

# AUGUSTA NEWS

Enhancing Public Understanding and Community Involvement

Spring/Summer 2004

Augusta Charter Township Newsletter

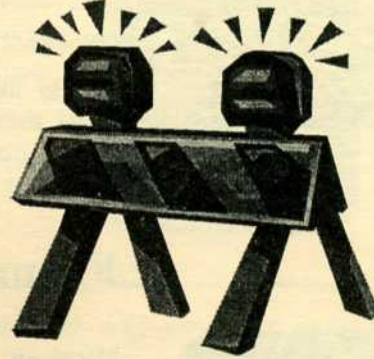
## Roads - From the Trustees' Desk...by Bill Manty

Augusta Township experiences problems with gravel roads breaking up during the spring thaw. The breakup is the result of moisture trapped in the road surface that cannot drain downwards because the ground beneath is still frozen. Until the lowest ground thaws through, no drainage of the road structure will take place. The upper two or four inches of dry road surface will flex as it floats on the mud below.

Eventually this crust is punctured by a wheel and the vehicle

drops in, coming to rest on its frame. In March 2003, 125 vehicles were trapped this way in the southeast corner of the township.

Why were some sections of the road good and other parts right next to them so bad? The frost penetrates deeper through dense hard packed roads than through loose soils. Water makes the ground more dense. Where more water is present in the road surface, expect to have deeper frost and more problems with mud in the spring.



The frost in a road can go two feet deep compared to only a few inches in grassy land. Our roads "thaw through" last com-  
*(Roads, Continued on page 8)*

## From the Supervisor's Desk...by Kathy Jackson

**Spring Clean Up  
2004  
Is  
Saturday  
May 15th**

It's getting to be that time of year again! The third Saturday in May is just around the corner.

Over the past three years, your Spring Clean-up volunteers have unloaded and disposed of more than 2,000 cubic yards of scrap and trash, upwards of 3,000

tires, over 2,000 gallons of oil and antifreeze, and evacuated approximately 100 refrigerators.

As you can imagine, this event takes months of preparation, \$10-15,000, and a giant effort on behalf of all volunteers. More  
*(Spring Clean Up, Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue:

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## Spring Clean Up...

(Continued from page 1)

than 30 companies and countless individuals donate their time, money, and services each year to make this event happen.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mich-Con (now DTE), Hankansons, Inc.,

Mitchel's Storage, and Big T Contracting. We would be hard pressed to accomplish this task without you, and it has been my privilege to work with you each year.

I look forward to seeing everyone again this year.

If you have any ques-

tions, please feel free to contact:

Kathy Jackson 461-9270  
Lynda Dew 461-0983  
Bill Manty 461-0171

**Township Hall Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## From the Treasurer's Desk...by Bill Babut

### Michigan State Revenue Sharing Update:

Possibly you have heard or read about cuts in State Revenue Sharing (SRS) for cities and townships in Michigan due to state budget deficits. After much debate, the state legislature and Governor Jennifer Granholm agreed on a 5% reduction for fiscal year 2004 - 2005. This is in addition to the 8% cut in SRS from 2003 to 2004, which we have already endured.

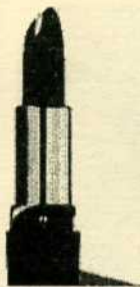
Question: *How does it affect Augusta Township?* During 2003-2004 fiscal year, SRS comprises approximately 63% of our township revenue for operations. Clearly, the reductions in SRS impact our community.

The good news is that the Township Board has been vigilant and shown restraint and discipline with regard to our budget. Now for the bad news, our roads have

been hit the hardest by cuts in SRS (see lead article by Trustee, Manty). While many communities are devastated by the cuts in SRS, Augusta Township remains solvent, and continues to operate within budget.

For further info please contact me or my Deputy Treasurer, Janice Blair, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. or call (734) 461-6117.

**"Remember  
May 1<sup>st</sup> is  
the deadline  
for filing  
Homestead  
Affidavits  
for tax year  
2004."**



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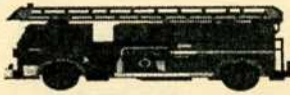
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**From the Fire Chief's Desk...by Vic Chevrette**

With summer almost here, I would like to mention a few safety tips that will help to protect you and your family:

- Open Burning: Under State Law brush is the only item that you can burn and you need to obtain a permit by calling 461-9500. Follow

the voice mail instructions which will ask you to leave you name, address, phone number and the date and time you will be burning. Please do not burn when the wind is 15 mph or greater.

- Store your gas cans outside in a protected area or shed, do not

store them in your home.

- Change your furnace filter.
- Have your fireplace chimneys cleaned.
- Change your smoke detector battery once a year.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Please remember to store your gas cans outside in a protected area.**

**From the Editor's Desk...by Kathy Giszczak**

We are now, more than ever, looking for ways to continue to serve our community's needs and provide helpful, useful information, plenty of opportunities to get involved, and most of all to encourage good citizenship and good stewardship.

I am grateful to our Board of Trustees and advertising sponsors for their support of our township newsletter.

Questions, ideas, or if you'd like advertising information, please call Kathy Giszczak at 734-461-0256. Thank you.

*Special Thanks to EQ for their generous contributions to the annual Augusta Township Spring Clean Up*

*Advertise your home-based business here and reach households in Augusta Township. Don't Forget, the fall/winter 2004 advertising/sponsorship deadline is August 16th. Call Kathy at 461-0256.*

**Arrow Awards**

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### Voter Registration-From the Clerk's Desk...by Iva Bielec

This is a presidential election year and voter turnout is expected to be high. If you are not registered or have recently moved into the area you can register to vote at any Secretary of State Office or at the Township Hall 30 days before the election.

The Primary Election is on August 3rd, and the General Election is on

November 2nd. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Note: Augusta's voting location for both Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 is located in the Senior Center in the Brick Elementary School on Willis Road at Whittaker Road.

If you are over 60 years of age, handicapped, and attest to being unable to

go to the polls on election day, you are eligible to vote absentee ballot.

You can request an absentee voter application from the Clerk's Office before any election-(734) 461-6117.

### Paper of Record...



A paper of record is the official newspaper used by a municipality to publish public notifications required under the law.

The Ypsilanti Courier is Augusta Township's paper of record. You can

find our township's postings in the legal section. This is where the township will post invitations for bids for services, notifications of a public hearing, and where a summary of the approved minutes of prior board meetings can be seen.

### Meetings At the Hall...

- Township Board Work Session, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
- Township Planning Commission, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
- Township Board Regular Meeting, 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

## WILLIAM C. BABUT, P.C.

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