

# Sumpter Country Times

## Sumpter Township

### Supervisor's Report

Fall 2010

Dear Friends,

Before I update you on what's going on in the Township, the Township Board & I would like to **Thank those of you who voted Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. By an overwhelming 3 to 1 margin the **Police Millage Renewal Passed**. Because the millage renewal was approved, it will allow us to keep the police held to the highest expectations that you expect & deserve. Again, Thank You!

**Construction at Willis & Sumpter Roads:** If you have driven by Sumpter & Willis Roads recently you should have noticed how far the construction on the new market has come along. The building is up & the stone and brick exterior is being set. According to the owner Joe Nasser, he expects to be opened before Christmas. **Bringing in new business and helping the existing businesses** in the Township has been a priority for this Supervisor & my staff and we will continue to do so. Speaking of new business to the township, I hope you will join me in welcoming the **opening of Rollers Skate Park** in the former Sumpter Roller Rink building at Sumpter &

Willis Roads. **New owners & Sumpter residents Kathy Spires & Bewey Horn** has done a fantastic job of remodeling the rink and establishing a **fun & safe environment** for kids of all ages to enjoy. Please frequent these new businesses & all the businesses in the township. They need your patronage now more than ever before! Let's support them in keeping their business in Sumpter!

The demolition of dangerous/abandoned homes & buildings continues. So far this year in 2010 there has been 9 buildings/homes have been demolished and their properties cleaned up at **NO cost to the taxpayers**. Three more homes have gone out for bids & should be finished before winter sets in. The costs for these demolitions are paid out of Community Development Block Grant funds (C.D.B.G.) or the homeowner picked up the costs.

**Housing Re-Hab:** In 2004 when I took office, my deputy discovered there was a surplus of over \$100,000.00 in programmable income, designated for use in the H.U.D. program. These funds had

lay dormant for so long, that we were notified by H.U.D. that we were in danger of forfeiting the funds back to H.U.D. for lack of activity. Since then we have spent \$311,707.00 of H.U.D.'s money fixing up qualified residents homes. A total of 16 homes have been finished so far. This total includes spending all the program income generated to the Housing Re-Hab Program. We have spent and have submitted a voucher for reimbursement of \$34,000.00 from H.U.D. for 2008. We also had another \$34,000.00 allocated for 2009 & 3 projects are underway which will utilize this full amount. Our 2010 allocation of \$34,000.00 will be able to enter into rehab contracts after July 1<sup>st</sup>.2010. We are currently seeking qualified residents for our waiting list.

Until next time,

**May God Bless Sumpter Township & Its Citizens**

Sincerely,

Johnny Vawters

**Did You Know?**



**You can not dig a pond on your property, unless you have gone thru the proper procedures.**

### December Board Of Review

Sumpter Twp will be holding the December Board of Review on December 14, 2010 from 10 am to 12 pm. This meeting is for Clerical Errors, Principal Residential Exemptions and Hardship Exemptions. Hardship Exemption Applications will not be accepted after 4:30 pm on that day.

For more information contact the Supervisors Office at 734-461-6201 ext 229.

## From Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Township Clerk

*The Clerks office would like to urge the residents of Sumpter Township to support your local business. We need to make America thrive again and the only way to do that is to shop and eat at local owned businesses. A study was conducted that if every resident who lives in Michigan spent just \$10.00 a week on Michigan made products it would generate 37 million dollars a year. We rely too much on products that are made in other countries. We need to take care of the United State of America.*

There will be a General election November 2, 2010. Polls will be open 7 am to 8 pm. Absentee ballots are available, call the Clerks office (734-461-6201) to have a application sent to you. We will be voting for Governor, Secretary of State, Representatives in Congress, State Senator, State Legislature, State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee

of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University, County Executive, Sheriff, County Commissioner, Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals, Judge of Circuit Court, Judge of Probate Court, Judge of District Court, Van Buren School Board Members, Lincoln School Board Members, Board Members District Library, Proposal to convene a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution, Proposal to amend the state constitution to prohibit certain felons from holding elective office and specified types of public employment positions. Parks Millage renewal, Belleville District Library Millage, Airport Community School Bonding Proposal.

Landfill passes are a thing of the past. There are 2 days per month you can take your non-toxic items to the landfill located at Clark & Oak-

ville Waltz. Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm till 4:30 pm. and Saturday morning from 7 am till 1 pm. You must have a current drivers license with a Sumpter Township address. Any questions call: 734-654-0001.

The dates the Township Hall will be closed for the holidays are as follows: October 11, 2010, November 11, 2010, November 25 & 26, 2010, December 24 thru 31, 2010.

Sumpter Township would like to explain to the voters about the issue on the November 2, 2010 ballot regarding the Belleville District Library Millage. Currently on your tax bill the voters pay .7 mills toward the library, which is to be paid thru 2011. If the millage requested on the November 2, 2010 ballot should pass then the current .7 mills we pay will be abolished. Be assured you will not have to pay for 2 millages for the library.



### Haunted History Tour II

Fall is already in the air and you know what that means! It's time for colored leaves, pumpkins, hob-goblins and cemetery tours! This year's Haunted History Tombstone Tour II - The Old Souls of Sumpter, promises to be fascinating for history lovers, ghost hunters, flying saucer buffs, and taphophiles of all ages - especially those who live in Sumpter Township! The Haunted History Tombstone Tour II, sponsored by the Belleville Area Museum and the Township of Sumpter will be

held Saturday, October 23, 2010, (rain date October 24th) from 3:30PM-6:00PM, at the Martinsville Cemetery, well hidden in Western Wayne County just off Martinsville Road in Sumpter Township. Those brave enough to attend will learn about missing graves and discover why a local township office and police station may be haunted. The story behind the ghosts of at least 3 small children sometimes seen there will also be told. Attendees will hear about Wayne County's "black gold", and learn who was the first to be born in Sumpter Township as well as the first to be buried in

the old cemetery.

Several soldiers' graves will feature histories given in first person by 102nd Colored Infantry Troop Civil War re-enactors and the grave of one of Western Wayne County's few African-American Civil War veterans will be a highlight of that portion of the tour! Additionally, many stones with unusual epitaphs and curses will be featured, along with stories of the great railroad swindle, a flying saucer sighting that occurred there in 1978, and what a Declaration of Independence signer and the Lincoln Bible have to do with Sumpter Township.

Last but not least, the docent-led tour will highlight star-crossed lovers, a heart-breaking story of

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## From John W. Morgan, Treasurer

A new school year is upon us again. Hopefully, everyone had a safe and happy summer break. Keep an eye out for those school children waiting at the bus stops when driving.

Your Summer Tax Bill (yellow) was due September 14, without penalty. You may still pay that bill at the Township until February 28, 2010. There is a 1% interest charge per month starting in September. The first week of December 2010 the Winter Tax Bill will be in the mail. The Winter Bill this year is once again blue and due by February 28,

2010. You have until February 28, 2010 to pay your Summer and Winter Tax Bills at Sumpter Township. After February 28, 2010 all the bills are turned over to Wayne County and MUST be paid there.

Just a reminder that the Treasurer's office is open evening hours twice a month. On the **second** and **fourth Tuesday** each month the Treasurer's office is **open 8:30 am – 7:00 pm**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 734-461-6201, ext 239. These hours coincide with the Township Board

meetings, therefore there is no cost to the township or the residents.

Tax bills can be paid at Sumpter Treasurer's Office or PNC Bank located in New Boston, Michigan.

In closing the Treasurer's Office staff and Treasurer Mr. John W. Morgan would like to wish all of you a Happy Halloween, a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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toys found in the attic, the story of the PNA and its "Feast in the Wilderness" as well as the ghost towns of Martinsville and West Sumpter.

Last year's Haunted Tombstone Tour was a sell out success! Advance tickets will be available beginning September 15, 2010, at the Belleville Area Museum, Van Buren Township Hall, Belleville City Hall, Belleville Area District Library, Sumpter Township Police Station, and Bone Heads BBQ and Spirits. Pricing is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children age 15 and under. All proceeds benefit the Belleville Area Museum. Paid tickets may be redeemed at Bone Heads for a free order of fried pickle chips with purchase of two entrees through October 31, 2010.

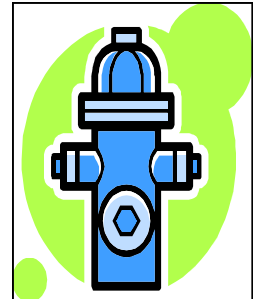
Any persons desiring more information should contact Cathy Horste, Van Buren Township Historian at 734-697-3662.

## From Your Water Department

Well, the summer heat has come and soon will be gone. That means cold weather is on the way.

Cooler weather means our fire hydrant winterization will be starting soon. If you see Township employees running fire hydrants, that is what we are doing. The hydrants are all flushed to make sure they are working properly. They are also inspected to see if anything is broken. Weeds are cut for visibility. Caps are greased for easy removal during an emergency.

I apologize, in advance, if the water to your home becomes cloudy or slightly discolored during this process. It is caused by air in the line and the possible stirring up of the sediments during flushing. This is not harmful



to you and if you just let your water run a few minutes and it should clear up.

Also, be advised that your water bill will be increased \$1.00 starting September 1, 2010. This is due to a raise in the trash pick up rate. This raise was recommended by our independent auditor and was approved August 24, 2010 at the Township Board Meeting.

Sincerely,  
Marvin F. Drews,  
Superintendent

And your dedicated staff of the  
Water and Sewer Department

## From Your Fire Chief, Les Powell

When reading the Firefighters News I came across this article, which I want to pass on due to the important impact, it has on teaching our children to be cautious with flames.

### Dangerous Games

The best way to protect yourself and your family from a fire is to prevent it before it starts.

### Would you leave a loaded gun within reach of a child?

In a child's hands fire can be just as dangerous as a loaded weapon. Within minutes the flames can destroy a house and take the lives of an entire family. Almost all children go through a stage when they are curious about fire.

When children are curious about something, they often "play" with it in order to learn about it. Last year thousands of children "played" with fire. Only many of them didn't learn anything. They died. These tragic deaths and burn injuries can be prevented.

How? By taking some basic precautions and by teaching fire safety in the home. Children need to be told that fire can be just as deadly as talking to strangers or playing in the street.

**What adults can do about this problem:**

#### Teach Children About Fire

- Fire is a tool, not a toy
- Fire grows very quickly
- Fire can be very dangerous
- Fire is not magic
- Even adults must follow safety rules about fire

#### Control Children's Access to Fire

- Keep matches and lighters out of sight
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach
- Watch open flame heaters closely
- Remove burner knobs from stove when not in use

#### Look for signs of children playing with fire

- Burn spots on carpet, clothing or bedding
- Burned paper or ashes under a bed or in the trash
- Burn spots in yard around home
- Missing matches or lighters

#### Set a good example

- Always follow fire safety rules yourself
- Don't let children light your cigarettes for you
- Have children tell you when they find matches or lighters
- Ask children to tell you when they see others playing with fire

Remember...It only takes once

If your child has been playing with fire, seek help immediately.

## From Your Police Department

The Sumpter Township Police Department began utilizing a new communications service on August 24, 2010, that allows us to send important, valuable community information directly to residents using the latest technology.

The Nixle Community Information Service allows us to create and publish messages to be delivered to subscribed residents instantly via cell phone text message and/or email. Notifications can also be accessed online at Nixle's web site at

[www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

Messages may include emergency alerts such as missing children, hazardous material spills and severe weather alerts to name just a few, as well as other relevant safety and community event information. The service is reliable and FREE.

The messages can be sent specifically to residents registered within a ¼ mile radius, giving them the opportunity to receive trustworthy information relevant only to their neighborhood.

Residents decide from which local agencies they want to receive information. Subscribers can also choose the way in which alerts are received, whether it is by email, text message, or over the web.

There is NO spam and no hidden cost. Standard text messaging rates do apply.

Nixle builds on the foundations of other public-to-public communication services, such as Twitter, Facebook, and MySpace, but adds a key component: security. When citizens receive

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information from our agency via Nixle, they know it can be trusted.

"Nixle is a first-of-its-kind tool for communities that need to provide critical information to their residents," said Craig Mitnick, Founder and CEO. "In today's world, you have to trust the source of your information. Residents can rest easy that the local messages they receive are authentic."

Residents of Sumpter Township and those in neighboring communities can immediately begin receiving pertinent information via text message, email, and web by registering at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

We are very excited to have you experience it for yourself. Please register today and join in this important partnership.

Lieutenant Eric Luke  
Sumpter Township Police  
Department



## Sumpter Township Senior Citizen Center

Greetings!

It has been a busy summer at the Sumpter Senior Center. Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara acquired and applied funds to provide a Wii for the center. Most afternoons there is a friendly game going on or join a bowling team, leagues are now being formed. We love Wii!!

Western Wayne County Senior Olympics was held in August involving 16 communities, with over 700 seniors participating in a variety of athletic & non athletic events. Gold, Silver & Bronze medals are awarded in age categories. Of 19 participants, we had 11 winners bringing home 18 medals!

**Congratulations** to our medal winners:

Pauline Armatis, Debra Busch, Annie Collins, Gary Krajewski, Kathy Krajewski, Amanda Massey, Frances Quiney, Margaret Rochon, Jenny Stevens, Ken Stewart, and Paulette Thompson.

Flu shots will be available on Diabetes

Day, Oct. 6. Call & register to receive a free pair of diabetic socks, bring your glucometer to be checked, info on Medicare paid Diabetic shoes and more.

*A craft show will be held Sat & Sun Oct 16 & 17 from 10a.m-6p.m in the Community Center Gym. Free admission. Proceeds from vendor table rentals will benefit the Senior Center Christmas Party held Dec. 2.*

Senior Alliance Medicare experts will be available for annual enrollment this fall at the center.

Our Retired Senior Volunteer Program honors active volunteers annually with a banquet.

Wayne County Meal Program offers lunch at 11:45 Monday thru Friday. 24 hr. reservation is requested: 734 461 1186

Meals on Wheels are also available: 734 727 7357

Telephone Friendly Reassurance is available for homebound seniors: 461-2502

The senior center is funded in part by the Area Agency on Aging, IC, The Senior Alliance.

Transportation is made possible thru a partnership with SMART.

Whether it's stretching classes, quilting & sewing, upholstery, computers, games, Bingo, Penny Pokeno, day and overnight trips, speakers, volunteer opportunities, surplus food programs, shopping, lunch or just stopping in to watch t.v. and visit, we offer a variety of programs and activities. We look forward to including you!

Sincerely, Denise "DD" Drouillard,  
Senior Center Coordinator

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## Sumpter Township

23480 Sumpter Road  
Belleville, MI 48111

Phone: 734-461-6201  
Fax: 734-461-6441

Country Living At Its Finest

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## Parks & Recreation News

Craig Moody, Chairman

Peggy Morgan, Board Liaison

**Annual "Turkey Shoot" - 12:00 noon Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>.** At the Police Gun Range (closed landfill) on Willow Rd. ¼ mile west of Sumpter Rd.

**Prizes** -Frozen Turkey's, Slabs of Bacon (Dearborn brand), Hams (Dearborn brand), & Money Rounds

12ga., 16ga., 20ga., Shotguns - Only factory installed chokes allowed. .410ga. for 12yrs. & younger

**Children's X-Mas Party Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.** Doors do not open until 6:00pm. Parent/Guardian & Children

must be Residents of Sumpter Township. Must show Proof of Residency of Both Parent/ Guardian & Children at the Supervisor's Office by 4:00pm. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. 2010. When signing up at the Township Hall in the Supervisor's Office. **Children must be in attendance to receive Gift.** Must register

The \$50,000.00, 2010 - 2011 Wayne Co. Parks Millage Grant secured by the Supervisor's Office is in place & ready to be used for Park Improvements. Re-surfacing the Basketball Court, new backboards, fencing for the Parking Lots & Playground Area, Perma-

nent Restroom Structures, add more Playground Equipment & Install 2 Drinking Fountains are just some of the Improvements slated for Graham Park. For Banotai Park plans are for 2 new Pavilions, Horse Shoe Pits, more Parking Spaces, more Playground Equipment, Expanding the Beach Area, & much more. The Supervisor's Office just learned their 2011 - 2012 Grant Request was awarded \$40,000.00 & should be in place by summer of 2011. The Supervisor's Office has secured \$165,000.00 in the last 3 years thru Wayne Co. Parks Millage Grants.