

Established 1849

# FILLMORE TOWNSHIP

October 2011

## Township Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

## Boards

### Board of Trustees:

Keith Potter, Supervisor  
Janella Hop, Treasurer  
Ken DeWeerd, Clerk  
Chuck Schaap, Trustee  
Robert Yonker, Trustee

### Planning Commission:

Fred VanTubergen, Chair  
David Brink, Secretary  
Michael Dozeman  
Chuck Schaap  
Dan Seymour

### Board of Appeals:

Fred VanTubergen, Chair  
Marc Tucker, Secretary  
Mark VanDenBurg

### Fire Board:

Robert Yonker  
Mark Hop

### Board of Review:

Jay Hop  
Peter Yonker  
Roger Zoet

### Assessor:

Jim Bush

### Secretary/Deputy Clerk:

Elaine Mokma

### Cemetery Sexton:

Howard Lubbers

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

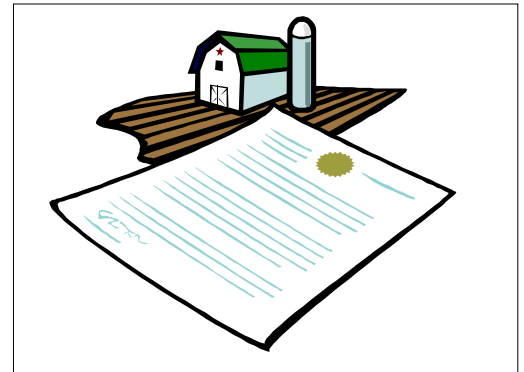
This past summer, the Township property on 143rd Ave. has been changing. "Cottonwood Park" has become a reality. I hope you've had a chance to stop and see what the Park has to offer. There are walking trails, picnic area, play area and open space for other activities.

Cottonwood Park is the first Park for the Township. I feel it turned out better than anticipated. I hope you are enjoying s as much as my family and I are. The construction of the Park was made possible thru a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment.

Ron Mulder and his father Phil, spent a lot of time at the property cutting trees, clearing brush and excavating the land to prepare it for the Park.

Ron was unable to see the Park come to completion due to his untimely death on September 30, 2010.

The Mulder Family has set up a memorial fund to purchase a bench in memory of Ron. Should you want to contribute to the Mulder Memorial Fund or set up a Memorial Fund for your family, please call Amy Kole at 616.748.0527 or send your donation directly to Fifth Third Bank to the *Ron Mulder Memorial Fund % Amy Kole*. The bank does not keep track of donors, please notify Amy with your name and address. The Mulder Family will notify you when the bench will be placed in the Park. Dedication and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 11, 2011 at 6 pm at the Park with a Board meeting to follow at the Township Hall.



The Township Board is devoted to using the road millage money the best way we can to keep as many roads in good driving condition. We are well aware the seal coating is not the most pleasurable to drive on for a few weeks, but it is the best way to prolong the integrity of the Township roads for 4 to 6 years longer. Please bear with us in these times of high prices and limited funds.

54th St. between 136th Ave. and 138th Ave. has been resurfaced. The following roads have been seal coated:

- 142nd Ave. - M-40 to the west end.
- 52nd St. - M-40 to 141st Ave.
- 140th Ave. - 52nd St. to 48th St.
- 50th St. - M-40 to 136th Ave.
- 144th Ave. - Russcher Rd. to 50th St.
- Russcher Rd. - 52nd St. to 142nd Ave.
- 143rd Ave. - West of Russcher Rd.

Please call the Township Office with any questions or comments you have.

Have a blessed Fall.

## MACC WORKING FOR LOCAL FARMERS

Are you a farmer that is interested in keeping your soil and nutrients on your farm? Okay, dumb question. Seems like something every farmer would want to do right? If you aren't using cover crops already, you should seriously consider it. The list of benefits from cover crops is lengthy but here are a few examples: increases soil organic matter, increases infiltration of water into the soil, reduces soil compaction, increases nutrient availability to the crop, supplies nitrogen to the following year crop, attracts beneficial insects like pollinators, and suppresses soil born diseases and nematodes. A recent edition of *Farm Futures* ran a compelling article about cover crops that chronicled the story of an Indiana corn and soy bean grower whose clay soils have been transformed by just 5 years of cover crops use. He is up to planting 1000 acres of winter wheat, rye, clovers and radishes. He said that "using cover crops has never delayed me from planting." If you are interested in experimenting with cover crops but don't know where to start- DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU. There is a lot of technical assistance available. You first want to start with contacting Christina Curell with Michigan State University Extension who is a cover crops expert at 231-592-0792 or email at curellc@anr.msu.edu. Certain areas of Fillmore Township (in the Kleinheksel and East Fillmore Drainage areas) are specially qualified for cost-share assistance for the next three years. Cover crops, as well as buffer strips, no-till and grassed waterways are eligible practices. If you are interested or would like a copy of the Farm Futures article referenced above please call Mary Fales at the Macatawa Watershed Project at 616-395-2688 or email mfales@the-macc.org.

## GRAAFSCHAP FIRE & RESCUE

As West Michigan weather turns colder and local Fire Departments emphasize Fire Prevention, It's be good to review facts about smoke detectors and also be informed of changes available in smoke detectors. Where should a smoke detector be located? A detector should be installed on every level of your home, outside of sleeping areas, and inside each bedroom, but not too close to kitchen appliances or a fireplace. Most residents are aware of the "change your clock, change your batteries" reminders given out each year by the Fire Service. Recent years have seen the manufacture of smoke detectors with Lithium batteries in them. These batteries have a 10-year life expectancy, so changing them each year is not necessary. Also these batteries are not removable by the users, which means they cannot be easily disabled. A fact not expressed often enough is that any smoke detector that is 10 years old or older should be replaced with a new one. If you choose to replace older detectors with new ones, I'd encourage replacing with the new Lithium battery detectors. That means instead of changing batteries each year, now when the battery begins to fail it would also signal it is time to replace the smoke detector. (10 years recommended) It is still essential to test smoke detectors each month to insure they are working properly.

Remember there are two primary types of fire, a fast moving flaming fire, and a slow moving smoldering fire, early warning and rapid escape could help prevent injury or death to yourself or family member.

In addition to having smoke alarms, every family should have an escape plan in place. If you need assistance in developing an escape plan contact the Fire Department . When developing a fire escape plan for yourself and your family:

- Practice escaping from every room in your home at least twice a year.
- The best plans have two ways out of each room. If the primary escape route is blocked by fire or smoke, you need a second way out.
- Practice the escape plan with your family during the day and at night. Children, older adults, and the hearing-impaired may sleep through a fire alarm or may need assistance in escaping.
- Designate a meeting location away from the home, but not necessarily across the street. For example, meet under a specific tree or at the end of the driveway or front sidewalk to make sure everyone has gotten out safely and no one will be hurt looking for someone who is already safe.
- Designate one person to go to a neighbor's home to phone the Fire Department. (911)

Remember "Fire Prevention Week" should be a year around activity for all residents!

## RECYCLING

The recycling bins at the Township Hall continue to be a very popular service of our residents. We realize sometimes you come and the bin is full, we ask **you do not leave anything** around the dumpster. The dumpster is emptied every 7 to 10 days. This is a service for our residents with funding from the General Fund, if you want this service to continue, do your part in keeping the site clean and safe.

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## FROM THE CLERK

This was a quiet year for elections, the only election being the Consolidated Election this past May. However get geared-up for next year when there will be four elections beginning in February with a Presidential Primary, followed in May with the Consolidated Election, the Primary in August and the General Election in November.

Remember you must be registered in the Township 30 days prior to any election and absentee ballots are available at the Township Office.

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## LIBRARY

As many of you know the Herrick District Library is a valuable resource for information and educational material. Because the Board chose to fund the Library every resident of Fillmore Township can obtain a card for use of all services offered at the Library. Card are issued by library staff with the proof of a Fillmore Township address. Without the funding a non-resident care for the Library would cost \$50.00 per address plus an additional cost for extra persons at that address.

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## ASSESSING

The 2011 inflation rate is estimated to be approximately 2.5%. This means that the Taxable Value of your property can increase no more than the estimated 2.5% for 2012 unless new construction or other improvements have been made. Tax day will be December 31, 2011 and the assessed value is based on the value of your property as of that day. Assessment notices for 2012 will be sent in late February and the Board of Review will meet in March for those wishing to appeal their assessed value.

Just a reminder that to receive the Principal Residence Exception for a homestead that you purchased in 2011, a Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit must be submitted to the Township Office.

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## FALL CLEAN UP

Once again there will be dumpsters for disposal of unwanted items around your property at the Township Hall. No hazardous materials or paints will be accepted. Appliances with freon and tires are accepted with an additional charge. An attendant will be on duty to collect monies depending on the volume of materials brought in. The date is October 22, 2011 from 9am to 4pm.

*Check our Township Website for Board minutes, 2010-2011 Financial Statement and other Township information.*

*fillmoretownship.com*

*The Fillmore Township Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fillmore Township Hall.*

*The Fillmore Township Planning Commission will hold their last quarterly meetings for 2011 at 7 p.m. on Nov. 21.*

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Fillmore Township Hall  
4219 52nd Street  
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Phone: 269-751-7655  
Fax: 269-751-6065  
Email: [fillmore@macatawa.org](mailto:fillmore@macatawa.org)  
Website: [fillmoretownship.com](http://fillmoretownship.com)

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## THEN & NOW

Education has always been an important element in our history. Presently Fillmore Township is served by two school districts. Most of our Township is within the Hamilton district, however a small section in the northeast portion of the Township is served by the Zeeland Schools.

In the past our small community of 6 square miles had as many as 6 schools with grades K-8. A list of these schools and the locations include:

- \* Sunnyside - 56th St.
- \* Russcher - Russcher Road
- \* Westview - 60th St.
- \* Maplewood - 146th Ave.
- \* Beeline - M-40
- \* ValleyView - 136th Ave.

Additional students from Fillmore attended schools very near our boundaries at Elmwood on 136th Ave., East Holland on Ottogan and Sandy View in Overisel.

Today we're home to Hamilton Middle and High School and Blue Star Elementary. Along with these schools many of our students are educated by Holland area private and parochial schools and also some home schooled. Parents, keep up the work of educating our future by giving our children the best education possible.

*If anyone would be willing to submit an article for future newsletters of past history or a current interest about Fillmore Township, please contact our office.*