

Sumpter Country Times



Sumpter Township

From Your Supervisor: **Johnny Vawters**

Jan, Feb & March 2009

2009 March Board of Review

Assessment notices will be sent/received 10 days before the March Board of Review. Dates and Times are:

March 3, Organization day
9 am—11 am

March 10, 9 am—4 pm

March 11, 1 pm—9 pm

March 12, 9 am—4 pm

No appointments necessary.

Petitions are available at the Supervisors Office or

Download a petition at www.michigan.gov/treasury click on petition forms.

Petitions must be received by March 12, 2009 by 4 pm (deliver in person or by mail). Mail petitions to:

Denise Komora, Sumpter Twp. Supervisors Office/2009 March Board of Review, 23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111

Petitions to the Board of Review are for 2009 as-

sessments and hardship/poverty exemptions only...

Principal Residential Exemptions will not be accepted until the July or December Board of Review.

Deadline for filing a Principal Residential Exemption form is May 1, 2009.

Any questions regarding the Board of Review contact the Sumpter Twp. Supervisors Office at (734) 461-6201 ext 229.

Sumpter Township Board

of

Trustees

- **Johnny Vawters, Supervisor**
- **Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Clerk**
- **John W. Morgan, Treasurer**
- **William Hamm, Trustee**
- **Alan D. Bates, Trustee**
- **Linda L. Kennedy, Trustee**
- **Peggy Morgan, Trustee**

Special Assessment Tax Deferment

Senior Citizens and permanently disabled persons can apply for a deferment to special assessments on their taxes. The State of Michigan will loan qualified taxpayers the money to pay the special assessment. In return, a lien will be placed on your property. The lien will not be removed until the loan has been repaid.

To Qualify:

Taxpayer must be 65 years of age or older.

You or your spouse must be totally and permanently disabled. (Age requirement is waived).

Be a Michigan resident for five years or more, owned and occupied the home-stead for five years or more.

Be a citizen of the United States. Have a household income of less than \$20,670 for the year 2008.

Have a special assessment of \$300 or more.

Have written consent from the mortgage lender.

Forms are available at the Sumpter Township Supervisors Office M—F 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

From The Clerk: Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.

The Clerk's Office provides the following services:

Notary Service (FREE)

Garage Sale Permits (\$2.00 ea)

The last weekend in August is the Township wide yard sales no permit necessary

Business Licenses (\$50.00 ea includes

building inspection)

Elections

Registration of Voters

Trash Complaints (877-264-5544)

Cemetery Plots (\$250.00)

Zoning/Master Plan Questions

Planning Commission Requests

Freedom of Information Requests

Fire Reports (\$3.00 ea)

Notifications/Publications for residents

Rentals of Community Center/Parks

Recycling (Saturday's 9am to 1pm)

Assist citizens with various questions, topics, & subjects

HELP! Historical Information Wanted

Sumpter Township Clerks Office is looking for any historical information and photographs of/about Sumpter Township for the years of 1910 to 1935. If you or someone you know has any historical information or photographs that Sumpter Township could copy and possibly display, please contact the Clerks Office at 734-461-6201 ext. 222.

WIC Program

Wayne County Health Dept. has a WIC Office located at 23483 Sumpter Rd. (across from the Township Hall). If you are a pregnant woman, breastfeeding woman, have had a baby in the last six months or have a child up to the age of five. You could

be eligible to receive a list of healthy foods to help your money go further. Call 1-800-26-BIRTH or 734-461-6419 and make an appointment to see if you are eligible for services WIC has to offer. No walk ins.

Community Food Bank

Nourishing Gardens

COMCASTS NEW CHANNEL

Comcast is pleased to announce the addition of Retirement Living Television to the Digital Classic service, channel 125. "Retirement Living TV (RLTV) is the only cable network dedicated to servicing the needs of adults 50+ with info. And entertainment that inspires and changes the perception of aging." RLTV will be available for a preview beginning on January 28, 2009.

If you are in need of food, please do not hesitate to come down. We will be able to provide a weeks worth of food. We are able to service small families as well as large families. If you have any questions or are in need of help at times other then those listed below, please give us a call at 734-461-1880 or visit our web site at www.nourishinggardens.org.. Our hours: Sunday 11 am—1 pm. Location: 24831 Sumpter Rd., Belleville (Between Wear & Willow Rds).

From The Treasurer: John W. Morgan

Just a reminder..... tax payments are due by February 27, 2009. After March 1, 2009 all unpaid taxes are turned over to Wayne County Treasurer and are considered delinquent. Summer taxes can still be paid at Sumpter Township also until February 27, 2009.

The Treasurer's Office is open daily 8:30 am—4:30 pm and on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 8:30 am—7:30 pm; for payment of water bills or taxes.

Your home is the most important investment that you'll have. Unfortunately, in these tough economic times, it can become financially challenging.

If you need help, don't delay, call Wayne county Taxpayer Assistance Department (TAD) today. They can assist you with legal assistance, financial resources and help you in obtaining a hardship extension if needed. Telephone number is 313-224-6105.

Currently there are several programs in place to assist low-income persons with their property taxes. Senior citizens, veterans, surviving spouses of eligible veterans and disabled persons may be eligible for larger tax relief. Contact the Wayne County Department of Human Services for further information, 313-224-0810.

In February, taxpayers will be receiving

a new assessment from Wayne County. This is not a bill, but an assessment on your property. If you have questions about this assessment there will be a board of Review in March during the week of the 10th. The Supervisor's Office will be setting the hours.

Dog clinic days are March 7th and 14th, the first two Saturdays in March. Hours are 1 pm to 4 pm. Location is 23399 Sumpter Rd. (the barn across the street from the Township Hall). Cost is \$11.00 for 2 yr. Rabies shot and \$19.00 for combo-distemper shot. Dog licenses can also be purchased that day. \$5.00 unsexed dogs and \$7.00 female dogs. 1/2 price for persons over age 55.

From The Department Of Public Works

By: Ron Caryl, Director of D.P.W.

The Water & Sewer Dept.

Everyone is probably overjoyed to see 2008 behind us for many reasons the least of which is the economy. We share your views. Local government personnel are in much the same boat as other people and private entities. We are much different than The State or Federal Governments in that we cannot mandate someone else to do what we are unable to do or float more debt. We just have to make the best effort to get done what we can, as soon as we can, with the assets we have available to us.

A Note About Our New Water Meters

We have finished about 90% of the water meters we needed to replace. Many of those remaining are summer homes or are currently unoccupied, these will have to be changed before water service is restored to the structure. **There is also a small percentage of these homes that are occupied and the owners have chosen not to comply, these homes and buildings will be receiving a water shut-off notice in the next few weeks.** Once water is shut off to

these structures, service will not be restored until the new meter is installed. It is not fair to the vast majority of our customers that we are spending more time and more of their money to read a few meters manually, than it costs to read all the rest of the community. It is the customer's money that we are spending and we cannot allow that to continue.

If you are the occupant or owner of one of these homes or buildings call us now at 734-461-6202 ext. 242 or you may find your water shut off. If we have to do this there will be additional charges to reestablish service.

Now that most of the meters have been changed the years of numerous estimated water bills should be over. If you do get an estimated bill and you have a new meter please, call us immediately to set up a service call. I do not believe you should have to tolerate an estimated bill unless something outside of our control is causing this to happen. Please call if this occurs. Service is our business and we want to cure the problems that arise and put them behind

both of us.

Please know that a lot of thought and consideration went into selecting the meter system that we chose. We are not a rich, high class; uppity community and we did not buy a Rolls Royce meter system. We bought a good solid Ford or GM meter system. A water meter system with the most solid reputation that would provide you with an accurate water & sewer bill, and that is what we mean to do. We believe this system will serve our residents well.

We see to it that water arrives at your home, clean and safe and in the case of about 25% of the customers, we see to it that it goes away when your done with it. We try to provide this service the best way possible. We know we can't satisfy everyone all of the time, but we try. If we have done something you don't understand or agree with let us know. If we've done something that makes you happy, let someone know. We hope 2009 is a better year for our Nation, our State, our community and especially for you, our customers. Thanks for letting us be of service.

From Your Police Department



Changes To The Pistol Purchase Registration Laws Senate Bill 370, House bill 4490 & 4491 (Beginning January 7, 2009)

Physically presenting a pistol to the local police agency for a safety inspection is no longer a requirement, (there are a few exceptions). Registration is still required with the local police authority and the state.

APPLICATION AND LICENSE TO PURCHASE A PISTOL (yellow

4-part form #RI-010) has replaced the APPLICATION AND LICENSE TO PURCHASE A PISTOL and the SAFETY INSPECTION CERTIFICATE (green 3-part forms).

PISTOL SALES RECORD (4-part multi-colored card RI-060) has changed. This card is required for person who has a valid concealed weapon permit (CCW/CPL).

SUMPTER POLICE RECORDS OFFICE will process pistol sales,

WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY; between the hours of 10:30 am and 6 pm.

Senate Bill 370, House Bill 4490 & 4491 change information is available on the state police websites at www.michigan.gov/msp, and www.legislature.mi.gov/documents.

From The Fire Department

This letter, again is about being prepared, or helping us help you. Several years ago a program called "File of Life" was introduced to the area through the efforts of the Belleville fire Auxiliary. This program did not get to be widespread in Sumpter Twp. It was mainly distributed through the Senior Center but the rest of you were not informed of this, which was my fault. This time they will be distributed by the Senior Center the Clerks Office, the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. We hope

this effort gets a better use of the important tool. I call it a tool because what it does is give arriving Medical personnel important information about you when an emergency situation arrives. It lists medication you take, as well as existing conditions, allergies and emergency contact numbers. It is simple to use, fill out the form at your leisure, put it in the magnetic envelope and stick it on the refrigerator, we will know just where to look for it. The info. Is important when needed and not

always available. In these situations it is sometimes hard to remember details, but if you put them on paper now you will have them when they are needed. We hope you take advantage of this and help us help YOU.



Info. From The Building Department

Do you have thoughts of building or sprucing up your house and/or property this spring? Well here are some tips to keep you and your money safe and secure.

Verify Your Builder/Contractor License

The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) wants you to take a few minutes to look up a license online or give them a call, and in the long run, it can help prevent your dream home from becoming a nightmare. Builders: DLEG's online license search is available at www.michigan.gov/licenselookup or by calling DLEG's Bureau of Commercial Services Licensing Division at 1-

866-630-6608.

Contractors: Electricians, plumbers and mechanical contractors are licensed by DLEG's Bureau of Construction Codes. To verify their license information, visit www.michigan.gov/bcclicense or call 517-241-9313.

Don't Pay In Advance

Consumers should never give a contractor a large sum of money prior to work being done. Never pay in full prior to completion of job to your satisfaction.

Don't Forget Your Building Permit

A building permit is usually required for: new

buildings, additions, decks, garages, fences, fireplaces, pools, water heaters, etc. Renovations, electrical systems, plumbing systems, HVAC systems all require permits. If you are unsure if a permit is needed, call the building department at 734-461-6201 ext 233 to find out. With the popularity of do it yourself home improvement shows, it's important for consumers to remember that they are responsible for obtaining building permits too. A permit ensures that the proposed construction meets minimum safety standards and allows code officials to protect the public by reducing potential hazards of unsafe construction. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections, so the value of the property could be reduced and problems may arise when the property is sold.

News From Sumpter Senior Citizen Center

By: Denise Droullard, Senior Center Coordinator

It has been a privilege to be the Sumpter Senior Center Coordinator for the past year. Besides coming in to a situation that was emotionally and politically charged, certain malcontents continued to try to keep the upheaval going. I feel confident that I diffused numerous situations with tact and calmness that could have been fractious for the Township, the Center in particular. I have brought a level of professionalism and dignity to the Senior Center that was sorely lacking. I am willing to “step in” when needed, such as bus driving when necessary, volunteering at Sumpter Township Community functions, cleaning and organizing the building to better serve employees and seniors alike. There is an “open door” policy that numerous seniors take advantage of and appreciate. The teamwork that has been established since I came has worked wonderfully, thanks to my assistant Maryann Watson and driver Mike Dayne.

It has been an eventful, challenging year and I would like to list some of the other accomplishments I have achieved during my tenure:

Grass cutting program run efficiently and accurately through the senior center, which includes explaining, qualifying, and record keeping.

Administration of snow removal program. *see grass cutting above)

Worked with local Girl Scout troops

to rake senior’s leaves.

Transferal of all SMART reports are now done through the center, this includes several *new and additional* reports due to new change of directorship at SMART.

Attend meetings at organizations and networking that directly affects the center that were previously unattended. (Senior Alliance, Senior Center Directors, Senior Olympics, Human Resources Network to name a few)

Added new programs that are steadily increasing; exercise, card playing, computer classes, day and evening upholstery classes, art classes, reading w/pre-school children.

Participation in established events/activities has increased; e.g.: bingo, lunch out.

Improved record keeping, including resource referrals, board reports etc. E.g.: 226 *unduplicated* seniors were provided a service for the last quarter we were able to convey this to Senior Alliance.

Using available resources to aid seniors in need in various ways whether it is financial physical or social.

Established a friendly rapport and working relationship with Wayne County Representatives.

Work with other Senior Center Directors to share ideas, cooperate in

trip planning making more trips available and increasing options for senior socialization.

Offered numerous seminars and speakers in partnerships with local and national entities e.g.: CVS Pharmacies “Pack Your Bag Series”, Adult Well Being Services, The Senior Network Health Series, Financial seminars, Pre-planning funeral seminars, safety seminars to name a few.

Increased membership averaging 1—2 new members monthly.

Wrote winning nomination for Senior of the Year via YWCA/Kiwanis.

Entered seniors for grant programs offering travel and various community outreaches.

10 seniors represented Sumpter township at the Senior Olympics, previously one.

Volunteerism has increased approximately 50%.

I believe there is a relaxed, friendly non-partisan atmosphere that is welcoming to the mature citizens of this community and I look forward to an exciting continuation of rebuilding this program.

Sumpter Township

23480 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111

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

Country Living At Its Finest

Sumpter Township Postal Customer



SUMPTER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS UPDATE

Graham Park—Construction will begin this spring on improvements including new picnic Pavilions, new playground equipment, new parking area and new and expanded basketball court. This will be done with Wayne County Parks grant money obtained by the supervisor's staff.

Banotai Park & Sherwood Pond—Construction will continue at Banotai Park with the installation of new restroom facilities, improvements to the beach area and new picnic areas. Community Development Block Grant funds will again finance these projects.

BUILDING OFFICIALS NEW OFFICE HOURS

Starting February 23, 2009,

**Sumpter Township's Building Official's
new office hours will be:**

Tuesday	9 am – 3 pm
Wednesday	9 am – 3 pm
Thursday	9 am – 3 pm
Friday	8:30 am – 4:30 pm

