

# HEATH TOWNSHIP ANNUAL

March 2009

Office Address: 3440 M-40, Hamilton, MI 49419  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and  
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Office Phone: (269) 751-2403  
Office Fax: (269) 751-2804

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [www.heathtownship.net](http://www.heathtownship.net)

Meeting Dates: Township Board – second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Building Permits: Professional Code Inspections  
1575 142<sup>nd</sup> St., Dorr, MI 49323  
(616) 877-2000

Zoning Administrator: Professional Code Inspections, (616) 877-2000 (Building and Zoning questions)

Assessor: Robert Jones (616) 318-2360 (Assessing and Homestead questions)

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## TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DAYS

Location: Allied Waste, 3310 M-40, Hamilton, MI 49419

From: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dates: Saturday, April 4, 2009 and Saturday, April 18, 2009

Saturday, October 3, 2009 and Saturday, October 17, 2009



## HEALTH TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

**Curbside Collection** – Recyclables are collected by Potter Disposal on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month. If that day is on or after a holiday that week, collection will be one day later. Set materials out the night before collection. Recycling bins are available at the Township Hall during regular office hours or 6:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. One Potter bin is required but overflow materials may be set out next to the bin in paper bags, boxes or other containers.

**Papers** – Place newspapers and inserts in one paper bag. Place magazines, junk mail, phone books and paperboard (cereal and cracker boxes, etc.) in a separate paper bag. Set bags in or next to the bin. Flatten corrugated cardboard boxes, break down to 3'x3' and stack under or next to the bin.

**Containers** – Clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; #1-#7 plastic jugs, bottles, tubs, trays, cups (no foam); #2 or #4 plastic grocery carry-out bags; metal and foil food containers; empty aerosol cans and household batteries (sealed in a zip-lock bag) may be commingled in the bin. *Please rinse food containers.*

**Monitored Depot** – Appliances, tires and large cardboard boxes can be taken to the monitored depot site: Allied Waste, 3310 M-40, Hamilton, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You must present your Resource Recovery card. *NOTE – only the Allied Waste monitored recycling depot is open at these times. The transfer station is closed to the public.*

**Household Hazardous Waste Site** – For paints, pesticides, solvents and other chemicals.

**Allegan County Health Department**, 3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite 200, Allegan

Appointments for drop-off available Tuesday and Thursdays during regular business hours.

**You must call to schedule a time, (269) 673-5415.**

**Used Motor Oil — Don't dump it! Recycle it!**

You can take your used motor oil to one of these service stations: *(Call to check their hours.)*

- Auto Zone, 183 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Holland, (616) 355-5401
- Fennville Tire Center, 205 W. Main, Fennville, (269) 561-2164



**IMPORTANT:** Do not mix other wastes with used oil. Such mixtures can create hazards and make recycling more difficult.

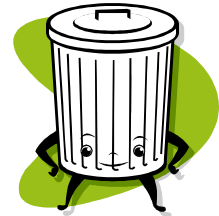
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM:** Many pesticides, cleaning products, and paints contain toxic chemicals which should not be disposed of with household trash. Use these products up, give them away, or **make an appointment** for one of the household hazardous waste collection sites listed below:

**Ongoing Weekly Collections:**

**Allegan County Health Department**, 3255 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Suite 200, Allegan.  
Appointments available Tuesday and Thursday during regular business hours.  
**You must call to schedule a time, (269) 673-5415.**

**2009 Saturday Collections:** *By appointment only.*  
*Sites open at noted times, but closed after the last scheduled appointment.*

**Saugatuck Township Fire Dept, 3342 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck**  
**For appointments call Resource Recovery, (269) 673-5415.**  
Saturday, June 13, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



**Wayland Area Ambulance, 911 S. Main, Wayland**  
**For appointments call Wayland City Hall, (269) 792-2265.**  
*(Please do not call more than three weeks before the event)*  
Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The following substances are accepted: **pesticides, weed killers, cleaners & polishes, aerosol, wood preservatives, asphalt & roofing tar, oil based paint products (thinners, solvents, varnish), photographic chemicals, mercury thermometers, fluorescent lamps and home repair products (glue & cement).** NO smoke detectors, explosives or latex paints. Water based paints can be solidified with sawdust or kitty litter and safely disposed of with household trash. Residential materials only. Commercial wastes cannot be accepted.

**Mercury Thermometers:** The Health Department also accepts mercury thermometers for recycling and recommends that all area residents replace these dangerous instruments with safer digital devices. If mercury spills from a broken thermometer and is not carefully and thoroughly cleaned up, it will continue to evaporate, reaching potentially harmful levels in indoor air. Mercury Thermometers may be dropped off at the Health department any time during business hours; no appointment is required. Double wrap thermometers in plastic zip-lock bags for transport.

**Electronics Waste**—Michigan Goodwill stores now accept all computer equipment, usable or not, free of charge. Contact individual outlets for more information. The South Kent County Landfill, at 300 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Byron Center, offers free recycling of residential computer, audio and video equipment, including televisions of any size. Many electronics contain heavy metals and should not be disposed of with trash. *Landfill hours are 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday.*

**March 28, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Allegan County Fairgrounds.** This service is open to everyone. Generally most electronics will be free to drop off except for a Television will have a cost of \$12.00 and a Computer Monitor will have a cost of \$3.00. For additional information please contact Resource Recovery at (269) 673-5415.

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**QUESTIONS? CALL RESOURCE RECOVERY (269) 673-5415**

## PARKS



Make a visit to one of our parks. The Hamilton Ball Park, Silver Creek County Park and the park by the Rabbit River and Trestle.

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### ALLEGAN COUNTY HERITAGE TRAIL

The Allegan County Heritage Trail is a 122 mile driving trail through Allegan County. The trail is a history of our county. A booklet describing the trail and its 28 sites can be purchased for \$3.00 from the Allegan County Library, the Herrick District Library, Heath Township Hall or from the Allegan County Tourist Council by calling (269) 686-9088. Included in the booklet is a map with directions on how to follow the Trail. A two CD packet is also available featuring local historians from around the county and can be purchased also from the above listed sites for \$12.00. This audio version follows the booklet to help make your trip more enjoyable.

Along the trail there are thirteen interpretive panels at different sites. By the spring of 2009 there will be sixteen sites with panels.

The trail contains our heritage. Not only does the trail educate and entertain county residents and visitors, but at the same time we are improving our economic development. Businesses along the trail and in the county – such as restaurants, gas stations, gift shops, motels, bed and breakfasts' can benefit by visitors staying a day or two longer.

There has been a lot of hard work by many wonderful folks and a lot of financial support. Our county can be proud of how well everyone has worked together to finish the three stages of this project. Please take time to travel the Heritage Trail – it is most enjoyable!

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### RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

We will be developing the north side of Riverside Cemetery with completion to be done in early spring of 2009.

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### FALL LEAF BURNING

**Please do not burn!** The following Burning Ordinance was approved by the Heath Township Board in 2003.

**Please take notice** that at a meeting of the Township Board held on September 8, 2003, the Heath Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 57, the Open Burning Ordinance. A summary of the ordinance is as follows:

**Section I - Title** - This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Heath Township Open Burning Ordinance".

**Section II – Purpose** - The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of the citizens of Heath Township and to prevent environmental and fire hazards which can be caused by open burning.

**Section III – General Prohibitions** - No open burning shall be permitted in Sections 5 and 6 of Heath Township, Allegan County, Michigan. However, a resident in Section 5 or 6 may apply to the Hamilton Fire Chief or designated officer to obtain a special permit for open burning. In consideration of any permit, adjoining property owners must be notified by an applicant. Open burning in other sections of the Township shall be governed by the provisions in Section IV.

**Section IV – Provisions for Open Burning** - All open burnings, as in out-of-doors burning on the ground, shall comply with the following provisions:

1. Be attended by a competent person at all times.



2. Be of materials consisting of paper, cardboard, dry leaves, brush and clean untreated lumber.
3. Burning to occur only after sunrise and extinguished and admitting no smoke after 9:00 pm or 10:00 pm during daylight savings time.
4. Burning shall occur at least fifteen feet (15') from any structure, fencing or woodpiles.
5. Burning shall occur at least fifteen feet (15') from any public or private property line.
6. No burning shall occur within a 24-hour period proceeding and during any Trick-or-Treat hours established by the Township Board.

No burning shall occur if it is determined by the Fire Chief that conditions are such that burning would be hazardous to health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the community.

**Section V – Enforcements and Penalties** - Any violations of this ordinance will be considered a municipal civil infraction punishable by a civil fine which is \$100 for the first offense; \$250 for the second and \$500 for the third offense. The ordinance will be enforced by the Township and the Township may also bring a civil action for injunction and damages.

**Section VI - Effective Date and Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances** - This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after publication. NOTE this ordinance is currently in effect.

Campfires are now allowed in sections 5 and 6. Please contact Hamilton Fire Department for the regulations pertaining to campfires.

*Dear Heath Township Residents\*:*

*This coming fall we will resume the leaf pick up service. We ask that you do not burn your leaves. This is for health and safety reasons in these heavily populated areas. We ask that you put your leaves by the roadside, on your lawn, and we will have them picked up weekly by Straighline Lawn Service.*

*Many Thanks ~ The Heath Township Board*

*\*(Please note, sections 5 and 6 boundaries are 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the north, 134<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the south, 48<sup>th</sup> Street to the west, and 44<sup>th</sup> Street to the east.)*

## 2009 ROAD WORK



- Pave 38<sup>th</sup> Street from 124<sup>th</sup> to 126<sup>th</sup>.
- Pave 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue from M-40 east to 38<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Apply gravel to various roads.
- Dust control will also be applied three times this summer on gravel roads.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hamilton Fire & Rescue responded to 263 incidents in 2008, of which 147 were In Heath Township.



Over the past few years we have been putting together a documented history of the departments' activities, for an ISO rate change. The documentation is now complete and has been submitted to ISO for a lower insurance rating for homeowners and businesses. ISO states that they will be testing us this spring, and a possible rating change could happen this fall. Thanks goes to Firefighter Curt Brower for all his work in putting this major project together.

We have received two grants in 2008. The first is a FEMA grant for an air filling station for \$27,100.00. The second is from Trans-Canadian ANR for rescue equipment for \$4,250.00. Thanks goes to Captain Mark and Sara Groenhiede for all of their writing skills in getting these awards.

Captain Joe Cross has stepped aside from his position as Captain. After a staff review of the departments needs, Ryan Boeve and Mike Capel were promoted to Lieutenant positions.

We have also placed an order for a new fire engine with Spencer Mfg. in South Haven, Michigan. The new engine will replace the current 1985 engine, which will be used as a back-up. The new engine should be delivered in the late fall of 2009.

Please remember to check your smoke detectors and change the batteries when the time changes to daylight savings time.

Spring is coming and for burn permits please call 269-686-5222. It is an automated system you just need to follow the instructions. Please remember also if you live in **sections 5 and 6** you can NOT burn at all.

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## COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

**The Family Planning and Women's Health of Allegan County** offers annual exams, birth control methods, mammogram referrals, and other testing. Services are available regardless of ability to pay. To make an appointment, call (269) 686-4560



**Southwest Michigan Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program** and the **Kalamazoo County Human Services Department** coordinate services for women living in Southwest Michigan in the following counties: Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren. They offer free screenings. For more information contact (269) 373-5213 or toll-Free (888) 243-4087. Website <http://www.kalcounty.com/hsd/bcccp/>

## ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

The Allegan County Commission on Aging is responsible for distributing the senior millage funds to service providers chosen to provide Access, Community, In-Home services and Nutrition services. They are currently funding Hot Home Delivered Meals, Volunteer Transportation, Personal Care, Homemaking, In-Home Respite, Outreach & Assistance, and Adult Day Care services for seniors age 60 and over living in Allegan County.

For more information you can reach the Allegan County Commission on Aging at 269-673-3333 or 1-877-673-5333. Website <http://www.allegancountycoa.org>

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## ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

### Changes to Assessing Rules Recognize Declining Property Values

Last March, many people were a bit shocked when they received their new property assessment notices. Everyone knows that real estate values are headed down, but assessments in many cases were still headed up. Property owners need to be aware that because of some changes in the rules at the state level on how property is assessed, declining home values will be better reflected in this year's assessments.



Under normal circumstances, property is assessed based on a sales study that covers a two year time span. This means that the assessor is looking at home sales that occurred in the past six to 30 months. When housing prices are going up, this practice actually keeps property assessments lower than if only more recent sales were studied. Unfortunately, when housing values start going down, it can take more than a year before the sales study will reflect this trend. However, the state has changed the rules to allow assessors to react to a declining housing market.

**Does this mean that my property taxes go down?**

When a property owner receives their property assessment in March, they will see two numbers on the assessment notice: the state equalized value (SEV) and the taxable value. The SEV represents 50 percent of the true cash value as required by the state constitution and law. This value goes up or down without limit based on market conditions. Prior to 1994, this was the number used to calculate property tax bills.

When Proposal A passed in 1994, our state constitution was amended to say that a property owner should not pay property taxes on property values that were going up more than the rate of inflation or five percent, whichever is less. For more than a decade, the property taxes paid by property owners have been going up by only inflation, except for voter-approved increases in property taxes or because something was added to the property, such as a new garage.

For many property owners, a large gap has developed between the SEV and capped value reflected in the taxable value. This gap demonstrates the benefit to long-term property owners created under Proposal A. When Proposal A was created, a cap was placed on how fast taxes could go up; it did not automatically reduce taxes when property values were heading down. If you have been in your home for a long period of time, it is unlikely that the actual property tax bill will go down even if the SEV goes down. Taxes will not go down until the SEV falls below the taxable value. For many long-term property owners the SEV is 30 percent or more above the taxable value. Housing values would need to go down 30 percent or more before most would see their property tax bills go down.

For those who have recently purchased property, they are much more likely to see actual reductions in property tax bills based on a declining housing market. Under Proposal A, when property sells, the cap comes off of the taxable value, and the SEV and taxable value are the same in the first year after sale. For those property owners where the SEV and taxable value are very close or equal, a reduction in the SEV can also mean a reduction in the taxable value and thus a reduction in property taxes.

**Heath Township Offices  
3440 M-40  
Hamilton, MI 49419**