

# ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2009

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### 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.**

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### PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES

The Alamo Township Planning Commission is off to a fast and productive start. When the Zoning Board became the Planning Commission in February, membership changed from five to seven members:

Paula Baker  
Karen DeVries  
Ron Feniger, Ex-officio  
Helen Goyings, Vice-Chair  
Belden Smith, Chair  
Al Sweitzer  
David Veenstra

Activities, to date, have included several public hearings, establishing by-laws, finalizing an ordinance to govern the mining of gravel (and other natural resources) and the development of a survey (see Taxes, Surveys and You). The survey will be used for the review and updating of the Alamo Township Land Use Plan. The current Plan was developed in 1998 and updated in 2003.



### TAXES, SURVEYS and YOU

A survey is included with the newsletter to offer each household and business in the Township the opportunity to share their opinions on the present and future of the Township. Please take the time to complete and return the survey by July 7.

The survey can be folded and sealed (tape or use a sticker) and either mailed to the Township Hall or dropped off. The Township drop box may be used (to the immediate left of the office door handle).

Township officials have received numerous questions lately regarding the taxes we all pay. Township operations are funded through two main sources: State revenue sharing and the taxes we pay twice per year to the Township.

State revenue sharing is the Township's share of the state sales tax distribution. For 2008, the Township received \$268,076 in revenue sharing. Revenue sharing is expected to fall in 2009 as a result of the economic challenges facing Michigan. Initial reports out of Lansing predicted a 4% reduction; as of June 5<sup>th</sup>, a plan was circulating that calls for a 15% reduction.

In 2008, the Township collected \$3,460,635 in taxes. The Township share of this is only \$131,793. The remainder of your tax dollars funds county services, schools and the library.

Like all municipalities, the Township is challenged to do more with less and cannot fund as many projects as it would like. Your responses on the survey are critical and will help shape the future of the Township. Please take a few moments to tell us what you think.



### ALAMO TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Meeting schedules, approved minutes for the Trustees, Planning Commission (formerly Zoning) and Parks Board, updated tax information, department news, ordinances, permit applications and recycling information are readily available at [www.alamotownship.org](http://www.alamotownship.org).

## **RECYCLING**

Regular recycling is in full swing. Recycling (at the DE Avenue Township Park) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This service is available free of charge to all Township residents. Mixed paper including magazines and junk mail (no waxy coatings), newspaper, cardboard, plastic (#s 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 (for the Boy Scouts) from mixed paper.

Best Way Disposal offers plastic recycling (free of charge) at its transfer station located at 2606 Miller Road. They will accept virtually all plastic bags except candy wrappers or clear, crinkly plastic.

### **NEXT JUNK DAY**

**October 10**

**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Junk days are a free service for Alamo Township residents (identification required). Cement, oil-based paint, tires, oil, hazardous materials and appliances containing Freon cannot be accepted. Latex paint is accepted; however, please allow the paint to dry or mix it with a thickening agent (such as cat litter). Metal is collected separately from trash. PLEASE NOTE NEW HOURS FOR JUNK DAY.



## **HOUSEHOLD 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: 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 call 373-5211 or visit [www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm](http://www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm) for a complete list of acceptable materials.

## **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

**JUNE 27 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Classic Car Show in the DE Avenue Park.** Bring the family for the car show, pancake breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.), displays by Alamo Fire and Rescue, ice cream social, bake sale, music from the 50s and 60s, door prizes, swap meet and this year, antique tractor and motorcycle classes. Awards at 2:00 p.m.

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.

Thanks to Park Ranger, Dick Bennett, for extensive preparatory work and planting of native prairie grasses in the Park. We appreciate Ranger Bennett's generosity in providing all labor and seeds for this Township benefit. Thank you also to Jack Landon for constructing a plaque for placement on the bridge connecting the north and south sides of the Park. "Newt's Crossing" recognizes the force (Newt Covault) behind the bridge construction.

Thank you to Aggregate Industries for the donation of 635 tons of gravel and to Little League (Paul Gagneur and Mike Lampen) for spreading and rolling the product into a much improved parking lot.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Parks Chair Jon Little (381-8387) or leave a message at the Township (382-3366).



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Planning to burn brush? Don't forget the permit. E-mail [firedept@alamotownship.org](mailto:firedept@alamotownship.org) and provide your name, address and when you plan to burn. If you are planning to burn on more than one day, you may list multiple days. Approximate times that burning is planned for each day is helpful.

Chief Moore recently attended a 2 week fire investigation training through the Michigan State Police. Chief Moore was one of 29 students selected to attend this training and is now a trained fire investigator.

Department officers meet 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 anytime the station is staffed.

The 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.

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](mailto:alamochief@sbcglobal.net). Applications may be found on the Township website.



## **MUSEUM**

The Township Museum is open for the season. Summer hours are Saturday (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) and Sunday (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Please stop in to see what the Museum has to offer and to meet the new curator, Brian Smith.



## **UPDATES FROM THE TREASURER**

Summer taxes will be mailed on or before July 1. Summer taxes are due no later than September 14.



## **ALAMO IN THE NEWS**

Alamo Township residents have had their share of good press lately in the Kalamazoo Gazette.

Congratulations to Josh, Jeremy and A.J. Pruis, of the Christian rock group, *Please Promise*. The Pruis' are longtime residents and we wish them the best of success with their new CD and tour in August.

Congratulations to Paula Kohler on her promotion to associate vice president for research at Western Michigan University.

Dr. Jonathan Rowe and his wife, Robin, purchased the grand 109 year old brick house on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in 2006. Anyone having the fortune to have been inside the home can't help but cheer that the home is being restored....and that the resident bats in the attic have found a new home.



## **G AVENUE HAULING ROUTE**

Both Alamo and Kalamazoo Townships filed objections with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission contending the Oshtemo Truck Ordinance diverted traffic to border roads (Drake Road for Kalamazoo Township and G Avenue for Alamo Township). In turn, Oshtemo filed an objection against Alamo alleging the Consent Judgment diverted traffic to a border road. The Road Commission voted on May 21 to void the portion of the Oshtemo Truck Ordinance that prohibits the use of 10<sup>th</sup> Street from G Avenue to M-43 and H Avenue from Drake to 9<sup>th</sup> and voted on June 9<sup>th</sup> to deny the Oshtemo objection. Oshtemo Township has now filed a lawsuit against the Road Commission and both Alamo and Kalamazoo Townships. The Road Commission's May 21 decision was effective immediately and truck traffic is, for now, permitted on 10<sup>th</sup> and H Avenues.



## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Revised permit applications are available on the Building Department page of the website. Land division or address applications are also on this page. Permit applications may be picked up at the Township Hall during office hours. A drop box is available for use during off hours.

Reminder: Zoning permits are required for projects not otherwise requiring a permit. Applications may be found on the website and must be obtained prior to work commencing.