SUPERVISOR

My Dear Fellow Township Residents:

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and ready for warmer weather!

We’ve had a mild winter and hopefully it helps with our high lake levels and the water evaporates rather quick this year so that we can enjoy the season instead of worrying about flooding and sand bagging throughout summer. We do have sandbags on hand and have a policy set in place for Township residents to receive 100 sandbags per property with proof of residency.

Our first major subdivision is well under way. Mallard Pond is taking shape quickly with infrastructure work mostly done, and model home permits applied for and being reviewed now. These homes will feature between 1800 and 1950 square feet of living space with attached 3 car garages and be a ranch home design.

Our building department is now run by Susan Wilburn, she is full time and brings many years of expertise to our Township. Last year in 2019, we issued permits for 10 new homes with a total value of just over 3.3 million dollars. The building department also issued 700 permits last year for building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and zoning totaling just over $124,000. So, as you can see, we are growing and trying to be prepared for the future and what lies ahead.

Our industrial district is growing as well. A new 24,000 square foot building on the corner of 26 Mile and County Line roads is taking shape as you read this. This attractive building will be the cornerstone of the industrial park as you enter Ira Township, hopefully it fills up quickly and brings business opportunities to Ira Township. There continues to be a lot of interest in the industrial areas and hopefully by the next newsletter I will have more good news to report!

As we continue to grow, we are always seeking township residents who want to serve our community. Whether it’s as a volunteer at a township event or to serve on the Parks and Recreation, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Board of Review or the Construction Board of Appeals. Through our Parks and Recreation Department, we will be reviving our Beautification Commission and looking to add an Adopt a Park and/or Stream program. If you have any interest on serving on a commission, please submit a letter addressed to the supervisor stating your intentions. As positions open on a commission we will be filling them. These commissions provide you with an insight as to how our community is growing and offers a chance to be involved in the decision-making processes each commission holds. It’s also a great way to serve your community and be engaged in the Township!

In closing, I’d like to say “Thank You” for the trust and support I’ve received from Ira Township residents since assuming the position as Supervisor. This is a position I take great pride in and will continue to do so as we face the challenges ahead in our Township. Anytime I can be of help or assistance please call the office.

I wish you all a Happy Easter, a warm wonderful dry spring and a hot summer!!

Sincerely,
Jim Endres, Jr.

CLERK

The March 10th Closed Presidential Primary is now complete. Thank you to all the residents who voted in the primary. Two other elections will be held in the Township this year: August 4, 2020 – State Primary Election and November 3, 2020 – State General Election. For more information on the upcoming elections or information on how to become a Permanent Absentee Voter, please visit the Clerk’s page at www.iratownship.org, or call 586-725-0263, ext. 107.
CENSUS 2020: SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNTS

An accurate Census will help to bring federal dollars to Ira Township for services.

What is it?
- The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. You will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1.

Why does it matter?
- Results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country – for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services.
- The census helps to determine federal funding distributions for roads, schools, emergency services, public transportation, libraries, and more.
- Results affect planning and funding for infrastructure – including programs for highway planning and construction, federal transit, community development, and rural water and waste disposal systems.
- After each decade’s census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts to account for population shifts.

How does it work?
- In 2020, you can complete the Census online.
- In mid-March, most residents will receive a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau, with instructions and a unique ID number allowing you to complete the Census online.
- If you are unable to respond online within a few weeks, the Census Bureau will provide a paper questionnaire.
- When responding to the census, count every person living or staying in your home.
- Respond at the address where you were living or staying on April 1, 2020.

Is my information safe?
- By federal law, information obtained by the Census is private and confidential.
- Personal information shared with Census cannot be used against you or anyone else by any government agency or court.
- Your responses can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

Learn more at 2020census.gov

Hope you have a wonderful, safe and sun filled spring and summer.
Jean Corbat

TREASURER

Ira Township recently signed a five-year contract with Emterra Environmental for trash and recycling pick up within the Township. The rates for 2020 will stay the same as they were in 2019. Collection day will continue to be on Tuesday. If a holiday falls on Monday or Tuesday, pickup will be one day later than normal. All materials should be set at the curb by 7:00 am on the scheduled day of pickup and should not weigh more than fifty pounds. Yard waste pick up is available by subscription between Emterra and the homeowner. A flyer will soon be sent out to each homeowner with detailed information.

Tom Lauer

PARKS & RECREATION

Greetings! I am very excited to be on board as your Director of Parks & Recreation. Ira Township is a great place to live, work and play! The Municipal Park, Trails, Disc Golf Course and Water Works Park are beautiful places to visit and can improve your health. Feel free to share your ideas for programs, classes and events. We will be adding new options each month. In the meantime, see you in the Parks!

Improvements continue in Ira Township Parks & Recreation! The Parks & Recreation Commission recently approved funding for split rail fencing at the Municipal Park. In addition, dog waste receptacles will be purchased and placed at both the Municipal Park and Water Works Park.

The Large Pavilion in the Municipal Park will be available for rental for birthday parties, family reunions, picnics, etc. Interested persons will fill out a Rental Application and Park Use Agreement at the Township Offices. The rental fee is $50.00 for residents and $100.00 for non-residents. When not rented, the pavilion is available on a first come basis.

The Parks & Recreation Commission would like to recognize and thank Mitchell Sobolewski for completion of his Eagle Scout Project at Water Works Park this past winter. As a
result of this project, we now have three additional benches along the walking path. We encourage you to visit Water Works Park and enjoy the beautiful view from these strategically placed benches. Mitchell, a job well done and best wishes on your advancement to Eagle Scout!

We are sorry to announce that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 5, 2020 has been cancelled due to the Governor’s State of Emergency. Please look for information on our website and Facebook page for future events for our younger residents.

Ira Township Parks & Recreation is excited to partner with the Ira Township Library Summer Reading Program on Friday mornings. Children are welcome to visit the park and participate in activities that will tie in with their reading choices. What a great way to celebrate and combine reading and recreation!

Just leisurely walking the beautiful trails at Ira Township Municipal Park offer so many health benefits! This Park location is the perfect setting to enjoy and learn about nature, wildlife, birds and environment!

**BIKE SAFETY**

A Bike Safety Day will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the Ira Township Parking Lot on Meldrum Road.

A Music in the Park Evening is planned for the Municipal Park as well. More details will be available on these new programs as they are confirmed. Interested sponsors should contact Cindy at the Ira Township Offices, 586-339-3962 or by email at Cindy@IraTownship.org

**Perennial Exchange and Seed Swap** is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 am in the Municipal Park Pavilion. Great opportunity to thin out your spreading plants and exchange them for new plants. This is a great opportunity to chat about gardening and meet some new friends! We will also explore other gardening related program options.

Do you have an interesting talent or knowledge to share? Retired and looking for meaningful volunteer work? Do you have a special talent or skill you could share as a class or program? Find out how to share your skill with others! This may also be an opportunity to make extra money. The Ira Township Parks & Recreation is looking for some great volunteers to help with our upcoming events. Let us show you how easy and fun it is to be involved.

Ira Township Parks & Recreation values your suggestions and input regarding our Parks and future program and event planning. We encourage everyone to visit our website www.iratownship.org and Facebook to learn about our current activities. We also encourage our residents to attend our Parks & Recreation Meetings held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall. Your input and suggestions are greatly appreciated!

Ira Township Parks & Recreation Trivia: Disc Golf is our most popular program, year-round!

See you in the Parks,
Cindy Babisz

**BUILDING/CODE**

The Township has some new faces in the Building Department. Susan Wilburn is handling our Planning and Zoning, Building, and Code Enforcement and Leslie Goodwin is our new Building Department Assistant.

As summer is upon us and we get the “project bug”, please contact the building department to inquire about a permit and inspections. Inspections will ensure the project was done right and up to code for your family’s safety.

As the weather warms up, a reminder to please keep your property free of any debris and to maintain grass and weeds.

**DPS/WATER**

Think Spring!

Storm water drains need to be cleared of all gravel, sticks and debris in order to improve storm water drainage and prevent stagnant water buildup which encourages mosquito breeding. Storm water drains and ditches are designed to draw off rainwater from road surface areas. Drains are not designed to accept chemicals, pet and yard waste, kitchen grease, gray water run off or septic water from private or commercial sites. Following these simple steps will improve the water quality in the lakes, rivers and streams.
High Water Level Issues

While the water levels have receded from the highs of 2019, it is being predicted that the levels will reach and potentially exceed those of last year this spring and summer. Last year with the high-water levels we experienced some very high flows in our Sanitary Sewer system. This system is designed to carry sanitary sewer to the treatment plant for treatment, it is not designed to handle water from rain events or high water levels. Last year during inspections we found numerous illegal connections into the sewer system. As a reminder it is illegal to:

• Connect sump pumps or any other pumps to the sanitary sewer system.
• Connect downspouts and yard drains to the sanitary sewer system.
• Remove cleanouts or manhole covers to drain yards or flooded areas.

These types of activities can compromise the entire system leading to sewer overflows into the lake.

Meter replacement

If you have not had your water meter replaced, please contact the Township Office at 586-725-0263 as soon as possible to schedule an appointment.

Water/Sewer Payment Plans

Payment Plans are available prior to bill due date. If making a payment via your bank online, payment must be in our office by the due date.

Water Quality

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has completed a statewide initiative to test drinking water from all schools that use well water and community water supplies. The test was looking for a group of manmade chemicals called per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

It is not uncommon to find low levels of PFAS in drinking water supplies, as PFAS can be found in fire-fighting foams, stain repellants, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing, food wrappers, and many other household products. They do not break down in the environment and move easily into water. The EPA set a Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level for two PFAS in drinking water, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The LHA level is 70 parts per trillion (ppt, equal to 70 ng/L) for PFOA and PFOS combined, or individually if only one is present. The EPA has not set health advisory levels for other PFAS compounds. All samples collected from Ira Township during this study came back as non-detect.

For health-related questions, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at 1-800-648-6942 or visit one of the websites below.

For information on PFAS including possible health outcomes, visit these websites:
• State of Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website serving as the main resource for public information on PFAS contamination in Michigan www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse
• Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) website including health information, exposure, and links to additional resources www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas
• United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) website including basic information, U.S. EPA actions, and links to informational resources www.epa.gov/pfas

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.

Chris Hiltunen
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 who qualify, on a first come first serve basis. Fire Department personnel can come out and check smoke alarms for proper
The U.S. Fire Administration reports more than 1/3 of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke detectors are present, and the risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half with working smoke detectors installed. As of February 27, 2020, there have been 30 fatalities in home fires in the state of Michigan in 2020. This is an 88% increase compared to the same time frame last year. Michigan is leading the nation in home fire deaths in 2020. Please check your smoke detectors and prepare an emergency escape plan with your family.

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.

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 Ira Township Fire Department also provides CPR & First Aid training. For details and cost on classes contact the fire station by phone 586-725-7771 or email at irafire@comcast.net.

Jason P. Keller
Fire Chief

IRA LIBRARY

Ira Township Library isn’t just wall to wall books, we also have videos to rent, book sales, computer use, and host special events:

LEGOM NIGHT- 4TH Thursday of every month 6 pm - 7:30 pm

ART AT IRA- ADULTS
2nd Thursday of every month 6 pm - 7:30 pm must register

ART AT IRA- KIDS
2nd Thursday of every month 6 pm - 7:30 pm must register

MONEY SMART KIDS – Friday April 10th 10 am

COZY MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
1st Tuesday of every month 2 pm

SUMMER READING, CRAFT, PARKS June 15 - August 15. Fridays - Storytime starts at 10 am, then craft time followed by a trip to the Ira Park.

Free WIFI on site with library card.

COMMUNITY CORNER

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

Anchor Bay Scuba
8655 Dixie Hwy
586-725-1991

Anchor Bay Scuba has been in Fair Haven since 1979. Don and Mickey Wrona have owned and operated the scuba store for the last 13 years, specializing in teaching scuba daily in their in-store pool, from Open Water to Dive Master certifications. They are family oriented and pride themselves with local diving as well as Saltwater travel.

Anchor Bay Scuba sells and services scuba and snorkeling equipment and offers classes tailored to fit your schedule. Don is a Master Instructor who has been teaching for 41 years. Mickey is an Assistant Instructor who has been a diver for 37 years. New to the shop is Sarah Grewe their new PADI Instructor who has been with them for 4 years. Come and join the dive family.

The store is opened M-F noon to 7:00 pm and Sat 10:00 am till 3:00 pm. Check out Anchor Bay Scuba on Google, and Facebook, or on their web page at www.anchorbayscuba.com.

Thank you, Don and Mickey, for being valued Ira Township business owners for such a long time.
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<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
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<td>12+</td>
<td>4/25/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beach Glass Class</td>
<td>12+</td>
<td>5/20/20</td>
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<td>Bicycle Safety Day</td>
<td>Any</td>
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<td>Junk Journals</td>
<td>55+</td>
<td>6/19/20</td>
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<td>Idea Bulletin Board</td>
<td>12+</td>
<td>5/27/20</td>
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<td>Nature Heroes</td>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>5/13/20</td>
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<td>Music in the Park Still Running</td>
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<td>6/19/20</td>
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<td>Any</td>
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<td>Trick and Treat thru Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Tree Lighting</td>
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**June 9th-refrigerator pick-up**
**June 13th-14th-Tires-Twp Hall**
**August 4th-Primary Election**
**November 3rd-General Election**

**TOWNSHIP INFO**

7085 Meldrum Road
Fair Haven, MI 48023

**DROP BOX**

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

**2020 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

**P & R Programs at a Glance**

Check website for additional info