

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

7901 North 6th Street ■ Kalamazoo, MI 49009

9:00 a.m. – noon

The Township Supervisor, Clerk and/or Deputy Supervisor are available during the published hours and by appointment. Please feel welcome to stop in.

OFFICE HOURS - ASSESSOR

Thursday

7901 North 6th Street ■ Kalamazoo, MI 49009

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For your convenience, many Township forms are available on the Township website. Completed forms may be mailed, faxed or dropped off. A drop slot is located to the south of the office door handle.

Regular meeting schedules are listed on the back cover. The public is welcome at all meetings.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Please help the Township keep all cemeteries looking well-maintained and respectful. Trees and bushes may not be planted without Township approval. Placement of potted or planted flowers on gravesites must be close to the headstone to permit ease of maintenance. No glass, porcelain or personal items are permitted. Please remove all items other than those listed by the 15th of July. After this date, the Township will remove the items. Thank you for your cooperation.



BULLETIN BOARD

WORK GROUP MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees plans to hold its monthly work group meetings as currently scheduled. Any changes to the meeting schedule are posted at the Township Hall, the Fire Station and on the Township website.

PROPERTY TAXES

Summer tax notices will be mailed no later than July 1 and are due, without penalty, by September 14, 2011.

June 25: 2011 Classics in the Park

Township Park on DE Avenue. Classic cars, trucks, bikes and tractors (vehicle registration 8:00 a.m. – noon); trophies at 2:00 p.m. Pancake breakfast (7:00 – 10:00 a.m.), ice cream social, concessions, music, fire department displays and more! Please join us for this community event.

July 1: Summer Taxes Mailed

July 9: Regular Recycling

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue. A "Clip & Save" list of acceptable items is located on the back cover. (This is not a junk day).

July 9-10: Museum Special Event

Saturday (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) & Sunday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
Access may be obtained at other times by contacting the Curator.

RECYCLING

The Township applauds its residents for taking advantage of the monthly Township recycling program. This service is offered to residents at no charge. To ensure recycling efforts flow as smoothly as possible, the Township would like to offer a couple of reminders. All of us would like to have avenues to recycle all paper, plastic and metal items; however, we are limited to collect only items our carrier can use. Please do not bring or add items to the bins if they are not listed as acceptable. Depending on the level of "contamination", inclusion of items that are not acceptable can result in the rest of the acceptable materials being thrown away by the carrier. Additionally, we know the dumpsters look like trash bins; however, we are not able to accommodate trash in the bins. Thank you for sparing your friends and neighbors from having to jump in the dumpsters to fish out trash. We appreciate it and thank you for your cooperation. Items accepted for recycling are listed on the back cover.

August 13: Regular Recycling

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue. A “Clip & Save” list of acceptable items is located on the back cover. (This is not a junk day).

August 13-14: Museum Special Event

Saturday (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) & Sunday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) Access may be obtained at other times by contacting the Curator.

September 10: Regular Recycling

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue. A “Clip & Save” list of acceptable items is located on the back cover. (This is not a junk day).

September 10-11: Museum Special Event

Saturday (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) & Sunday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) Access may be obtained at other times by contacting the Curator.

September 11: Dedication - Patriots Pavilion

Township Park on DE Avenue. 1:00 p.m. Join the Township in dedicating the Patriots Pavilion to persons who have served their country and community. Please check the Township website closer to the event for additional details.

September 14: Summer Taxes Due

Summer taxes must be paid by September 14 in order to avoid penalties.

October 8: Junk Day & Regular Recycling

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue. The semi-annual clean-up is free to Township residents; identification is required on junk day. In addition to regular recyclables (see July 9), “junk” is accepted. “Junk” **excludes** cement, oil-based paint, tires, oil, hazardous materials (including old TVs and computers) and appliances containing Freon. (See article on Household Hazardous Waste). Metal is collected separately from trash; please keep this in mind when loading trucks/trailers. Latex paint is accepted if dried or mixed with a drying agent (such as cat litter).

October 8-9: Museum (Last Event for 2011)

Saturday (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) & Sunday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) Access may be obtained at other times by contacting the Curator.



BURN PERMITS

A permit is required to burn brush, trees, stumps and/or leaves outside of a burn barrel. To obtain a permit, send an e-mail containing name, address, and when burning is planned to firedept@alamotownship.org. A 48-hour

permit will be provided by return e-mail. If internet access is not available, call the fire station (345-3010) and leave a message (name, address and when burning is planned). Permits obtained by phone are not generated automatically; please provide 24 hour notice. A permit is not required for the burning of brush, leaves, paper and cardboard in a burn barrel. Only brush, trees, leaves paper and cardboard may be burned in the Township, no trash.



METH LAB TRASH

Several residents have reported material that appears to be meth lab trash in ditches, along roadways and on land off the beaten path. Meth lab trash is considered poisonous and can be explosive. DO NOT remove trash if you see it; instead, contact the non-emergency dispatch line (Kalamazoo County Sheriff’s Office) 383-8821 – Option #6. Common meth lab trash includes the following sorts of items.

- Suspicious bags of trash.
- Empty plastic bottles containing solid materials, duct tape and/or plastic tubing.
- Over the counter cold/allergy pill packages.
- Empty containers of Coleman Fuel, acetone, starting fluid, paint thinner, alcohol, lye or drain cleaners.
- Salt boxes, coffee filters, paper towels, funnels, rubber hoses, latex gloves.
- Tree spike fertilizer boxes.
- Cold packs used for injuries.
- Portable propane tanks.
- Needles and syringes.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Materials may be dropped off at 1301 Lamont (off Lake Street near the Sheriff’s Department). The Township funds this service for Alamo residents. A partial list of acceptable items appears below. For a recorded message listing items accepted and hours of operation, call 373-5211 or visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm. The list is extensive and includes electronics, pesticides, aerosols, oil-based paint/products, fuels, cleaners, automotive products, mercury, household batteries, swimming pool or photography chemicals, beauty aids, fluorescent lights, #1 pound propane cylinders, fire extinguishers, caulks, glues and a host of miscellaneous materials. The Center cannot accept latex paint, microwaves, asbestos, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, air conditioners, smoke detectors or tires.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Board of Trustees. The Township is modernizing! The north side of the Township Hall will be divided into offices to accommodate those currently working at the Hall and to establish work space for the Assessor and the Treasurer. Yes....our Treasurer of 27 years will be reclaiming her living room when she relocates to the Township Hall sometime this summer.

The Township offers its sincere gratitude to Dustin Mitchell whose Eagle Scout project included renovations to the south side of the Hall. With the addition of offices, all meetings will be held on the south side and the fresh coat of paint, new window treatments, finishing a wall, refinishing the table and adding baseboards could not have been better timed. Thank you to Dustin and his crew of volunteers for the hours of effort and fine results!

Building Department. Please remember to obtain a permit prior to commencing projects. Reminder: A mechanical permit is required for the installation of any outdoor furnace.

Fire and Rescue. Reflective address signs may be ordered using a form available on the Fire Department page on the Township website, obtained from the Fire Station or picked up at the Township Hall. The Department is always looking for men and women to serve as a Volunteer Firefighter. An application is located on the Fire & Rescue page of the Township website.

Ordinance Enforcement. Ordinance issues, except building or zoning violations, should be referred directly to the Ordinance Enforcer (217-0291). Building code or zoning related violations should be referred to the Building Department (382-3366).

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission was asked to review the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance for possible modifications and forward their recommendations to the Board of Trustees. In the interim, the Ordinance, except months of operation, is in effect. The Commission will be recommending several changes to the Ordinance for consideration by the Board of Trustees (i.e., permitting year round use of furnaces, eliminating the need to remove a non-Phase II stove if the property is sold, clarifying inspection language to be consistent with the Michigan Building Code).

The Commission is completing its work on rewriting the Township's sign ordinance. A public hearing on the proposed amendment will be held once a draft has been approved by the Commission; the draft will be available for review on the Township website.

The Commission continues its discussion on the most effective ways to preserve agricultural land.



PARK PAVILION

In addition to the nature trails and ball fields, the park now offers an octagon shaped pavilion with a central grilling pit. The construction of the pavilion was a volunteer effort built entirely with donations. It will hold 80 individuals and may be rented by Township residents for graduations, family reunions or other special events. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Township Clerk.



TOWNSHIP RESIDENT IN THE NEWS

Township Resident, Tim Britain, and a partner founded the Kalamazoo-based Viridis Design in 2006, a landscape architecture, planning and design service company. The firm was featured in the Kalamazoo Gazette on May 15. Mr. Britain attributed Viridis Design's success, even in today's economy, to focusing on controlling costs and core business functions. Their approach has been so successful that in April of this year, Viridis Design added an office in Grand Rapids. The company provides services throughout Michigan and specializes in education, athletics, health care and parks and recreation projects. Their approach also includes only staffing the firm with senior-level personnel, now totaling four. All personnel, therefore, have the skill sets to secure and implement a job.





Alamo Township is fortunate to have Mr. Britain's services as a member of the Park Board. Mr. Britain's guidance is invaluable both from a planning standpoint and in making recommendations concerning the safety of recreational equipment added to the park.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed for various projects. Lend a hand! Become involved! Meet your neighbors! Earn community service hours!

Contacts:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
|  Cemeteries. | Garilyn Sportel-Bogard
(382-3366) |
|  Museum. | Brian Smith (217-3247) |
|  Park. | Jack Landon (382-0765) |
|  Recycling. | Ron Feniger (381-8478) |