

# Bath Charter Township Newsletter



Fall 2012



## CONTACT US

**Township Offices**  
(517) 641-6728  
info@bathtownship.us

### Township Board of Trustees

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pclark@bathtownship.us

**Kathleen McQueen**, Clerk  
kmcqueen@bathtownship.us

**Jeff Garrity**, Treasurer  
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**Rick Curtis**, Trustee  
rcurtis@bathtownship.us

**Ryan Fewins-Bliss**, Trustee  
rfewins-bliss@bathtownship.us

**Walter Pett**, Trustee  
wpett@bathtownship.us

**Leon Puttler**, Trustee  
lputtler@bathtownship.us

**Troy Feltman**, Superintendent  
tfeltman@bathtownship.us

**Fire (non-emergency)**  
(517) 641-7811

**Police (non-emergency)**  
(517) 641-6271

**Burn Permits**  
(517) 641-6619

**Ordinance Compliance**  
(517) 641-5165 **(New!)**

**Parks & Recreation**  
(517) 641-5167 **(New!)**

**Parks & Recreation Cancellations**  
(517) 641-5168 **(New!)**

**Senior Center**  
(517) 641-5169 **(New!)**

[www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us)

## November 6: General Election Information

**November 3rd:** Clerk's Office open, Saturday from 9 am—2 pm (Election Business Only) and last day to mail Absentee Ballots.

**November 5th:** Absentee voting in the Clerk's Office from 8 am—4 pm.

**November 6th:** Election Day—Polls are open 7 am—8 pm.

**Absentee Ballots:** Available in the Clerk's Office approximately 45 days prior to the Election. Call or stop by the Township Offices and we can assist you in getting a ballot.

Your Voter Identification Card shows which precinct you are registered to vote in and where that precinct is located. At the polls, you will be asked to provide picture identification (such as a Driver's License) or to sign an Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture Identification.

As always, please feel free to contact the Clerk's Office at (517) 641-6728 with any questions about upcoming elections or the voting process.

## Polling Locations

**Voting Precinct #4: Chapel Hill Church:** We have had several questions regarding Voting Precinct #4, Chapel Hill Church, located at 7501 Coleman Road in Bath Township. Even though the Church is closed, this location WILL be used for voting for the November 6 General Election.

- **Precinct #1:** Bath Township Hall, 14480 Webster Road
- **Precinct #2:** Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road
- **Precinct #3:** Bath Middle School, 13675 Webster Road
- **Precinct #4:** Chapel Hill Church, 7501 Coleman Road
- **Precinct #5:** Bath Fire Station, 5633 Drumheller Road

## **Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Recommendation Presented to Board**

The Superintendent's Office has submitted a recommended budget to the Bath Charter Township Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 2013. Essentially, the budget represents a "status quo" financial outline regarding expenditures. The discretionary allocations proposed in the recommendation are focused on the following major issues facing our community:

### **Funding Local Road Improvements**

Over the course of the past two decades, the State of Michigan has failed to keep pace with the changing needs of our transportation system. There are numerous reasons for this situation, and only relevant to this discussion is that the burden to maintain quality roads in our community has increasingly fallen to the Township. The Clinton County Road Commission is unable to provide additional resources to our community to address the funding shortfall. The Township is currently analyzing a wide array of solutions to this vital infrastructure issue.

### **Expanding High-Speed Internet Access**

Access to quality high-speed (broadband) internet access is an expectation in today's technologically savvy world. Unfortunately, there are a number of areas within our community that fall short of meeting this expectation. To promote continued growth and meet the basic needs of our residents and businesses, the Township must foster the development of new investment in high-speed internet infrastructure throughout the community. This can be accomplished by bringing new competitors into the marketplace.

### **Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Reinvestment**

A significant portion of the Township's sanitary sewer infrastructure is aging and annual maintenance costs can be anticipated to increase accordingly. In addition, there are a number of critical problem areas which are going to require a large capital outlay to correct. The Sanitary Sewer Master Plan assists the Township in establishing a project priority list. With the completion of the original sewer bonds issued in the 1970s, the Township will have an opportunity to address another "significant" problem area without having to raise rates. However, the bottom-line is that there is going to be a dramatic increase in sanitary sewer investment over the next several years, both in the collection system (pipes, lift stations, etc.) and the sanitary sewer plant located in DeWitt Township.

**Fiscal Year 2013 continued to page 4...**

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### **Bath Farmers Market Moves Indoors Thursday, November 1**

While most farmers markets have closed for the year, beginning Thursday, November 1 the popular Bath Farmers Market will continue to offer a wide range of local foods through the cold months every week from 3 to 6 pm at the Bath Community Center. The Center is located at 5959 Park Lake Road, just east of Webster Road. The Bath Farmers Market, now in its third year, has become a Thursday habit for many and season-extending technology allows local farmers to continue to harvest fresh produce year-round. You'll also continue to find plenty of ready-to-eat locally made

foods at the market, and, as always, live music to enjoy as you shop.

**For more information, please call (517) 712-2171 or e-mail [farmersmarket@bathtownship.us](mailto:farmersmarket@bathtownship.us).**

## Bath Township Senior Center: Connecting with Local Farmers

The Bath Township Senior Center is connecting with local farmers to provide our members with healthy, high-quality, locally grown produce. We have purchased tomatoes for goulash, green peppers and tomatoes for stuffed green peppers, as well as carrots and potatoes for homemade potato soup from Ten Hens Farm, owned by Adam and Dru Montri. In addition, we have purchased fresh beets that we used for lunch and we will be eating the leftover beet tops very soon! We have also purchased tomatoes and fresh sweet corn from Andy T's in St. Johns, and fresh apples for apple crisp from Horrocks in Lansing. Both companies purchase produce from Michigan farmers.



### Recycling Center to be Established

The Senior Center is planning to establish a small recycling center in honor of former Township Supervisor Tom Schneider. We would welcome any suggestions, donations or volunteer assistance to make this happen by the end of November.

**Please contact Dana Conley at the Bath Township Senior Center's NEW direct line at (517) 641-5169 or [dconley@bathtownship.us](mailto:dconley@bathtownship.us).**

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## Your Local 2-1-1 Service

Every hour of every day, hundreds of people need essential human services - they are looking for training, employment, food pantries, help for an aging parent, addiction prevention programs for their teenage children, affordable housing options, support groups and ways of becoming part of their community. 2-1-1 allows people to give help and to get help.



2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that, where available, connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. While services that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community, 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis. For example, 2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of services:

**Basic Human Needs Resources:** Food banks, clothing, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance

**Physical & Mental Health Resources:** Medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, rehabilitation, health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, children's health insurance programs

**Employment Support:** Unemployment benefits, financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs

**Support for Older Americans & Persons with Disabilities:** Home health care, adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, transportation, homemaker services

**Support for Children, Youth & Families:** Quality childcare, Success by 6, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services

**For assistance, dial 2-1-1, or learn more about 2-1-1 by visiting [www.211us.org](http://www.211us.org).**

## **Fiscal Year 2013 continued from page 2...**

### **Expanding the Township's On-Line Services**

The utilization of technology for operational efficiency and access to services is a primary focal point of the Township's business plan. The organization has upgraded its accounting software, implemented on-line payment for a limited number of key services and continues to look for ways to apply the current technological assets in a manner that gives staff more effective tools to carry out their job duties, as well as provide citizens with 24/7 access to a wider array of services.

### **Development of Alternative Citizen Communication Strategies**

With the advancement of social media and other on-line communication tools, the Township needs to ensure that our communication assets are taking full advantage of the technological advancements realized over the past several years. Just as technology has opened the door to on-line services, it also affords the Township the opportunity to communicate with residents and other customers in a cost-effective and timely fashion as never before. Tremendous strides have been made with the Township's website and utilization of Facebook. But still, more needs to be done to reach out to the people that we serve. Staff is currently studying new tools like electronic newsletters, blogs, etc. to accomplish this goal.

### **Community Development Strategy**

Comprehensive planning approaches such as Smart Growth, community assessments involve planning, designing, developing and revitalizing communities to promote a sense of place, preserve natural and cultural resources, and equitably distribute the costs and benefits of development. These principles enhance social, economic & ecological integrity over the short and long-term, and improve the quality of life by expanding the range of transportation, employment, and housing choices in a fiscally responsible manner. Compact, pedestrian oriented, mixed use development patterns, epitomize the latest in planning practices and achieve sustainable communities.

### **Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update**

Attractive, appealing, and well planned communities improve the quality of life for visitors and residents, as well as attract economic investment. The Township's Land Use Plan calls for the preservation of the rural character of the community by balancing development along the I-69 corridor with preservation of the rural character of the northern part of the Township. The second target is to create a "sense of place" by focusing mixed-use development in a Township Center around the historic downtown Bath and the Webster Road corridor.

The Township invites all interested parties to please go to our website, [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us), to review the recommended budget document. If you have further questions regarding the budget, please feel free to contact Troy Feltman, Superintendent, at (517) 641-6728 or [tfeltman@bathtownship.us](mailto:tfeltman@bathtownship.us).



## **New Direct Phone Numbers for Township Departments**

### **Ordinance Compliance**

(517) 641-5165

### **Parks & Recreation**

(517) 641-5167

### **Parks & Recreation Cancellations**

(517) 641-5168

### **Senior Center**

(517) 641-5169





## Bath Police Neighborhood Watch Alert

Sign up to receive a weekly email alert from the Bath Charter Township Police Department. **Send your name and email address to Kristi Colby at [kcolby@bathtownship.us](mailto:kcolby@bathtownship.us) or call (517) 641-6271.**

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## Park Lake Water Level Control Project Proceeds

The recommended water level and special assessment district for Park Lake was established through an order by Circuit Court Judge Tahvonen on August 21, 2012. The Court ordered that the water level be set at 844.6 feet (historically, this elevation would be recognized as 845 feet above sea level). The special assessment district is one of three funding components for any future maintenance project. The Township and County were also ordered to pay a share of the costs in an “at large” capacity.

Essentially, the hearing consisted of rather lengthy testimony from Shawn Middleton of Spicer Group and a couple of statements from property owners on Park Lake. Mr. Middleton’s presentation outlined the process and work that had led up to the hearing. He, through the County’s attorney, presented the Court with the recommendations for the water level and special assessment district.

The hearing was attended by a fair number of Township residents. Judge Tahvonen outlined the testimony that he had heard up to that point and welcomed the audience members to approach the Court and make statements. Again, two people entered testimony on the special assessment district. They both felt that the district was too small and did not incorporate the non-resident use of the lake. In the end, the Judge reasoned that the approach presented by the County Drain Commission was fair and equitable in the treatment of the “issues of fact.”

The Drain Commissioner, Township representatives and Spicer Group are continuing to meet to outline our next steps in the process of establishing a project for the maintenance of the new lake level. As the process moves forward, a pivotal player in the defining of a project will be the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and permitting requirements. Although the Judge set the lake level, it will be up to the State and their permit requirements as to how that project will manifest itself on the ground. In addition, the group is working to identify any easements that may be required to undertake some of the work defined in the report.



The “Park Lake Water Level Control Study” is available online at the Township’s website, [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us), or there is a hard copy at the Township Offices for public review as well. **If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Drain Commissioner’s Office at (517) 224-5160 or the Township at (517) 641-6728.**

# Parks & Recreation: Fall 2012 Programs

[www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us)

To obtain further information or to print registration forms, visit our website at [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us) – Departments – Parks & Recreation – Current Programs.

**Adult Volleyball** is being held on Thursday evenings from 7-9:30 pm in the Bath Middle School gym for adults ages 21+. This program runs through December 13, 2012. This event is free; however you must register on your first visit. All skill levels are welcome. Join Coordinator Randy Erbskorn for a night of volleyball fun.

Fall In Love With Birding – **Birding 101** is a program being taught at the Bengel Wildlife Center, in partnership with the Michigan Audubon Society. In the morning, participants will learn about the use of different optics and field guides used to identify birds, as well as new online sources for bird identification. In the afternoon, enjoy a stroll on the beautifully groomed trails of the Center, and using tools learned in the morning session, identify birds by sight. This program will take place on Saturday, October 27 from 9 am–4 pm. The fee to participate is \$30 for Audubon members and \$45 for non-members. A box lunch is provided. Space is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Binoculars will be available for use by those without.

**Buck Pole** provides an opportunity for area hunters to display their trophies on our Buck Pole, November 15 from 6-8:30 pm at the Bath Township Senior Center (behind Township Offices). The Pole will close at 8:15 pm and no deer will be hung after that time. Refreshments will be provided. Door prizes will be awarded, as well as a gun to the adult hanging the largest buck (inside spread + # of points), and a free shoulder mount to the youth winner (17 & under). This event is free and open to the public. If your family or business would like to volunteer or donate to this event, please contact Becky Goodwin. Specialized Deer Processing is sponsoring the youth competition. Take a deer to Specialized Deer Processing for processing, pay \$75 for the basic cut and receive a free pail of Lucky Buck. The adult pole is sponsored by Spagnuolo's Party Store & Deli, along with Mid-Michigan Guns and Gear, both of Bath.

The **Craft, Trinket, Bake Sale** will be held on October 20 from 9 am-3 pm at the Bath Community Center.

**Crafting** will begin again on October 23, Tuesday evenings at the Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road in Bath from 5:30-8 pm for a fee of \$3/night. Simply bring a craft to work on.

**Hook, Line & Sinker** provides Bath residents with the ability to check out fishing equipment for up to three days. Visit the Bath Township Offices to obtain a fishing pole and small tackle box with completion of the registration form.

**Music Jam** is held the third Wednesday of each month at the BCC from 6:30-9 pm. Free and open to the public, join us by providing your musical talents, or simply sit back and join in the listening fun.

Registration for boys and girls **Recreation Basketball (grades 2-6)** will be held from October 1-30 for a fee of \$45. Games will be played on Saturdays in the Bath Elementary School gym during the months of January and February. The number of registrations will determine if all kids will practice together and split up differently each Saturday, or if teams will be identified and youth will remain on the same team throughout the program. Practice days and time will be determined by the coaches. Parent volunteer coaches are needed for this program; please consider being a volunteer coach and sign up when registering your child.

**Scrap Around The Clock** will be held on November 3, 4, & 5, 2012 at the BCC for a fee of \$25. Set up begins on Friday at 6 pm and the program ends on Sunday at 3 pm. Bring projects to work on while in the company of others who enjoy scrapbooking. To register, contact Program Coordinator Beth Botke at 204-3752.

**Scrapbooking** is held on the third Friday of each month from 6-midnight for a fee of \$3/night or \$10/4 nights at the BCC. Bring a project to work on while in the company of others who love to scrapbook.

## Parks & Recreation Director Becky Goodwin

(517) 641-5167 or [rgoodwin@bathtownship.us](mailto:rgoodwin@bathtownship.us)

Open to the public: two, five week **Target Archery** classes will be offered for ages 9 and up from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the BCC. Session #1 will be held on Mondays, January 7, 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2012. Session #2 will be held on Mondays, February 11, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 2012. Registration runs from December 1-30, 2012 and is offered on a first come, first serve basis with priority given to Bath Township residents. The fee to participate is \$40.00 per session. All equipment is provided and each participant will receive a t-shirt. Enrollment is limited to 10 students per session.

**Truck or Treat** will be held on Monday, October 29 from 6:30-8 pm at the Bath Elementary School (north parking lot). Trick or Treaters are encouraged to dress for the occasion, bring a bag and trick or treat at various businesses who have offered to provide candy to youth in our area. In the event of threatening weather, this event will take place at the Bath Middle School (west hallway). Cookies and drinks will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. If your family or business would be interested in participating by handing out candy to the trick or treaters, please call Becky Goodwin at (517) 641-5167.

A **Wing Chun Kung Fu** class for ages 7-16 is being considered as a program offering. This eight-session class has a registration fee of \$60. If you believe your child may be interested in this form of Martial Arts, please contact Director Becky Goodwin at (517) 641-5167.

**Zumba** is a fitness program designed with Latin and International dance rhythms for ages 18-60. This workout feeds the body, soul and mind. This program is held on Monday evenings, October 22 through November 26 from 7:15-8:15 pm at the Bath Middle School Cafeteria for a fee of \$48 (6 weeks). Registration is held on the first night of class with Instructor Colleen Opphile.

**Zumba Toning** takes the original Zumba class to the next level. Using light weighted maraca-like Zumba toning sticks, the class emphasizes muscle work along with rhythms using a combination of cardio and body-sculpting techniques. This program is held on Thursday evenings, October 25 – November 29 from 7:15-8:15 pm in the Bath Middle School Cafeteria for a fee of \$40 (5 weeks). Class will not be held on November 22 due to the holiday. Registration is held on the first night of class with Instructor Colleen Opphile. Toning sticks will be made available during class, or you may choose to purchase a set from the instructor for an additional \$12. Note: If you register for both Zumba & Zumba Toning, an \$11 credit will be applied to your registration fee.

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**Thank you to Mary Jackson** of Artful Expressions (339-3603) for her donation of time and materials to fix the sign in James Couzens Park. This historic sign displayed chipping paint and Mary was able to scrape away the loose paint chips, repaint, and seal coat the affected area. Her expertise in this area provides a sign that appears untouched. Thank you, Mary.

Within Bath Charter Township, many **Parks** exist to provide recreational amenities to its residents. Parks include Wiswasser Park, Fletcher-Robson Park, Bath Soccer Field, and James Couzens Park. To learn more about the Parks that are located within Bath Charter Township, as well as the Rickard Boat Launch and the Park Lake Beach, visit our website at [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us).

If you would be interested in receiving **emails advertising future programs**, please email Director Becky Goodwin at [rgoodwin@bathtownship.us](mailto:rgoodwin@bathtownship.us). Thank you.

**To register for any class**, visit the Bath Township Offices, Monday through Friday from 8 am-5 pm or our website at [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us), print the registration form and either mail in your form/payment or place in the afterhours drop box located near the front doors of the Township Offices.

## Assisting Adults 60+

Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly (MiCAFE) assists adults ages 60 and older to make ends meet by applying for help to pay their bills. The MiCAFE program gets older people of modest means the things they need most — money to buy food, cover medical expenses, and pay bills. The Bridge Card, the Medicare Savings Program, utility assistance, and in-home services are key services to aid older adults in covering their basic needs and living independently at home.



**The MiCAFE Program is available at the Bath Township Office located at 14480 Webster Road in Bath. Trained volunteers are available on the second Thursday of each month from 9 am – 12 pm and other times by appointment.**

If you or someone you know needs help, please call **(517) 749-3333**. One of our volunteers will ask you for some basic information and help you understand what you need to bring with you to your appointment. Although you do not need to have an appointment, having one will help decrease your wait time and allow us to serve you more efficiently. For more information, you can visit the MiCAFE website at: [www.elderlawofmi.org/micafe](http://www.elderlawofmi.org/micafe). Our volunteers do not make decisions, but rather assist you with paperwork and work with the Clinton Department of Human Services and Elder Law of Michigan to advocate for your needs.

You can also email **Supervisor Paula Clark at [pclark@bathtownship.us](mailto:pclark@bathtownship.us) or Superintendent Troy Feltman at [tfeltman@bathtownship.us](mailto:tfeltman@bathtownship.us)** with questions.

## Veterans Services Available

Veterans and their family members have additional access to help with veterans benefits through the partnership of the State of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Clinton County Building Stronger Communities Council. Michael Thompson, Assistant State Field Service Officer with the VFW, spends two days per month at the Bath Charter Township Offices.

In addition to helping with applications for compensation and pension, Michael can assist with VA health care benefits, service-connected disability compensation, burial and death benefits and a variety of other services. There is no charge for any of these services. Veterans may be able to access a variety of benefits, including education and training benefits, depending on each service member's unique circumstances.

A Gulf War veteran himself, Michael recognizes that navigating the maze of federal benefits can be challenging. That's why the assistance of an Accredited Service Officer can be so valuable. Michael is available on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9 am to 3 pm at the Bath Charter Township Offices, 14480 Webster Road in Bath. Call (517) 641-6728 for driving directions.



**Veterans Services  
available:**

**1st and 3rd Wednesday  
of each month**

**9 am–3 pm**

**Bath Township Offices**



## Definition & Storage of Junk Vehicles

Prior to September 12, 2012; if a person stored a Junk Motor Vehicle (by definition) outside of a completely enclosed building they would be in violation of the Bath Charter Township Code of Ordinances.

The recent adoption of **Ordinance Number 15.3** redefines Junk Motor Vehicles and allows for some exterior storage under certain conditions. The Ordinance amendments state in part:

Junk vehicles shall mean any wrecked or dismantled vehicle, including, but not limited to, cars, trucks, tractor trucks and trailers, utility trailers, mobile homes, recreation vehicles (motorcycles, boats, travel trailers, motor homes, campers, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and trailers), and other similar vehicles which are not licensed for use upon highways of the State and shall also include, whether licensed or not, any vehicle which is inoperable or does not have all of its main component parts attached.



The storage of up to two (2) junk vehicles outside of a completely enclosed building shall be permitted, provided all such vehicles are:



(1) Fitted with a vehicle cover specifically designed for the vehicle(s) involved; or

(2) Kept behind a fence or berm approved by the Township's authorized official which creates a visual barrier of said vehicle(s) from view from any public road right-of-way or any adjacent property. The foregoing restrictions shall not, however, apply to:

(i) Storage of such vehicles on land where such use is specifically permitted by the Bath Charter Township Zoning Ordinance;

(ii) Storage of vehicles on any parcel of land which are temporarily inoperable for a period not to exceed six (6) months when said condition is the result of damage resulting from an accident, collision or minor mechanical failure; provided, however, that such vehicles are not in any manner dismantled, and retain substantially all main component parts. A six (6) month extension may be granted upon providing written proof to the authorized Township official that the vehicle is in the process of maintenance or repair and/or is involved in a disputed insurance claim or similar matter, and additional time is, in fact, required for settlement of such dispute or repair before such vehicle(s) can be removed.

(iii) One (1) fully operable motor vehicle which has been redesigned or reconstructed for a purpose other than that for which it was manufactured (e.g., stock car racer) may be stored outside of an enclosed building only if no building or structure capable of housing said vehicle is located on the premise; provided further, however, that no such vehicle may be stored in any front or side yard area of any such premises.

**The Ordinance Amendments in their entirety may be viewed on the Township's webpage at [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us). For further information please contact the Ordinance Compliance Department at (517)641-5165.**

## Wasting Energy & Losing Money? Improve Your Home's Performance

Over the past few months, Bath Township has been taking advantage of a state grant to help fund energy improvements for homeowners through a program called Better Buildings for Michigan. Only a few communities in the State of Michigan had the privilege of making this program available to their residents. The goal of this program is to improve energy performance, lower utility bills, and make living spaces more comfortable in homes throughout the community by providing home energy assessments to homeowners at a reduced cost.



**Improvements in energy efficiency can help you greatly increase the comfort of your home, as well as lower your utility bills**

**Bath residents who participate will receive a complete assessment for only \$50.**

At this time, when the seasons are beginning to change and cold weather is approaching, improvements in energy efficiency can help you greatly increase the comfort of your home, as well as lower your utility bills.

There are a limited amount of spots still available, so if you have not yet taken advantage of this opportunity, the time to do so is now. Over the past few months, the program has been able to help over 300 residents in Bath and DeWitt Townships reduce their energy use by 10-40%.

A home energy assessment will identify areas in your home where you could be wasting energy and losing money and will help you determine what steps can be taken to improve your home's performance. The BetterBuildings for Michigan program allows you to take advantage of this service for only \$50 (valued at over \$600), and also provides financial incentives to make desired improvements at a very low cost.

Through Better Buildings for Michigan, you may be eligible for up to \$3,000 in rebates for home improvements and can gain access to low interest loans - an offer unmatched by any other company or program in our area.

Weatherizing your home before cold weather hits can help you save a significant amount of money on your utility bills. Whether you have a new home or an older home, this program can benefit you. To take advantage of this program, please call **Michigan Energy Options at (517) 337-0422 ext. 1314**, or visit **[www.bathbbfm.org](http://www.bathbbfm.org)** for more information.

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## Supervisor Clark to Host a Community Conversation on October 27



Bath Charter Township Supervisor Paula Clark will host a Community Conversation on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at Tim Hortons located at 3992 Chandler Road in East Lansing, MI 48823.

Supervisor Clark invites Township residents to come discuss issues and ideas from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. Supervisor Clark will treat residents that attend to a beverage.

**Questions can be directed to the Bath Charter Township Offices at (517) 641-6728 or [info@bathtownship.us](mailto:info@bathtownship.us).**

## Winter Tax Notices & Township Office Hours

Winter taxes are due and payable from December 1, 2012 to February 14, 2013 without penalty. If you do not receive a notice by mid-December, please contact the Township Offices at (517) 641-6728.

Payments can be made online, by mail, by phone or in-person at the Township Offices, Monday—Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is also a secure, 24-hour drop box located next the Township Office entrance.

**During this period, the Township Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:**

- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2012
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2012
- New Year's Eve, December 31, 2012
- New Year's Day, January 1, 2013
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21, 2013

Please note: If you have an escrow account, you must contact your mortgage company to make sure the bill is paid.

Visit [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us) for property tax information, payment instructions or to download a tax automatic payment withdrawal form. **If you have questions, please contact Bath Township Treasurer Jeff Garrity at (517) 641-6728, or [jgarrity@bathtownship.us](mailto:jgarrity@bathtownship.us)**



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## State of Michigan Construction Code Act 230 Decriminalization

Prior to September 23, 2012; if a person was in violation of Act 230 in Bath Charter Township they would be guilty of a Misdemeanor and would have to be prosecuted in Circuit Court.

With the recent adoption of **Ordinance 56.1**, Bath Charter Township has to some degree decriminalized Act 230 by allowing a violation of the State of Michigan Construction Code to potentially be subject to a Municipal Civil Infraction rather than a Misdemeanor depending on the severity of the violation. The violations include:

- Knowingly violates the code or a rule for the enforcement of the code.
- Knowingly constructs or builds a structure or building in violation of a condition of a building permit.
- Knowingly fails to comply with an order issued by an enforcing agency or the construction board of appeals.
- Knowingly makes a false or misleading written statement, or knowingly omits required information or a statement in an application or appeal to the enforcing agency.
- Knowingly refuses entry or access to an inspector lawfully authorized to inspect any premises, building, or structure pursuant to the code.
- Unreasonably interferes with an authorized inspection.
- Knowingly conceals a violation.

In the event of a violation (depending on the severity) a Municipal Civil Infraction Violation Notice could be issued by an Authorized Township Official and be payable to the Township's Municipal Ordinance Violation Bureau within 10 days.

**The Ordinance Amendments in their entirety may be viewed on the Township's webpage at [www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us). For further information please contact the Ordinance Compliance Department at (517)641-5165.**

## Halloween in Bath: Wednesday, October 31 from 6—8pm

Let us all make Halloween safe and fun for everyone.  
Please adhere to the following safety tips:



- Drivers should take extra care on Halloween night. Look for cars stopping frequently and check for kids walking to and from house. Slow down or stop to let trick-or-treaters pass.
- Parents remember a flashlight.
- Only trick-or-treat at houses that are well lit and accompany children to the door of every house.
- Remain visible. Wear bright clothing and use reflective tape. Glow necklaces are great.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations. Use sidewalks when available. If you must walk on the road, walk on the edge and face traffic. Blink your flashlight to let cars know you are there.
- Always walk and not run across the street or lawns. There may be hidden dangers in yards. Small children should hold a hand when crossing.
- Make sure costumes are fire resistant and keep away from candles lit in driveways and on porches.
- Any costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.
- Check that masks do not obstruct vision. If using make-up, test a small area first to check if it irritates skin.
- Parents inspect all candy before turning over to the kids.
- Report any suspicious activity to 911 to have an officer respond.

**Happy Halloween!**

Bath Charter Township  
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(517) 641-6728

[www.bathtownship.us](http://www.bathtownship.us)

**Township Board Meetings:**

1st & 3rd Monday of each month



PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 979