. Additional information may be found at their website: [http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/MySafeHome/msh\\_heating\\_w001.asp](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/MySafeHome/msh_heating_w001.asp)

Whether you plan to use a wood burning stove or enjoy the warmth of a cozy fireplace, fuel burning appliances and portable space heaters require careful use and proper maintenance to prevent home fires and CO poisoning.

You can find more helpful information at:

<http://www.guardianinsurance.com.au/ArticleLibrary/Ultimate-Guide-Fire-Safe>

## 2011 Williams Township Recycling Dates

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 H
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 X	12 X	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25 X	26 X	27	28	29

February						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28					

March						
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27	28	29	30	31		

April						
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May						
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29	30 H	31				

June						
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28	29	30	31			

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November						
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20	21	22	23	24 H	25	26
27	28	29 X	30 X			

December						
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11	12	13 X	14 X	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 H	26	27 X	28 X	29	30	31

**Williams Charter Township**  
**1080 W. Midland Road**  
**Auburn, MI 48611**  
**[www.williamstwp.com](http://www.williamstwp.com)**

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!!**