SUPERVISOR

My Dear Fellow Township Residents:

I hope this Fall Newsletter finds you all well after the spring and summer we’ve been through. The wet spring and high lake levels took a toll on us all.

We gave out approximately 30,000 sandbags and provided 10 semi loads of sand here in our Township park to fill for township residents.

A VERY SINCERE THANK YOU to Steve Grosso and Crew from Grosso Trucking for the donation of 4 loads of sand and for at a moment’s notice the delivery of sand to the park when we were getting low. It was greatly appreciated.

Infrastructure work has begun on Mallard Pond, the new 141-home subdivision being built on Short Cut Road. Sanitary sewer and water main work is well underway as well as the layout of the roads in the subdivision. The developer hopes to have the gravel road base in this fall with concrete work in the spring.

Waterview Estates has been given final approval for construction. This 24-home subdivision is on M-29 east of Palms Road. Homes in this neighborhood will be in the 3,000 to 3,300 square foot range and will have boat docks on Lake St. Clair for its residents.

Work continues in Admirals Cove; new street paving, lighting and many upgrades are being done to the former Chateau Mobile Home Park converting it over to a 55+ group community.

Many beautiful new model homes are available to inspect there already.

Also, blueprints have been submitted and are being reviewed for permitting for a new 24,000 square foot industrial building at 26 Mile and County Line roads. This building will feature a commercial store front and house six units. This building will be a beautiful addition to our industrial park and a welcoming sight into Ira Township at this corner.

In April of this year, we entered into agreement with DTE to convert all our streetlights in the Township to LED. This program not only changed 62 existing lights, but we added 2 new streetlights and will be illuminating our municipal parking lot and adding some new lights in the park too. This program had an initial cost of $23,182 with a rebate of $1,662 for participation in the conversion program. We have a 5-year return time on the money invested in converting to LED bringing our annual lighting costs down to $10,090 per year from nearly $14,000 per year. The new lights certainly are much brighter than the old ones!

We are continuing to grow and change here in our Township and I am proud to be Supervisor and call Ira Township home. I stand committed to continue working for the betterment of our community and for all who live and will be moving here in the future.

May you all have a wonderful fall and a joyous and blessed Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Jim Endres, Jr.

CLERK

Precinct redistricting and voting location change is now complete. The boundaries for Precinct 1 are all of the Anchor Bay School District and the boundaries for Precinct 2 are all of the Algonac School District and all of the East China School District. The voting location for the newly created boundaries for Precincts 1 and 2 is now the Township Hall for all future elections. Voters affected by the precinct redistricting will receive new voter ID cards in the mail.

Anchor Bay School Special Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Township Hall. For ballot language, please go to the Clerk’s page at www.iratownship.org

DID YOU KNOW . . . . You can skip lines on Election Day and vote by mail. Voting has never been easier! With the passage of Proposal 18-3 in November 2018, new changes are available for Michigan voters. One of the biggest changes is that ALL eligible registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. You can also request to be placed on the permanent absentee voter list to
save a step in the future. Below is a form to complete and drop off or mail to the Ira Township Clerk. You can also visit the Clerk’s page at www.iratownship.org and complete the link to sign up for permanent AV or visit or call the Ira Township Clerk’s office at 586-725-0263 x 107 to request an application prior to any election.

The 2020 Presidential Primary will be held on March 10, 2020. Apply to be a permanent AV now!

The 2020 Census is fast approaching and you count! It is critically important for all Township residents to participate in the 2020 Census count. Our children depend on the federal dollars that come from Census Data and it is our job to make sure we do our best to be counted.

Participating in the 2020 Census is a civic duty and good for our community. The very first responsibility of the federal government under the U.S. Constitution is a count of all persons living in the United States to allocate seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the states. But your participation in the census impacts a much broader range of decisions, from how legislative districts at all levels of government are drawn, to where roads and transit are built in the future, to how more than $800 billion in federal funding is distributed annually across the country.

On or between March 12th – 20th, 2020, every household in the Township will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

Through spring and summer 2020, Census Bureau employees will follow up in-person at addresses that have not yet been counted. Your personally identifiable information (PII) is protected by law and cannot be shared outside of the Census Bureau. Census Bureau employees are sworn to uphold the confidentiality of your data for life. Your responses can only be used to produce statistical information, and your personal information cannot be seen or used by other government agencies or the courts.

By December 2020, the Census Bureau will deliver the state population totals, which determine the number of representatives for each state in Congress.

April 1, 2020 is 2020 Census Day! Be prepared and be counted!

Jean Corbat

TREASURER

Winter property tax bills will be coming out December 1st. After February 14, 2020, a 3% penalty is added to unpaid summer and winter tax bills. After February 28, 2020, taxes are payable to St. Clair County. In order to ensure timely payments, customers using on-line bill pay, should schedule their payment 7 – 10 days prior to the due date. The office will be closed December 23rd - December 26th, 2019. A drop box is located in the township parking lot for your convenience.

Tom Lauer

PARKS & RECREATION

The Parks & Recreation Commission and the Ira Township Board would like to thank Geri McCann for her past service and contributions as Director to the Ira Township Parks & Recreation Commission. Our best wishes in all her future endeavors.

The Commission, with approval from the Township Board, has allocated funding for the completion of a walking path that encompasses the Township’s Municipal Park. This path is now complete and ready for use by our citizens. Thank you to Paul Muscat of Cortis Brothers Trucking & Excavating, Inc., for your efforts in completing this tremendous improvement.

The Municipal Park will soon have electricity to both of its pavilions. This improvement will enable our citizens to increasingly enjoy our beautiful park and enhance the park’s use for additional events and activities.

The Parks & Recreation Commission would like to recognize and thank Anthony Robinson for completion of his Eagle Scout project at Water Works Park. As a result of this project, we now have a flagpole with both the American and Ira Township flags. In addition, the park has a life-buoy station for water emergencies. Anthony, a job well done and best wishes on your advancement to Eagle Scout.
On Sunday, October 27th Parks and Recreation will be sponsoring its annual Halloween Trick & Treat event at the Municipal Park located at Short Cut and Meldrum roads. Come and enjoy this fun event from 2 pm – 3 pm on October 27th. All are welcome!

Snowmobile Safety Class will be held at Ira Township Hall on Saturday, November 9th, from 9 am – 4 pm. Please email cindy@iratownship.org to register and for more information.

You are also invited to attend the Ira Township Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7th, at 5 pm. The event will take place in the parking lot adjacent to the Ira Township Fire Hall. In addition to the lighting, activities are planned for the children in the Fire Hall. Santa Claus will make an appearance to listen and receive requests from the children.

When visiting we would like to encourage everyone to see our new digital bulletin board located in the lobby of the Township Hall. It has information relating to many current and future events in Ira Township, Clay Township and the city of Algonac. In addition to the digital bulletin board, we encourage everyone to visit Ira Township Parks & Recreation on Facebook and our website www.iratownship.org to learn about future events and activities.

St. Clair County Trails Steering Committee is seeking Community Trail Teams throughout the County to help advocate for trails, get more public input, and ultimately implement the Plan. We are trying to identify people in Ira/Algonac/Clay who are avid bicyclists or trail users (or just people who really care about trails and recreation) and who would want to participate on the community trail team for their area. We are seeking a group to represent the southern part of the County. There will be meetings from time to time but not an overly huge commitment. We hope you consider this opportunity to join our team. Interested residents should contact the Parks & Recreation Department to join the team or to receive more details. Please email cindy@iratownship.org if you would like to join the team!

Parks & Recreation welcomes all citizen improvements and or ideas for future recreational programs. We also welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering to assist Parks & Recreation in any way.

Finally, we would like to welcome our newly appointed director, Cindy Babisz. Cindy comes to Ira Township with a wealth of information and expertise. Good Luck Cindy!

Ira Township is a proud member of St. Clair County’s Northeastern Watershed Group and has been protecting and enhancing our rivers and lakes since 2002. Check out the programs and activities offered for families to support clean water in our area. For more information, visit www.sccwater.org

Ira’s DPS will continue the Sanitary Influuent and Infiltration Program. The purpose of this program is to eliminate sources of rain and ground water from entering the sanitary sewer system. This allows us to maintain an efficient and cost-effective sanitary sewer collection system. Common sources of unacceptable infiltration are sump pumps, down spouts, damaged sanitary service lines and broken or damaged sanitary service lines and sewer clean out caps. Ira Township personnel will use dye

DPS/WATER

Homeowner Responsibilities

As fall wraps up and winter ramps up here are a few things to keep in mind. We can be smart about fertilizing and raking leaves! Fall chores have an impact on the storm water runoff coming from our yards. Here are simple steps you can do to help keep our rivers, streams, and lakes healthy:

1. Do not dump your leaves into storm drains or ditches! Decomposing leaves add excessive nutrients that cause algae growth and take the oxygen out of the water that goes directly to our rivers. This harms fish and other aquatic animals and destroys their habitat.
2. Fertilizer should only be applied in the fall for a healthy lawn in the spring.
3. When applying fertilizer, keep a minimum 10-foot buffer from ditches, storm drains and streams. This prevents nitrogen and phosphorus from washing into our waterways.
4. Do not dump any materials down storm drain catch basins in streets or parking lots. All storm drains are connected directly to Lake St. Clair – the water we drink! Remember, only rain in the drain!

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testing, smoke testing and video monitoring equipment to locate trouble spots. All Township personnel carry proper identification. If you have any questions regarding this program call the DPS at 586-725-7231.

The Algonac/Clay/Ira Waste Water Treatment Plant is operated to provide a safe, efficient and cost-effective sanitary disposal system to serve the local inhabitants. Residents can assist in this endeavor by refraining from flushing certain items not meant for disposal into the sanitary system.

Disinfecting/cleaning wipes, dental floss, diapers, reinforced paper toweling, cloth and plastics do not break down when discarded into the sanitary system. These items will cause obstructions which are labor intensive to remove and can damage equipment, ultimately increasing the cost of wastewater treatment. Even items that are labeled “flushable” can be detrimental to the disposal system.

Avoid flushing items that cannot be easily torn with your bare hands; if you can’t tear it, don’t flush it. Following this simple rule of thumb will greatly assist in maintaining the local wastewater sanitary system efficiently and economically for yourself and your neighbors.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The annual one-day curbside refrigerator pick-up will be Tuesday June 9th, 2020. Refrigerant does not have to be removed for this special one-time collection. Doors and locks should be removed or disabled.

Our annual tire collection will take place at the DPS June 13th - 14th, 2020, from 8 am – 4 pm. Tires must be removed from rims and must be from passenger cars, light trucks, SUV’s lawnmowers and motorcycles only. We will also have dumpsters available this same weekend for general debris clean-up.

Meter Replacement:

If you have not had your meter replaced you will continue to get estimated bills until the meter is replaced, please contact the Township Office at 586-725-0263 as soon as possible to schedule an appointment. The DPS will need you to be at home on the day of the replacement during the time block scheduled for the meter replacement. A Township representative will inform you before the work begins and let you know that your water service will be interrupted for approximately 15-30 minutes. All Township representatives wear uniforms, drive a Township vehicle with the Township logo and carry picture identification badges. The customer is responsible for the repair of defective plumbing or deteriorating pipes including the valves on both sides of the meter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this program, please contact the Township office.

Water / Sewer Payment Plans

Payment Plans are available prior to bill due date. Contact Renee @ 586-725-4186 for more information. If making a payment online, please ensure your payment is in our office by the due date.

Chris Hiltunen
Water/DPS Superintendent

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ira Township Fire Department is pleased to be able to offer smoke detectors and batteries for any Ira Township resident, to who qualify, on a first come first serve basis. Fire Department personnel can come out and check smoke alarms for proper operation and locations, change or install batteries, and even install smoke detectors if needed.

The Fire Department wants its citizens to be aware of the values of having working smoke detectors in their homes. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports having properly installed and operating smoke detectors increases the chance of survival by 50%. The NFPA estimates there are 5 million homes in the country still without smoke alarms.

The unit available will be 10-year, sealed lithium battery, UL compliant smoke alarms.

If you are in need of a smoke alarm or batteries for your current smoke detectors, please contact the Ira Township Fire Department at 586-725-7771 or email to irafire@comcast.net
This program has been started thru the purchase of smoke alarms and donations from energizer batteries. Continuation of this program will be thru donations and/or future grant funding.

A reminder that burn permits are required for all open burning. Please contact the fire station at 586-725-7771 to obtain a permit. For anyone looking for burning requirements there are copies at the fire station or on our website at iratownship.org/fire

The annual Pancake Breakfast and Open House will take place on Sunday, October 20st, 2019 from 8 am - 12 pm. Come out and support the Ira Firefighters Association Women’s Auxiliary and see our fire trucks and equipment.

Jason P. Keller
Fire Chief

**IRA LIBRARY**

The Ira Township Library offers thousands of books, CDs, books on CD, DVDs and free internet access. The Library is located at the corner of Meldrum and Short Cut roads. The Library has a Friends Group and we could use more members. If you’d like to join, please come to our next meeting on November 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

We have Family Storytime on Fridays at 10 am, no registration required, just come on in! The Cozy Mystery Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

The Knitting group meets at 2 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

During December, please donate items to our mitten tree. Last year, nearly one hundred items were donated, let’s try to beat that number this year!

**COMMUNITY CORNER**

We will feature a local business every newsletter. To submit, please email clerk@iratownship.org

Santa will visit the library at 11 am on Saturday, December 14, 2019 if you’re planning to come to see him please call and let us know.

If you haven’t been to the Library in a while, you will probably be surprised by our new look and the many services we offer. Please call us with any questions at 586-725-9081.

Gary Kupper
Ira Library Branch Manager

**IRA HOSTED S.C.C. MTA**

Second Vice President of the Michigan Township Association and Supervisor of Grant Township Bill Deater spoke at a meeting hosted by Ira Township at Island Grill on September 18, 2019. It was well attended and a great way to show off our township.

Thank you, Amie, for being a valued Ira Township business owner.

**DROP BOX**

Please feel free to use the drop box located in the parking lot island when paying tax and utility bills or dropping off your election applications and ballots.
MONTHLY MEETINGS

BOARD - 1ST Monday
PLANNING - 2ND Monday
ZBA - 3RD Tuesday
PARKS/REC - 4TH Monday

If you are interested in serving on any of the boards/commissions, please submit a letter of interest to the Supervisor.

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED


TOWNSHIP INFO

7085 Meldrum Road
Fair Haven, MI 48023

MONDAY - THURSDAY
7 AM – 5 PM
CLOSED 12 – 1 PM
586-725-0263
iratownship.org

2019 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

STANDARD MAILING
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