

Established 1849

# FILLMORE TOWNSHIP

June 2010

## 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:

Jerome Bush, Chair  
David Brink, Secretary  
Fred VanTubergen  
Chuck Schaap  
Dan Seymour

### Board of Appeals:

Fred VanTubergen, Chair  
Marc Tucker, Secretary  
Ronald Mulder

### 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

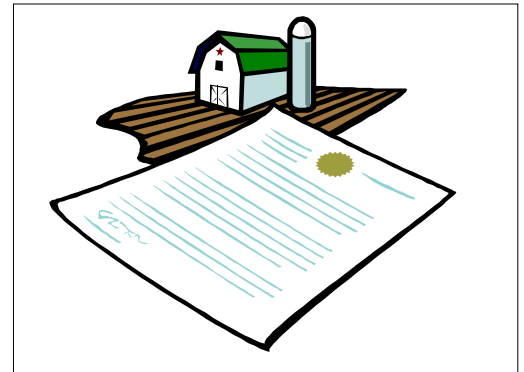
Spring is a welcome time of the year. With the flowers blooming and the buds on the trees popping open, everything looks fresh and new. We also think "the start of a new year, maybe this year will be better than the last one." I hope each one of you are experiencing a prosperous and stress free year.

The Township will be seal coating about 7.5 miles of roads this year. This process should extend the life of the roads 4-6 years. This is an inexpensive way to maintain our roads. It has been difficult keeping ahead of the deteriorating roads when blacktopping one mile of road costs \$90,000 or more and the seal coating process costs is approximately \$20,000 a mile.

By the time you read this, work on the 48th St. bridge will have been started. It should be completed sometime in August. Thank you to the residents living on the detour routes for their endurance and patience during this time of heavy traffic and potholes. You can be assured 49th St. will be repaired and be better than it was. This repair will happen after the 48th St. bridge is completed.

The Township is also working on a way to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. When this is passed those of you who wish to purchase flood insurance can do so. We are working with F.E.M.A. and their National Flood Insurance Program.

In the last year we have also been working to secure a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. This grant will be used for the Township's first park, located on 143rd Ave. between 54th & 56th St. I've recently received notice that the Governor has approved the funds and a contract will soon be signed.



After that we will be working on finalizing the park plan and drawing. If you would like to donate time, materials or funding to help make this project a success, please contact the Township Office.

At the November election we will be asking for a .3 mill tax increase so that Township residents can continue to use Herrick District Library. Comments indicated 20-1 in favor of keeping the Township in the Herrick Library District.

By now you have heard of the new battery plant coming to the area. This is great news, hopefully bringing with it new jobs and a boost to the local economy. A portion of the plant will be on Fillmore Township property. We have worked out an Urban Cooperation Agreement with the City of Holland for some of the taxes to be recouped from the plant and a retail water agreement. The water agreement will enable us to provide water to the property owners along Blue Star Highway, approximately 1.5 miles south of 143rd Ave. Most of this property is commercial; a good supply of water could lead to business growth and more jobs.

As always, feel free to stop by the Township Office with any comments or concerns you have.

Have a great summer!

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## HAMILTON FIRE & RESCUE

Hamilton Fire & Rescue responded to 251 incidents in 2009, 25 of which were in Fillmore Township.

Over the past few years Hamilton Fire & Rescue has been working with the Township and Fire Board on an I.S.O. insurance rating, change. In November 2009, we were successful in getting the insurance rating lowered to 7.

The average change to a homeowner's policy should be a reduction in premium of 5% to 25% depending on your policy and your insurance company. In all cases, talk with your insurance agent to see how the rate change affects you. Remember, this rate change affects your fire insurance on buildings and contents only, NOT vehicles, boats, equipment or liability.

On April 1, 2010, Hamilton Fire & Rescue took delivery of a new fire engine. The engine was completely built in Michigan by the Spartan Corporation and Spencer Manufacturing. The fire engine's rated pumping capacity is 1,750 gallon per minute with capabilities of reaching 2,550 gallons per minute. It holds 1,000 gallons of water, with an onboard foam inductions system. The life service expectancy of the engine is 30 to 35 years.

Late March we responded to a house fire. The interesting thing to note is that the homeowner was awakened by a smoke detector. Smoke detectors save lives; remember to check yours often.

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## PLANNING COMMISSION

The Fillmore Township Planning Commission meets at least and more often if necessary. For 2010, the Commission meets on February 22, May 17, August 16 and November 15. Present Commission members are David Brink, Jerome Bush, Chuck Schaap, Dan Seymour and Fred VanTubergen.

The Planning Commission conducts the Public Hearing for rezoning requests, Zoning Ordinance changes and requests for a Special Use Permit. The Public Hearings are open to anyone who has an interest in the proceedings and everyone will be given an opportunity to be heard. Following the Public Hearing, the Commission makes its recommendations to the Board of Trustees, which makes the final decision.

Also, Michigan State law states that the Planning Commission will review the Township Master Land Use Plan at least once every five years to make the sure the plan is current and reflects the needs of the Township. The Planning Commission reviewed our Plan in late 2009 and decided by means of a Public Hearing that no changes to our Master Plan were needed.

Recently, the Planning Commission has been discussing possible changes to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the use of land in the A-1 Ag Zone for parks and recreational uses. It is felt that the intense Agricultural use of land for crops and live stock production may not be compatible with recreation use. Also, camp grounds as a Special Use is being considered for the A-2 Ag Zone. A Public Meeting on May 17 is scheduled for this purpose.

If you have any questions for the Planning Commission, feel free to call the Township Office or any member of the Commission.

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## RECYCLING & TRANSFER STATION

Recycling has become a very popular service. Many times our bins become full within seven days. We think we are servicing more resident that do not live in Fillmore Township, but the plus side is that recycling is happening.

Our Transfer Station will be open on a limited basis this year. The next opportunity will be May 22, September 18 and October 23 from 9am to 4pm. As an opportunity to keep our roadsides clean, if you know of debris in the ditches in your area, pick it up and bring it to the transfer station at this date and no charge will be made by the attendant.

Also, if you have large items such as old cars or trucks or any scrap metal on your property this would be a ideal time to recycle as prices are very good at this time. If

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

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## ELECTIONS

The May 4 School Election was conducted very recently. Upcoming elections are the Primary in August and the General in November. Election days and times will be well documented by the media.

At the August Primary local millage issues will be on the ballot. Our present millages for roads and emergency services will expire at the end of 2010, and a renewal to continue funding these services will be requested. The present millage is 4.5 mills total and that would be the request on the ballot.

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## PARKS

We are waiting on the release of funds that have been awarded to the Township in the form of a grant. Our first Park will consist of walking trails and a picnic area. The site on 143rd Ave. is it exciting because it contains very interesting wooded area with abundant wildlife. It also has a variety of plant life.

When the project begins, volunteers can be used to count as matching funds. The grant was for \$200,000 with a 50% match from the Township. Much of this match is already accomplished with the hauling in of approximately 27,000 yards of fill that was given to us from the dredging of Lake Macatawa.

*The Fillmore Township  
Planning Commission  
will hold their quarterly  
meetings for 2010 at  
7 p.m. on  
May 17,  
August 16 and  
November 15.*

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## TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

The Township is attempting to place more information on the website. Minutes of our meetings and general information are currently available. The Township has purchased a new computer with additional capabilities, enabling more information to be added to the website. The website address is: [www.fillmoretownship.com](http://www.fillmoretownship.com).

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Website: [fillmoretownship.com](http://fillmoretownship.com)

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## FILLMORE TOWNSHIP DEPUTY

### Stopping Identity Theft

There is an increase of identity theft in which thieves will use the internet to obtain your personal financial information. Typically, you will receive an e-mail that appears to come from a reputable company that you recognize and may do business with, such as your bank. In some cases, the e-mail may appear to come from a government agency, perhaps a federal financial institution regulatory agency. This is called "phishing."

The e-mail will probably warn you of a serious problem that requires immediate attention. They may use phrases such as "immediate attention required" or "please contact us immediately about your account." These e-mails may also state that unless you provide certain confidential information your account will be deactivated or closed. In a phishing scam, you will be redirected to a phony website which may look exactly like the real thing.

It may ask you to update your account information by verifying your social security number, account number, your password, or the information you use to verify your identity when speaking to a financial institution. After providing this type of information, you may find yourself a victim of identity theft.

#### How to protect yourself:

1. Never provide your personal information in

response to an unsolicited request.

2. If you are unsure whether an e-mail or phone contact is legitimate, contact the financial institution.
3. Never provide your account information or password over the phone or in response to an unsolicited Internet request.
4. Review account statements regularly to ensure all charges are correct.

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, contact your financial institutions immediately and alert them to the situation. Close accounts that you think have been tampered with or opened fraudulently, contact one of the three credit bureaus listed below to discuss whether to place a fraud alert on your file. A fraud alert will help prevent thieves from opening an account in your name.

Equifax—800.525.6285—[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

Experian—888.397.374—[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

TransUnion—800.680.7289—[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

Fillmore Township Deputy  
Ron Haverdink