

Bath Charter Township Newsletter



Summer 2012



CONTACT US

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

Township Board of Trustees

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pclark@bathtownship.us

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kmcqueen@bathtownship.us

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wpett@bathtownship.us

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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

2012 Primary Election Information

August 4th: Clerk's Office open, Saturday from 8 am until 2 pm (Election Business Only) and last day to mail Absentee Ballots.

August 6th: Absentee voting in the Clerk's Office from 8 am until 5 pm.

August 7th: Election Day—Polls are open 7 am until 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 identity.

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.

Police & Fire Millage Renewal Proposal

This Proposal will be on the August ballot and if approved, will allow Bath Charter Township to maintain mills levied for Police and Fire Department purposes on all taxable property and renew the millage that expired with the 2011 tax levy.

Ballot language: Shall the previously voted increase in the authorized charter millage for the Charter Township of Bath which may be assessed on all property as defined by law within said Township be renewed at three (3) mills (\$3.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of two (2) years, 2012 through 2013, inclusive, for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of operating the Bath Charter Township Police Department and Bath Charter Township Fire Department, and for acquisition, repair, replacement, maintenance and housing of the equipment and apparatus of said Departments, which levy is estimated to raise, in the first year of the levy, an estimated \$1,058,095.54. This is a renewal of previously authorized millage which expired with the 2011 tax levy.

Residential Swimming Pool Requirements

The 2009 Michigan Residential Building Code (in part) states that any swimming pool containing water over 24 inches deep requires a Building Permit, and may also require an Electrical, Plumbing or Mechanical Permit depending on the circumstances.

Any swimming pool containing over 24 inches of water requires a barrier. A barrier is defined as a fence, wall, building wall, or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access.

Barrier Requirements (summary):

- A barrier shall be at least 48 inches above the ground with a maximum vertical clearance of no greater than 2 inches between the ground and the bottom of the barrier.
- Openings in a barrier shall not allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere. (Where chain link fence or lattice is used, the maximum mesh opening shall be no greater than 1 ¾ inch.)
- A barrier shall not be climbable.
- Access gates shall open outward away from the swimming pool, be self-closing and have a self-latching device.
- When a building wall with a door is used as part of a barrier, the door shall be equipped with an alarm capable of sounding a warning when the door and/or its screen is opened.
- When an above ground swimming pool (in whole or in part) is used as a barrier and the means of access is a ladder or steps, the means access shall be capable of being secured, locked, removed or surrounded by a barrier to prevent access.



A Zoning (Land Use) Permit is also required indicating where the swimming pool will be located on the property. Please contact the Bath Charter Township **Building Department at (517) 641-4238** for complete Permit and Code requirements.

Clinton Area Transit System Millage Renewal Proposal

The Clinton Area Transit System (the Blue Bus) will be asking Clinton County residents to approve a Millage RENEWAL on the August ballot. The millage will generate about \$467,000, which will help support a \$1.4 million budget in 2013.



Ballot language: Shall the public authority, Clinton Area Transit System (Blue Bus) as provided for by Public Act 196 of 1986, for the purpose of operating a public transportation system, which includes public transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, levy a tax renewal of up to .20 mill (that being \$0.20 per thousand dollars of state equalized value (or taxable value, if applicable)) on real and personal property located within the County of

Clinton for a period of four (4) years, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016. If the 2013 millage is approved and levied in its entirety, it will raise approximately \$467,000.

MiCAFE Program Available to Assist 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. 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 or Superintendent Troy Feltman at tfeltman@bathtownship.us** with questions.

Burning Permit Application & Activation Process

Property owners are required to fill out a “Burning Permit Application” for all open burning in the Township. Once an application has been received by the Fire Chief and placed on file, the property owner can activate their permit for a three-day period by stopping at the Township Offices or calling the dedicated burning permit answering service at **(517) 641-6619**.

Property owners choosing to use the answering service will be required to leave their name, phone number, burning permit number, property address, and the date they want to start burning. A permit will be activated automatically if a Burning Permit Application is on file and the caller is authorized to request activation of the permit (noted on the application).

Burning Permit Applications are available at the Township Offices or on our website at www.bathtownship.us > **Fire Department**.

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



Veterans Services available:

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

9 am—3 pm

Bath Township Offices

Veterans Services Available

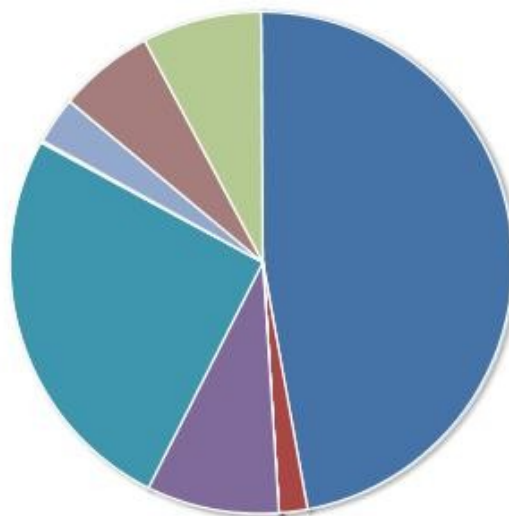
Veterans and their family members have access to help with veterans benefits through the partnership of the State of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Clinton County Building Stronger Communities Council. Michael Thompson, Assistant State Field Service Officer with the VFW, spends two days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

2010 Financial Summary for Bath Charter Township

Where Our Money Comes From
Bath Charter Township - All Funds



Taxes
From State Govt.
Interest & Rent

Licenses & Permits
Charges For Services
Other Revenues

From Federal Govt.
Fines And Forfeitures
Other Financing Sources

Clean Community Events— Clinton County Department of Waste Management

Saturday, August 25th from 8 am to 2 pm in DeWitt Township

This valuable event assists all county residents to recycle or properly dispose of just about any household generated waste item. Items accepted include household hazardous waste, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil and anti-freeze, unwanted and expired medications, electronic waste, bulky waste or junk items, scrap metal, appliances, tires, yard waste, clothing, textiles and reusable household items and building equipment for donation.

There are fees for a few items, but most materials are collected for free. The event is also open to small businesses; however, additional fees do apply for hazardous and electronic waste items. Disposal fees are waived for volunteers! To make an appointment, or to volunteer, call **(989) 224-5186** or email **conserve@clinton-county.org**.



Energy Assessments & Improvements Available to Homeowners

Bath Township residents can still take advantage of valuable home energy improvements through a competitive grant from the State of Michigan and U.S. Department of Energy. Through this program, called BetterBuildings for Michigan, homeowners can receive home energy assessments to learn about the safety, comfort and energy efficiency of their homes.



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

To sign up for your assessment, visit www.bathbfffm.org or call Michigan Energy Options at (517)337-0422 ext 1314.

These assessments typically cost several hundred dollars, but through this program, Bath residents who participate receive a complete assessment for only \$50. In addition, the program offers fantastic incentives for making additional home improvements, including competitive low-interest loans and matching utility rebates up to \$1,500.

Last fall, BetterBuildings for Michigan helped over 100 homeowners in DeWitt Township achieve 10-40 percent energy savings in their homes, resulting in significant savings on utility bills.

This program is only available in Bath Township for a limited time, so to find out more or sign up for your assessment, visit **www.bathbfffm.org** or call **Michigan Energy Options at (517) 337-0422, extension 1314.**

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** or call **(517) 641-6271**.



Five-Year Parks & Recreation Plan Under Revision

Bath Township is currently revising its Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan so that the community can continue to receive State of Michigan funding for capital improvements in our park system. The current plan expires on December 31, 2012.

During this review and update, the Township will be seeking input from residents on the parks. Specifically, we are interested in hearing what residents like about the parks and what could be added in terms of improvements. In addition, if there are facilities that we don't have (such as a dog park, for example) that would add value to the community's quality of life...we want to know that, too!

Over the course of the summer, there will be a number of opportunities for residents to get involved in helping the Township set goals for each of our parks. We hope that you will take a moment to participate in a survey or a park open house to lend your thoughts to the planning process. A strong, vibrant park system is a critical asset to ensuring that Bath Township is an attractive place to live and play.

If you have feedback on the park system that you would like to share, please don't hesitate to contact the Township Offices at **(517) 641-6728** or at **info@bathtownship.us**. We hope to see you this summer!

Credit & Debit Cards Accepted at Bath Township Offices

While credit card, debit card and E-check payments for sewer and tax bills have been accepted by Bath Township online and by phone for some time, you can now use credit and debit cards at the counter at Bath Township Offices for a variety of charges. This service is provided through a third-party vendor and Bath Township does not collect or retain credit or debit card numbers.

We also have a number of billing and payment options to choose from, including paperless sewer billing (go green!), AutoPay for sewer and tax bills, and a drop box at the township offices for after hours payment.

Detailed information on payment options is available on the Treasurer's page (under Departments) at **www.bathtownship.us**, including forms to fill out to participate in billing and payment services. You'll also find information on summer tax deferments, current millage rates and tax and sewer billing schedules.

If you're looking for current sewer and tax account information, you'll find links on the front page of the web site. Simply click on Property Tax Info or Utility (Sewer) Info on the left side of the front page. You'll be asked to fill in search criteria (name, address or account number). Once you've located your account, you can pay unpaid balances or look through the history of your account.

If you don't have Internet access or would like to talk to us about any of the above options and services, please call **(517) 641-6728** or stop in at the Township Offices. We would be happy to explain how these options work and we can provide the necessary forms you need by mail or in person.



Park Lake Water Control Project Moves Forward

The Clinton County Drain Commissioner's Office is working with Bath Township to put the final pieces in place for a court hearing in August regarding the water control maintenance project on Park Lake. The County's engineering firm, Spicer Group, is currently finalizing the lake report required by state law so a legal lake level can be adopted by the court. This article should give the community a sense of the breadth of discussions the County, Township, engineers and attorney are having in relationship to moving forward with a project. I would like to highlight a couple of items below.

The surveys that were sent out to the residents of Park Lake have been tabulated and there was a return rate of well over 50%. With only one exception, there was a general consensus that the lake level needs to be higher. The respondent who wanted the lake level lower had more to do with the winter impact on a county drain than on the lake itself. The issue now becomes what the lake level should be given the input received and the survey work conducted by Spicer Group. Currently, Spicer is recommending that the lake level be a little lower than the 845 ft. recommended by the Park Lake Advisory Board, due to potential flooding issues on lakefront properties.

The other issue that needs attention is the potential options available regarding construction. The group believes that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will react strongly to a proposal to extend the existing dike system through an approximate 400 ft. of wetland. Not only would there be an initial negative reaction from MDEQ staff; but, we also need to recognize that this project will require mitigation. This will drive up the costs of the project. This option is certainly not "off the table," but there are concerns that need to be considered.

Other options to minimize or eliminate the impact to the wetland areas that have been discussed involve raised boardwalks with sheeting driven down into the soil to maintain the water level. This option would provide a wonderful trail system, minimize the disturbance to the wetlands, but would be a costly alternative.

Also discussed was the idea of using the private drive (extended from Webster Road) as the new dike location. This would require raising the road system up 3-5 ft. In essence, the water would be then be allowed to move up to the private road, thus creating additional wetland, as well as functioning as a water control device. This option is the least expensive of the three.

The County is proposing that a construction project would take place in 2013. The Township will provide more information for the community as the project develops over the next several months.

Bath Township DDA Launches New Website

The Bath Township Downtown Development Authority recently launched a new website at www.bathdda.org. The DDA Board, which was formed as a result of the Township's 2008 Comprehensive Development Plan, is in the process of creating a vision for the downtown corridor and will be creating a development and financing plan during 2012.

The DDA Board will be working with Township staff, Spicer Group, and residents to create a vision for the future development of the downtown of Bath and ultimately create a plan for implementing the vision of the DDA. Check out the website for more information!

The Bath Farmers Market; Connecting Neighbors

The Bath Farmers Market is open every Thursday from 3 pm until 7 pm. During the summer, the Market is located at Couzens Park on Webster Road in Bath across from the middle school. The Market accepts Bridge cards, as well as Debit and Credit cards. The Market also participates in the Double-Up Food Program, where EBT users can double their money up to \$20 per Market day.



The Bath Farmers Market is always looking for new vendors and is especially interested in offering meat, cheese, and bread products. If you are interested in selling at our market, please visit www.bathtownship.us > **Departments** > **Farmers Market** for an application. You can also contact **Market Manager Ruby Grimes** at (517) 712-2171 or farmersmarket@bathtownship.us.

Current Market Vendors:

Simpson's Greenhouse: Annual and perennial plants.

Ruben Garcia: Mexican food and a variety of Michigan-made products, such as pickles and spicy bloody Mary mix.

Laughing Crane Farm: Fresh produce, baked goods, organic and gluten-free flour and flour mixes.

Jato's: Fresh produce, eggs, jelly and more.

Apple Barrel Cider Mill: Michigan-grown fruit and cider in season, pies, donuts, honey and syrup.

Samia's Gourmet Mediterranean Food: Pastries, samosas and more.

JW Kettle Corn: Kettle corn cooked on site.

Ten Hens Farm: Fresh produce.

Looking Glass Nursery: Trees and shrubs.

Bath Charter Township
14480 Webster Road
P.O. Box 247
Bath, MI 48808
(517) 641-6728

www.bathtownship.us

Township Board Meetings:

1st & 3rd Monday of each month



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