

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. - noon

The Township Supervisor, Clerk and/or Deputy Supervisor are available at the Township Hall during office hours. Please feel welcome to stop in.

Township officials are also available at other times by appointment.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Welcome to Interim Building Inspector Kevin Cardiff. The Township has experienced a change in inspectors with the resignation of Bill Henderson. Many of you know Kevin as the Township's mechanical inspector and/or when he filled in for the former building inspector whenever the former inspector was on leave. The Township is fortunate to have the services of someone with exemplary skills and knowledge who is also familiar with the Township.

The Building Department page of the Township's website has been updated to include pertinent building information, permit worksheets and permit applications. Completed permits may be dropped off or mailed to the Township Hall.

On July 14th, the Board of Trustees passed an ordinance requiring a zoning permit for projects not otherwise requiring a permit from the Township. Agricultural buildings, sheds over 100 square feet are some of the buildings requiring a zoning permit. The permit fee is \$25. Applications may be found on the website and must be obtained prior to work commencing. Completed applications should be returned to the Township Hall. Please see the Zoning Permit section of the Zoning Ordinance for complete information.

RECYCLING

OCTOBER 11th IS JUNK DAY
Extended Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Alamo Township Park
(DE Avenue)

October 11th is the last Township junk day for 2008. Take advantage of this free service for Alamo Township residents (bring identification). Cement, tires, oil and appliances containing Freon cannot be accepted. Metal is collected separately from trash. Regular recyclables will be collected as usual. The Township will have extra help available to assist with unloading. Have a lot of junk? You're not limited to one load. Bring it all. We're ready!

Household recycling for Township residents is available free of charge on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (except January and February). Mixed paper including magazines and junk mail (no waxy coatings), newspaper, cardboard, plastic (#1, #2, #3 & #5 only), clear glass (no lids), tin foil and cans are accepted. A complete list of acceptable materials is on the Township website. Please separate newspaper from mixed paper. Except on junk days, thank you for not bringing non-recyclable materials to the site.

The Township is researching a new plastic bag recycling opportunity. The program includes virtually all plastic bags including grocery, dry cleaning, produce, water softener salt bags, shrink wrap, cereal box liners, etc. If participation is feasible, the program would be offered beginning in March 2009.

Free recycling for Township residents can be offered because of the generosity of your neighbors in donating an hour or two of their time once a month. Students needing community service hours are encouraged to volunteer. Please contact Ron Feniger 381-8478 if you are able to provide assistance. Thank you for finding an hour or two to help out.

CEMETERIES

Reminder: Summer and fall decorations must be removed from gravesites by November 15th. Thank you for placing flowers directly behind the headstone or marker and ensuring that any displays do not hinder maintenance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department officers meet 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. the 4th Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public and citizen input is welcome. Chief Moore encourages residents to stop in at the station any time the station is staffed.

The Fire Department would like to remind residents of a few important fire safety tips for the coming seasons:

- Have all fireplaces and chimneys inspected by a professional before lighting a fire.
- Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when we “fall back” from daylight savings time.
- Check the batteries in your carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

Reminder: The burning of leaves, brush and other yard debris is allowed by permit. For more details or to obtain a burn permit please contact the Fire Department. Burning of brush, leaves, paper and cardboard within a burning barrel is allowed without a permit; fires may not burn unattended. Burning of tires and trash is not permitted. A copy of the ordinance governing this subject may be located on the Ordinance page of the Township website.

The Fire Department will be conducting a candy check on Halloween and the Department will have a Fire Prevention trailer onsite to allow children hands-on learning on fire safety.

Alamo Fire and Rescue cannot help you if they cannot find you. The Alamo Firefighters' Association sells reflective address signs for \$10.00 per sign. To order a sign, send payment along with the following information:

Name
Address
Phone number

List the numbers you desire on the sign.
List vertical or horizontal placement of the numbers.

Send to the Alamo Firefighters' Association
7840 North 6th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Sign(s) will be delivered in 7-14 days

The Alamo Fire Department is always looking for men and women with a desire to serve and protect the community. Fire Academy, medical training, and equipment are covered by the Township. Interested persons may obtain more information by calling Chief Moore (345-3010) or by sending an e-mail to alamochief@sbcglobal.net. Applications may be found on the Township website.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

The DE Avenue Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Access to the park (and parking) when the gates are closed is available at the west gate.

Like many area residents, the Park was overwhelmed with the recent rains. Sand Creek was up over three feet, the highest level residents could ever recall. A number of the fish structures constructed by Trout Unlimited and Parks volunteers were damaged. Trout Unlimited and Parks volunteers were in the water on September 23 to make repairs.

October 12th (beginning at 9:00 a.m.) is the next work day in the DE Avenue Park. If you have a few hours to spare, the Parks Board has something for you to do.

Volunteers for other park projects are always welcome. Specifically, the Parks Board is looking for volunteers to work on developing a Farmer's Market, a community-wide garage sale plus volunteers to fill immediate vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Alamo Township Parks (appointed positions). For more information or to volunteer, please contact Parks Chair Jon Little (381-8387).

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Residents may drop off their household hazardous waste at 1301 Lamont (off Lake Street near the Sheriff's Department). This is FREE to Alamo Township residents and no appointment is needed. Oil-based paint products, motor oil, fire extinguishers, electronics, solvents, antifreeze, pesticides, mercury and many other items that cannot go into your regular trash are accepted. Drop-off hours are Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday from noon until 6:00 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm or call 373-5211 for a complete list of acceptable materials.

UPDATES FROM THE TREASURER

Summer taxes were due no later than September 15th. Taxes paid September 16th through 30th are subject to a 1% late fee. An additional 1% is added each month that taxes are unpaid. Beginning February 17th, an additional 3% late fee is added. Taxes not paid to the Township Treasurer by February 28th are considered delinquent and must be paid to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer.

Winter taxes will be mailed out by December 1st. Winter taxes are due no later than February 17th, 2009. Taxes paid February 18th through February 28th are subject to a 3% late fee. Taxes paid after February 28th must be paid to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer.

ALAMO TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Meeting schedules, approved minutes for the Trustees, Zoning and Parks Boards, tax information, department news, and recycling information are readily available at www.alamotownship.org. In addition to enhancements to the Building Department page, Township municipal ordinances are now available on the Ordinance page. A Zoning map has been added to the page and the full Township Zoning Ordinance will be posted in a matter of days.



MUSEUM

The curator of the Alamo Township Museum, Mary Goble, recently announced her retirement. Both Mary and the Museum are quiet gems in the Township. Please plan to stop into the Museum before it closes for the year to wish Mary well. A tea will be held in her honor later in the year.

For historical information about the museum and the Township, check out the following website: http://home.earthlink.net/~tommaas/Alamo_Township_museum.htm

The museum is open May through October on Tuesdays (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) and Saturdays and Sundays (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Many thanks to Mary and the volunteers who staff the museum and preserve the Township's history.

NOVEMBER ELECTION

If you are not registered to vote and want to vote in the November 4th general election, the deadline to register is October 6th. If application to register is made by U.S. mail, requests must be postmarked no later than October 6th. Heavy voter turnout is expected for this election.

Please take into account mailing time when applying for an absentee ballot close to the election. Ballots received after the polls close on November 4th cannot be counted. Persons who have made application for an absentee ballot should have received their ballots in the mail.

Please remember to bring picture identification with you when you vote in person.

CONTACT US

E-mail addresses for Township officials or staff working out of the Township Hall are as follows:

supervisor@alamotownship.org

clerk@alamotownship.org

deputysupervisor@alamotownship.org

Questions or comments may also be directed to info@alamotownship.org.