

HEATH TOWNSHIP ANNUAL

March 2008

Office Address: 3444 M-40, Hamilton, MI 49419

Office Phone: (269) 751-2403

Office Fax: (269) 751-2804

Township Website: www.heathtownship.net

Meeting Dates: Township Board – second Monday of each month at 7pm

Building Permits: Professional Code Inspections
1575 142nd Ave, 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)

➔ **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:** www.heathtownship.net

TOWNSHIP CLEANUP DAYS

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

From: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Dates: Saturday, April 5, 2008 and Saturday, April 19, 2008

Saturday, October 4, 2008 and Saturday, October 18, 2008



HEALTH TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

New! Curbside Collection – Recyclables are collected by Potter Disposal on the 1st and 3rd 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 available at Township Hall, 6:30-7:00pm on the 2nd Monday of each month, or by appointment (269) 751-2403, Extension 1. 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 – Styrofoam, appliances, tires and large cardboard boxes can be taken to the monitored depot site: Allied Waste, 3310 M-40, Hamilton, on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, from 9am to 12noon. 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 122nd 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. 32nd 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:

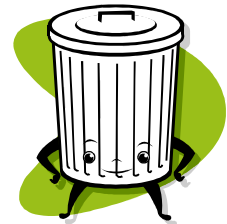
Ongoing Weekly Collections:

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

2008 Saturday Collections: *By appointment only.*
Sites open at noted times, but closed after the last scheduled appointment.

Saugatuck Public Work Garage, 3338 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck.
For appointments call Resource Recovery, (269) 673-5415.
Saturday, June 14, 9:00 am to 11:00 am

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 10, 9:00 am to 11:00 am



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 10th 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 7:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 3:30pm Saturday.*

QUESTIONS? CALL RESOURCE RECOVERY (269) 673-5415

PARKS



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

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 opening 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 136th Avenue to the north, 134th Avenue to the south, 48th Street to the west, and 44th Street to the east.)

2008 ROAD WORK



- Reconstruct 38th Street from 124th to 126th.
- Reconstruct 126th Avenue from M-40 east to 38th Street.
- Apply gravel to various roads.
- Dust control will also be applied three times this summer on gravel roads.
- Work on the sidewalks on Hubbard Street, South Street, and 47th Street.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hamilton Fire & Rescue responded to 281 incidents in 2007, which is a 16% increase over 2006, and also a record number of calls.



In 2007, through the efforts of Captain Mark and Sara Groenhiede, we applied for a new front line engine, with the Homeland Security Grant Program. In late December of 2007, we were informed that we did not make the final round. However they strongly encourage us to re-apply in 2008. We were also given a few suggestions, as to what to change for the 2008 application. We will be re-applying again this year for funding. This funding, if awarded, would go towards the purchase of a front line engine to replace the current 1986 engine. Projected cost to be around \$425,000.00. If the grant does not come through in 2008, we will be projecting a purchase in 2009.

We have been working with RLS Data Concepts; in putting our ISO rate change documentation together. However, this has been a slow process. Firefighter Curt Brower has stepped forward and has accepted the challenge for getting the documentation completed. Final documentation will be completed by May 1, 2008. The first pump test will be first of April, second test end of May, with final test end of June. ISO has informed us that if all goes well, we should have a rate change by the first of October.

In 2007, we welcomed Firefighter Bud Mores, Bud comes to us as a trained firefighter from Allegan Fire Department.

In 2007 we have changed our mutual aid move-up coverage to our station to Holland Fire Department. Holland Fire will send one engine/rescue, with five trained personnel in both fire and medic. The Holland joint training programs have gone over extremely well and we will continue to support that program.

The automatic mutual aid on first alarm structure fire is working extremely well with our supporting surrounding fire departments.

Again we wish to express our deepest thanks to our community and governing boards for their great support. Without it we would not be what we are today.

2008 ELECTION NEWS

ELECTION DATES

August 5	State Primary
November 4	State General Election

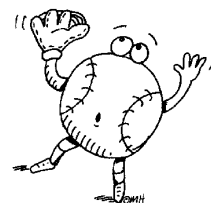
REGISTRATION DEADLINES

July 7	Last day to register for August primary
October 6	Last day to register for state general elections



HEATH TOWNSHIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Slow Pitch Softball Leagues Forming Now –
Monday Night Men's League - \$400 per team
Friday Night Coed League - \$250 per team
Contact BJ Nykamp at (616) 218-3864



Coming in May – Fall soccer and Football Sign-up. Watch the Hamilton Herald and the Hamilton Community Schools Friday folders for details.

If you have any questions on recreation Department signups please call BJ Nykamp. (616) 218-3864

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** coordinates 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. Toll-Free (888) 243-4087. Website <http://www.kalcounty.com/hsd/bcccp/>

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.

For this year's assessment, assessors will be allowed to use sales studies that reflect housing value that existed between October 2006 and September 2007. This means that the assessment recognizes the declining values much quicker than occurred in prior years. The assessments should more accurately reflect the value of the home in today's real estate 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
3444 M-40
Hamilton, MI 49419**