

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009

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 available at other times by appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3: 1st Annual Antique Tractor Day. Township Museum (8119 North 6th) from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Bring out your old tractors or just stop by. Free popcorn and hotdogs, activities for the kids plus raffles and drawings. Contact Brian Smith for more information: 217-3247.

October 4: Last Day Museum is Open for 2009.

October 10: Junk Day and Regular Recycling. Township Park (DE Avenue) from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Free of charge to Township residents. Regular recycling includes mixed paper/cardboard (no waxy coatings), newspaper (please separate for Scouts), plastic (#s 1, 2, 3 & 5 only), clear glass (no lids), tin foil and cans. A complete list of acceptable materials is on the Township website. "Junk" **EXCLUDES** cement, oil-based paint, tires, oil, hazardous materials and appliances containing Freon. (See related article on Household Hazardous Waste). Metal is collected separately from trash; please keep this in mind when loading trucks and trailers. Latex paint is accepted; however, please allow the paint to dry or mix it with a thickening agent (such as cat litter). Identification is required on October 10.

October 31: Candy Check & Fire Prevention Trailer. Township Fire Department (7840 North 6th).

November 3: Election. Precincts will be combined, please remember to bring picture ID if voting in person. One question on the ballot: Should the supervisor be recalled from office?

November 14: Regular Recycling. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. See October 10 for acceptable recyclables. This is not a junk day. No trash.

December 1: Winter Taxes Mailed. Winter taxes are due on February 16 without penalty. Taxes paid after this date are subject to a 3% late fee and are paid to the Township Treasurer. Taxes paid after February 28 are subject to additional late fees and must be paid to the County Treasurer.

December 12: LAST Regular Recycling for 2009. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. See October 10th for acceptable recyclables. This is not a junk day. No trash.

March 13: FIRST Regular Recycling for 2010. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. See October 10 for acceptable recyclables. This is not a junk day. No trash.

May 1: Museum Reopens.

June 26: 4th Annual Classics in the Park. Mark your calendars now for this community event. Details will appear in the spring newsletter.



TOWNSHIP SURVEY

A big thank you to the 209 individuals, families and/or business owners who responded to the survey distributed with the Summer Newsletter. The survey results were remarkably similar to those from the 1996 survey. The 1996 survey (published as part of the 1998 Land Use Plan) was sent to 900 residents with an incredibly high number (more than 600) of respondents. The 2009 survey was sent to 1643 residents with 209 responses.

Over the next several editions of the newsletter, highlights of the survey results will be published.

The survey was distributed as part of the Planning Commission's work in updating the Township's Land Use Plan. The last Land Use Plan was published in 1998 with an update completed in 2003. Survey questions were designed to seek opinions; a number of the questions were similar to the questions asked in 1996 to allow for comparisons.

A number of the surveys were returned with questions that likely are of interest to a number of township residents. A selection of these questions (with answers) will be published over the coming months as well.

Length of time lived or operated a business in the Township?

YEARS IN TOWNSHP	2009 %	1998 %
1 - 5	11.3	24
6 - 10	16.7	18
11 - 15	13.8	9
16 - 20	15.3	11
21 - 25	9.4	9
26 - 30	7.9	29
31 - 40	9.8	
41 - 50	8.4	
51 - 60	4.4	
61 - 70	1.5	
71 - 80	0.5	
80 +	1.0	
26+ years %	33.5	

Number and ages of household members.

	< 18	18-25	26-45	46-65	>65
# of Families (2009)	57	31	43	119	67
# of People (2009)	105	51	69	200	110
% from 2009	19.6	9.5	12.9	37.4	20.6
% from 1990 ¹	26.7	6.6	31.4	22.4	12.9
% from 2000 ¹	28.2	3.3	25.8	27.2	15.5

¹Census Data (survey/census age ranges are not exact).
 Note: Households for 1990 (1,129); 1,378 for 2000 and 1,610 for 2009.

Rank order 7 current or potential municipal services and, if a millage was requested, the likelihood of voting "yes". The first column under each service represents respondents, while the "yes"/"no" columns address the millage question.

RANK ORDER	CURBSIDE RECYCLING		FIRE & RESCUE			
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1	15	46	145	126	120	76
2	14			56		
3	31			14		
4	40			6		
5	39			1		
6	8			0		
7	44			1		

RANK ORDER	POLICE PROTECTION		RECREATION FACILITIES			
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1	42	76	113	5	22	166
2	53			13		
3	37			22		
4	27			50		
5	14			52		
6	9			15		
7	15			37		

RANK ORDER	MUNICIPAL SEWER		MUNICIPAL WATER			
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1	4	15	176	5	16	174
2	1			2		
3	4			3		
4	9			15		
5	18			21		
6	67			52		
7	87			93		

RANK ORDER	ROAD REPAIR		
	Yes	No	
1	65	96	94
2	41		
3	61		
4	20		
5	9		
6	3		
7	4		

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Residents may drop off their household hazardous waste (no charge) at 1301 Lamont (off Lake Street near the Sheriff's Department). For a list of acceptable materials, please call 373-5211 or visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm.



REMINDERS

Planning to burn brush? Don't forget the permit. E-mail firedept@alamotownship.org and provide your name, address and when you plan to burn. Including multiple days/times is acceptable.

A limited supply of smoke detectors is available from the Fire Department for low income families.

In case of emergency, the Fire Department cannot help you if they can't find you. The Alamo Firefighters' Association sells reflective address signs for \$10.00 per sign. Order signs are available on the Township website and Township offices.

Building Permits. Building, electrical, mechanical and zoning permit applications are required for work in the township. Available on the website and at the Township Hall. Permits must be obtained prior to work commencing.



WANTED

Volunteers. Parks related projects, contact Lou Conti (226-9321) and/or the Museum, contact Brian Smith (217-3247). This is a great way for students to earn community service hours.

Volunteer Firefighters. Contact Chief Moore (345-3010) or e-mail alamochief@sbcglobal.net. Information also on the Township website.

Manure Spreader. Donation for the Parks Department for use in maintaining the park trails. Contact Lou Conti (226-9321).

Cross Country Skis. Donations for youth associated with the Otsego Cross Country Ski Club (or others) who are not able to purchase equipment. Contact Lou Conti (226-9321).

ALAMO IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Bradley and Alma Egen for being featured in the Kalamazoo Gazette in July and "This Old House" in April 2009. Their 1861 Transitional Italianate Greek Revival-style home was built in 1861; they purchased the home in 2006.

A Certificate of Appreciation was provided to Jonathan Little from the Parks Board and the Alamo Township Board of Trustees. Mr. Little served on the Parks Board since 2005, the last year as its chairperson.

Fire Chief Larry Moore has earned his National Fire Protection Association certification as both a National and State Certified Fire Inspector. The Township offers its congratulations to Chief Moore for the successful completion of the requirements and for taking the initiative to complete the work required.



G AVENUE HAULING ROUTE

Cases are now before the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court. As a result of the Road Commission voiding portions of the Oshtemo Township truck route ordinance, trucks were again permitted on 10th Street and H Avenue. However, the Circuit Court issued a preliminary injunction which overturned the Road Commission's decision. The Circuit's Court's ruling has been appealed to the Court of Appeals; the Court of Appeals is not expected to rule before spring.



HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This program provides free energy conservation services for eligible, low-income households. In this area, the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department's Community Action Agency Weatherization Program determines applicant eligibility, performs the necessary inspections and hires licensed private contractors to do the work. For more information, please call 373-5066.