



Bath Charter Township Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2015



Park Lake Ice Rink 2015

Township Finances in 2015

BY DAN WIETecha, TOWNSHIP SUPERINTENDENT

After I accepted this position as Superintendent, but before I actually started on the job, I was contacted by a reporter asking about the Township's 2015 budget. There was, understandably, much attention to the Township's finances. So finance has been one of the top priorities in my first year.

We established a Finance Committee to update existing policies and recommend new

ones. We've focused on updating our office procedures. We monitored and adjusted the 2015 budget quarterly during the year. And we adopted a pretty respectable budget for 2015.

Work on developing the 2015 budget started in earnest in July, 2015, and was wrapped up in November, 2015. It is a tight budget, and no department got everything it wanted. But it is workable and avoided cutting services.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Township Offices

14480 Webster Road
Bath, MI 48808
(517) 641-6728
info@bathtownship.us
www.bathtownship.us
Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Drop Box available 24/7
Notaries Available

Township Board of Trustees

Paula Clark, Supervisor
pclark@bathtownship.us

Kathleen McQueen, Clerk
kmcqueen@bathtownship.us

Jeff Garrity, Treasurer
jgarrity@bathtownship.us

Cindy Cronk, Trustee
ccronk@bathtownship.us

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

Walter Pett, Trustee
wpett@bathtownship.us

Leon Puttler, Trustee
lputtler@bathtownship.us

Dan Wietecha, Superintendent
dwietecha@bathtownship.us

BUILDING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

M/T/Th/F, 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Wednesday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
(517) 641-4238

BURN PERMIT ACTIVATION LINE

(517) 641-6619

FIRE DEPARTMENT (NON-EMERGENCY)

Please leave a message
(517) 641-7811

LIBRARY CENTER

14033 Webster Road
Bath, Michigan 48808
(517) 641-7111

MICAFAE

Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly
Assists adults ages 60+ in applying for help with food assistance, medical assistance, in-home help, prescriptive drug assistance and other types of help.
(517) 749-3333

PARKS & RECREATION

(517) 641-5167

POLICE DEPARTMENT (NON-EMERGENCY)

(517) 641-6271

SENIOR CENTER

The Center offers a healthy home cooked lunch at noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Cost is \$3.00 per meal. Take out is available. (517) 641-5169

CLINTON COUNTY OFFICES

(888) 224-2450
www.clinton-county.org

CLINTON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

(989) 224-3274
www.ccrcc-roads.com

VETERANS SERVICES

Serving Clinton & Ingham Counties
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 887-4331
www.va.ingham.org

STREETLIGHT OUTAGE

Consumers Energy
(800) 477-5050
www.consumersenergy.com
Option 1, then Option 2

SANITARY SEWER SERVICE

Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority
(517) 669-8311 for emergencies and back-ups.
(517) 641-6728 for billing and payments.
www.sccmua.com

BATH POST OFFICE

14137 Webster Rd.
Bath, MI 48808
(517) 641-6365

To sign up to have your Bath Charter Township Newsletter emailed to you, instead of mailed, please email info@bathtownship.us. Please provide your name and address.

CODERED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION IN CLINTON COUNTY



A new emergency notification system is up and running in Clinton County. The CodeRED emergency alert system's primary purpose is to protect people in Clinton County by quickly warning them of emergencies in the county. CodeRED can deliver these warnings via telephone, cell phone, text message, email, and smartphone app.

A CodeRED message will tell you:

1. What has happened, and where.
2. What actions you should take, if any.
3. Where to get more information.

CODERED IS NOT USED TO SEND SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS.

You can get weather warnings from TV and radio, or with a NOAA Weather Radio.

CODERED CALLS COME FROM 1-866-419-5000.

When you answer or your answering machine picks up, you will hear a message giving you important information. You can call that number back to hear the message again.

MAKE SURE YOU GET THE CALL.

If you live in Clinton County and have a landline phone, you may already be in the CodeRED system. You will receive a call on your landline

phone when there is an emergency in your area. To be certain, make sure to enroll your numbers!

HOW TO ENROLL

To get CodeRED messages on your cell phone, by text message, TTY/TDD, or by email, you can enter that information by going to: www.clinton-county.org. Click the "CodeRED" link on the left side of the page. This will take you to the CodeRED page where you can register and get more information. If you do not have internet access, call the Central Dispatch office at (989) 224-5108.

PLAYING BACK MESSAGES

If the CodeRED message tells you to do something specific, like take shelter or evacuate, follow the instructions carefully. If you need to hear the message again, you can call 1-866-419-5000. You can replay the message as many times as you like. Program this number into your contacts so you know when an alert call is being made to your phone.

PRIVACY

Your contact information will never be given out to anyone else, and will only be used for emergencies.

For more information, contact Clinton County Central Dispatch at (989) 224-5108, or www.clinton-county.org/codeRED.



Dates to Remember

February 12

Clinton County Open Food Distribution Project at the Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road in Bath.

February 14

Tax bills are due and payable. Since February 14 is a Saturday and Monday, February 16 is Presidents' Day, tax bill payments will be accepted through Tuesday, February 17 without penalty.

February 14

Community Conversation from 9:30-11 a.m. at McDonald's on the corner of East Saginaw & Marsh Roads in Haslett/Bath Township.

February 14

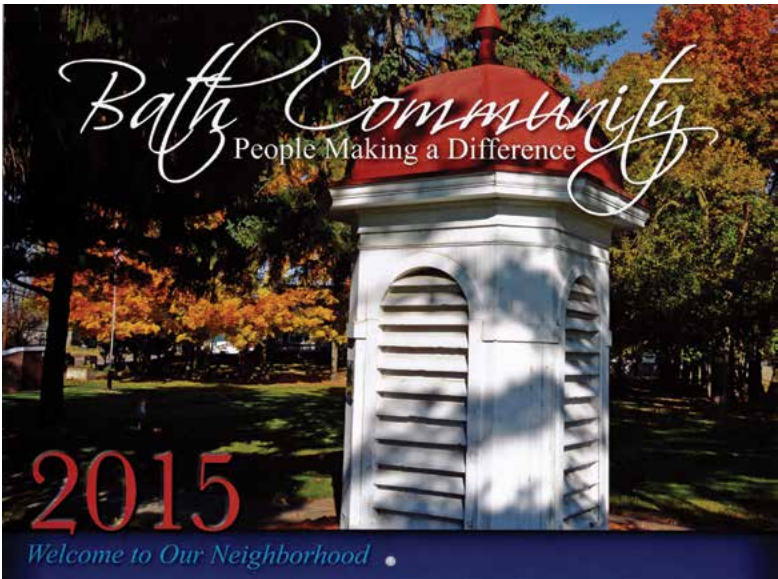
Ice Fishing Derby on Park Lake, 8 am – 4 pm.

February 16

Township Offices, Police Administration, Senior & Library Centers Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day.

March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins.



March 12

Clinton County Open Food Distribution Project at the Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road in Bath.

March 21

Community Conversation from 9:30-11 a.m. at Tim Hortons, 3992 Coleman Road in East Lansing.

April 3

Township Offices, Police Administration, Senior & Library Centers Closed in Observance of Good Friday

April 9

Clinton County Open Food Distribution Project at the Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road in Bath.

April 15

Sewer bills due; Service coverage of April, May & June 2015.

April 15

Grave blankets and other types of winter decorations placed in either Pleasant Hill or Rose Cemeteries shall be removed by this date.

Bath Community Calendars on Sale!

Your purchase of a calendar will help support the Bath Senior Center's kitchen expansion project.

Calendars are on sale at the Township Offices and the Senior Center for \$10.

Township Finances in 2015

BY DAN WIETecha, TOWNSHIP SUPERINTENDENT

The aspect I'm most proud is that we took a different approach this year, which I can best describe as an emphasis that the budget be more deliberate.

We were deliberate by eliminating slush funds and padded numbers. We budgeted based on what was actually needed to run the Township departments, rather than over-budgeting to cover worst case scenarios. If and when those unexpected worst case situations do occur, the Board of Trustees will meet and decide how to adjust and address them at that time.

We were deliberate by identifying specific projects rather than just budgeting for pots of money. For example, instead of simply budgeting for unidentified Capital Outlay, we identified specific equipment or building improvements.

Similarly, we budgeted employee wages and benefits based on actual hours, pay rates, and benefit costs. There was some necessary estimating for hours of overtime and health reimbursement accounts. But it was much more deliberate than the process the Township had most recently used by looking at the prior year's total cost and adding a couple percent.

And we were deliberate by re-allocating ongoing expenses from catch-all or Miscellaneous line items to specific line items. As one example, we had previously budgeted \$80,000 under Community Promotion. When examining the expenses in this category, most of them should have been allocated elsewhere in the budget. When re-allocated, this line was just over \$16,300. This attention to detail will help us to better know the Township's expenses.

I do not mean to imply that our employees or the Board of Trustees do a poor job at managing the Township's finances; I do believe that overall we have been very responsible. The whole point to being deliberate is to foster a better tracking and better understanding of the Township's finances. This allows better informed decision making.

Looking forward, needs will arise unplanned. And there will be surprises in the budget itself. Despite our efforts to make the budget more deliberate and accurate, there are undoubtedly some past practices which we didn't recognize.

Indeed, shortly after the budget was adopted, one such surprise was found. Historically a particular \$85,000 expense had been coded as a "negative" revenue, which wasn't accounted for in the budget planning. Instead of going into the new year with the comfort of a balanced budget, we've actually got a hole. This latest discrepancy will be foremost in the Finance Committee's and Board of Trustees' first quarter financial review.

It is an embarrassing way to conclude this brief article about being deliberate, but it also underscores the importance of being more deliberate and accurate than we've been in the past.

Bath Township Parks & Recreation

Mission: To provide educational programs, recreational activities, community facilities and quality parks for the enrichment of township residents.

Winter & Spring 2015 Schedule

To register for classes and events, or apply to coach or volunteer for a program, you may visit the Bath Township Offices, Monday through Friday from 8 am – 5 pm. To obtain more information or registration materials online, please visit www.bathtownship.us > Departments > Parks & Recreation > Current Programs.

BATH COMMUNITY CENTER (BCC): 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath.

BATH MIDDLE SCHOOL: 13675 Webster Road, Bath.

BATH TOWNSHIP OFFICES: 14480 Webster Road, Bath, (517) 641-6728 or info@bathtownship.us

BATH TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER: 14480 Webster Road, Bath (behind Township Offices).

GARY LANE SOCCER FIELD: 15420 Gary Lane, Bath.

RICKARD BOAT LAUNCH: 6498 Park Lake Road, Bath.

PARK LAKE BEACH: 6244 Park Lake Road, Bath.

WISWASSER PARK: 6499 Park Lake Road, Bath.

**ALL BATH TOWNSHIP
PARKS ARE TOBACCO
AND ALCOHOL FREE.
THANK YOU.**



Parks & Recreation Director Becky Goodwin can be contacted at (517) 641-5167 or bgoodwin@bathtownship.us

5K Color Run: Start training now - More details in March!



BASEBALL: Registration for T-ball and Little Sluggers will be held 4/1 – 4/30/2015 at the Township Offices.

BASEBALL CLINIC: Being planned for Spring 2015 for children ages 4 – 6.

Basketball (Men's Open Gym): Continues at the Bath Middle School Gym from 4 – 6 pm on Sundays through 5/31/2015. Free and open to Township residents ages 25+. Register and/or sign in at the event.

CRAFTING: Cancelled until Spring.

EASTER BUNNY EVENT: Coming in March. Free and open to the public. Want to volunteer your time? Donate a basket of goodies? Or offer individually wrapped candy for the event? Call Becky at 641-5167.

ELIMINATE THE JUNK IN YOUR TRUNK: Program provides participants with the opportunity to sell wares from the trunk of their car, for one day from 10 am – 4 pm. Interested in running the program? Program coordinator will receive their spot free of charge and determine the date. Call Becky at 641-5167.

ICE FISHING DERBY: Annual event will take place on 2/14/2015 on Park Lake during the DNR Free Fishing Weekend, 8 am – 4 pm. Trophies to be awarded in three categories for the longest fish. Door prizes given following the fishing competition at the BCC

(approximately 4:15 pm). Register for \$10 at the BCC from 7:30 am – 2 pm. Youth Scholarship Assistance Program cannot be used for this event. Sponsored by Spagnuolo's Party Store & Deli.

ICE SKATING RINK: Thank you Bath Township Department of Public Works and Fire Department for creating the rink on Park Lake at the Beach.



Free and open to the public. Please be careful and skate at your own risk.

MUSIC JAM: Free and open to the public on the third Wednesday of each month from 1 – 3:30 pm at the BCC beginning 1/21/2015. Bring an instrument, your dancing shoes, or simply sit back and enjoy! Light refreshments are offered for a small fee.

SCRAP AROUND THE CLOCK: 2/6 – 2/8/2015 at the BCC for a fee of \$25. Contact Beth Botke at 204-3752 for registration information.

SCRAPBOOKING: Continues on the third Friday of each month through 5/15/2015 at the BCC from 6 pm – midnight for a fee of \$4/night or \$10/3 nights. Bring your materials and enjoy the company of other scrapbookers.

SNOW SCULPTURE COMPETITION: Take part until 2/28/2015. Free and open to the public. Sculptures must be constructed on Bath Township property (your residence, in a park, on the lake)



and registration materials submitted for a chance to win a \$50 Meijer gift card. Masterpieces must have the ability to be viewed from the road and presented in good taste. The theme for this build is "Winter in Michigan." Sponsored by a Friend of Parks & Recreation. Good luck and sculpt on!

SOCCER (U6 SPRING): Continues 4/14 – 5/19/2015 for those who participated in Fall 2015. New registrations will be accepted 3/2 – 3/27/2015 at the Township Offices. Spring 2015 program is open to those whose birthdays fall between 7/31/2008 – 8/1/2010. Program fee is \$20. Reversible jersey fee of \$20 (if you don't already have one). Program will be held at the Gary Lane Soccer Field on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm.

VOLLEYBALL (ADULT COED): Thursday evenings at the Bath Middle School Gym from 7 – 9:30 pm. Free and open to Township residents ages 21+. Register and/or sign in at the event.

VOLLEYBALL (YOUTH CLINIC): Join Program Coordinator Katy White for an introduction to the YMCA Instructional Volleyball League, 3/2 – 3/5/2015 from 4 – 5:30 pm at the Bath Middle School Gym. Boys and girls, grades 2 – 5, can learn the game (wash method of scoring), and work on skills and techniques for the YMCA Volleyball League season, or simply give it a try! Register 1/23 – 2/13/2015 at the Township Offices for \$25. Parents that are interested in assisting Katy should call Becky at 641-5167 for the application process. Shirts for an additional fee (\$25 long-sleeved shirt, \$20 short-sleeved shirt).

YOGA (BEGINNING): Classes at the BCC on Wednesdays, 2/18 – 3/25/2015. The 6-week session is open to adults 18+, register for \$30 (non-refundable) at the Township Offices beginning 1/28/2015. Participants need a yoga mat and a blanket.

ZUMBA: Classes continue on Mondays from 7:15 – 8:15 pm at the BCC. Next session will begin mid-February. Register the first night of class. NEW drop-in fee of \$9/session (register at the class).

ZUMBA TONING: Classes on Thursdays from 7:15 – 8:15 pm at the BCC. Next session will begin mid-February. Register the first night of class. NEW drop-in fee of \$9/session (register at the class).

Retired Fire Chief Honored for Service

The Clinton County Fire Chief's Association recently presented retired Fire Chief Art Hosford with a plaque recognizing his years of service. Congratulations!



Police Officer Thomas Miller Honored Upon Retirement

The Bath Charter Township Board of Trustees presented Police Officer Thomas Miller with a Resolution expressing their appreciation of his more than 20 years of service to our community. Officer Miller retired from the Department on January 9, 2015.



Officer Miller with Township Supervisor Paula Clark.

MiCAFE Program Expanding in Bath Township

Bath Charter Township has been offering the MiCAFE (Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly) for several years. Appointments can be made with our volunteers by calling (517) 749-3333.

MiCAFE volunteers can assist in the completion and processing of applications for the Bridge Card (food assistance), Medicare Savings (help with paying Part B premiums), Medicaid, utility assistance, and in-home services. Help with choosing a Medicare Supplemental Plan is also available.

Our MiCAFE volunteers have typically focused on working with folks 60 years of age and older, but there are circumstances where help may be available to those younger than 60. A brief questionnaire is available that can help make those determinations.

MiCAFE is a program sponsored by Elder Law of Michigan. Elder Law offers many other services that include help with mortgage/foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgage counseling, landlord and tenant

issues, Section 8 vouchers, public housing, utility company problems, transition housing, relocation, land contracts, homelessness and fair housing issues. Their toll free number for these additional services is (866) 400-9164. Elder Law of Michigan will soon be making a local coordinator available to make presentations to organizations or Churches, and can attend community gatherings where it would be helpful to have their agency's information and resource people available.

Our Bath Township volunteers will continue to work with the community for MiCAFE services and they look forward to expanding the services offered very soon.



The Bath Township Library Center



**Bath
Township
Library Center**

14033 Webster Rd. Bath, MI 48808
Ph (517) 641-7111• Fax (517) 641-7112
E-mail library@bathtownship.us
www.bathtownship.us

BOOK RETURN IS OPEN 24-7 in front of the Library Center!

FREE WI-FI AND COMPUTERS WITH INTERNET ACCESS.

PLENTY OF ROOM TO DO HOMEWORK OR WORK ON GROUP PROJECTS.

TUESDAY: Tech Time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bring your technology questions to the Library Center Tuesday nights and we'll have a tech person here to answer them. Note: This is a time for instruction—not for repair.

WEDNESDAY: Tot Time at 10:30 am for toddlers 18-36 months.

FRIDAY: Story Time at 10:30 am for pre-school children ages 3-5 years.

NEW HOURS AT THE LIBRARY CENTER

Hours

MONDAY: CLOSED

TUESDAY: 2 - 8 PM

WEDNESDAY: 10 AM - 6 PM

THURSDAY: 2 - 8 PM

FRIDAY: 10 AM - 4 PM

SATURDAY: 11 AM – 3 PM

SUNDAY: CLOSED



2014 Winter Taxes

Tax bills are due and payable from December 1, 2015 to February 14, 2015.

- Since February 14, 2015 is a Saturday and Monday, February 16, 2015 is President's Day, tax bill payments will be accepted through Tuesday, February 17, 2015 without penalty.
- All tax bills are mailed to the property owner. If you have an escrow account, it is your responsibility to forward the tax bill(s) to your bank or mortgage company.
- If you deferred your summer tax bill, it is due by February 17, 2015 without interest or penalty.
- Summer and winter taxes are collected at the Township through February 28, 2015. Since February 28, 2015 is a Saturday, tax bill payments will be accepted through Monday, March 2, 2015.
- On March 3, 2015 delinquent taxes will be turned over to the Clinton County Treasurer's Office.

TAX AND SEWER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

- Visit - www.bathtownship.us
- Online Services
- Tax Information Search and/or Sewer Billing Search

- Search by address, name or parcel #
- Tax Information tab and/or Utility Info. tab

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Tax and sewer bill payments are accepted via:
In-Person
Mail
Phone (855-649-2639)
Online
Direct Withdrawal
- To obtain a Direct Withdrawal form:
Visit - www.bathtownship.us
Online Services
Additional Information
Property Tax Information
Utility (Sewer) Information
- Partial payments for taxes are accepted once you have received the bill.

If you pay a sewer bill and a tax bill to the Township please write two separate checks. Our bank will no longer allow us to deposit checks that are split between two separate funds. We apologize for any inconvenience

Community Conversations with Supervisor Clark

Bath Charter Township Supervisor Paula Clark hosts Community Conversations one Saturday morning each month around the Township. Residents are encouraged to come discuss issues, share ideas and ask questions. She will treat residents that attend to a beverage. Information, including location and date, are submitted to the DeWitt-Bath Review and the Towne Courier, posted on our website and on our Facebook page. Residents are also welcome to call the Township Office for more information at (517) 641-6728 or email pclark@bathtownship.us.

UPCOMING CONVERSATIONS

FEBRUARY 14, 2015 FROM 9:30-11 A.M.
McDonald's on the corner of East Saginaw & Marsh Roads in Haslett/Bath Township

MARCH 21, 2015 FROM 9:30-11 A.M.
Tim Hortons, 3992 Coleman Road, East Lansing

Bath Residents Needed!

Bath Charter Township is interested in exploring the possibility of building a more extensive community center that might house our Senior Center, Library Center, Farmers Market during the winter season, some Parks and Recreation Programs, and possibly other events or activities.

We are looking for Bath residents with insight and energy to join an ad hoc group to determine the feasibility of such an endeavor and make a recommendation to the Bath Township Board of Trustees by mid-2015. We envision the group will meet several times during early 2015, and individuals on the Committee will split up tasks to accomplish in between meetings.

911 in Clinton County

All residents in Bath Township should be aware that in Clinton County, and only in Clinton County, 911 is for emergency and non-emergency calls. In order to get a non-emergency call to Central Dispatch you still need to dial 911. This procedure is designed to simplify calls for service in Clinton County. Some people feel that they are tying up a 911 line. In our county the dispatcher will quickly ascertain whether a true emergency exists. If your call is not an emergency and another call is an emergency, they will put you on hold and deal with the emergency call first.

Please contact Supervisor Paula Clark as soon as possible if you are interested in helping us with this important task. We would be grateful for your ideas and your participation. You can contact Paula at (517) 641-6728 or pclark@bathtownship.us.

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.

Tom King Memorial Junk Day: Coming in May 2015

Each year, Bath Charter Township provides residents with an opportunity to dispose of household items – including furniture, electronics and appliances – during the Annual Tom King Memorial Junk Day.

Please watch the next Township newsletter, coming in April for more information on registration, items accepted, and date/time of the event in May.

The Township will also provide a curbside-only service for citizens age 60+, or individuals who are physically disabled and can't bring their materials to the drop-off site.

This is a free program to Bath Charter Township residents. Space will be limited and registration will be required to participate.



14480 Webster Road
PO Box 247
Bath, MI 48808
517.641.6728

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT # 975

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS HELD THE 1ST AND 3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Shop the Indoor Bath Farmers Market Every Thursday from 3-6 pm!

INDOOR MARKET THROUGH THE LAST THURSDAY IN APRIL AT THE BATH COMMUNITY CENTER

Keep your money in the area, help the economy, and get fresh, quality food at the Bath Farmers Market! Stop by the Market for dinner at one of the hot prepared food vendors and get all of your shopping done while enjoying entertainment by local musicians.

Though the snow is falling, the Winter Market can still be your one stop shop for fresh local produce and homemade/grown products. The Winter Market runs from the first Thursday in November through the last Thursday in April from 3 – 6 pm at the Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road in Bath.

In addition to taking Bridge Cards, the Farmers Market also accepts debit and credit transactions.

To become a vendor or for more information, contact Market Manager, Christine Miller, at (515) 994-0236, farmersmarket@bathtownship.us or visit the Farmers Market's website at www.shopbfm.org.

