

# Augusta Township NEWS

spring/summer 2006 issue

## It's Happening!

Augusta Twp Hall  
Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Clerk's Office Open  
Saturday by  
Appointment  
Phone (734)461-6117  
www.augustatownship.org

## Meetings at the Township Hall

### Township Board

7:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesday each  
month.

### Planning Commission

6:30 p.m. 3rd Wednesday of each  
month.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

scheduled as needed.

## Recycling

Recycling bins will be at the township  
hall:

May 5-8     June 9-12  
Aug 4-7     Sept 8-11

# Make Augusta Sparkle

Restoring Childs Cemetery     Page 10

Annual Spring Clean up     Page 6-7



Augusta Resident Brian Shelby works to restore neglected grave markers. *Brian has done extensive cemetery restoration and research in Northville and Livonia. Here, he uses a shovel to remove several inches of soil covering a long hidden stone.*

Hugh's History  
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Augusta  
on the Web  
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The Maltese Cross--The  
story behind the fire  
fighters' emblem  
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Township  
Names and Notes  
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## Newspaper of Record

The newspaper of record is the official newspaper used by the township to publish public notifications required under the law. The newspaper of record for Augusta Township is the Ypsilanti Courier

## Township Officials

Supervisor	Kathy Jackson
Treasurer	William C. Babut
Deputy Treasurer	Janice Blair
Clerk	Kathy Giszczak
Deputy Clerk	Becky El-Assadi
Trustee	Lynda H. Dew
Trustee	Joann R. Kidder
Trustee	Bill Manty
Trustee	William Tobler

## Announcing

Augusta Township proudly announces the formation of the Farmland Preservation Board. The board operates under the newly adopted Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance. Watch the Augusta News for meeting notices and more!

## NOTICE

Augusta Charter Township does not endorse any product or service advertised in the Augusta News.

## Biennial Elections

for U.S. Congress  
&  
State Legislature  
Primary Election  
Tuesday, August 8th  
General Election  
Tuesday, November 9th

## Announcing

The formation of the Augusta Township Historical Society First Meeting At Augusta Woods Thursday May 11 7:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Brian (734)504-2050 or Linda & Lora (734)461-5100

## The Augusta News

is published semiannually by Augusta Charter Township. The deadline for submission in the Spring/Summer issue is March first. The deadline for the Fall/Winter issue is September first. All submissions become the property of the Augusta News and may be edited for length, suitability, correctness and content. Please contact the editor, John Blair for information or to request out of area delivery. phone: 734-693-4658

# The Maltese Cross: Symbol of Courage & Honor

by: Daniel A. Onyskin  
Augusta Township Fire Inspector

The Maltese cross is known around the world as a symbol of the fire service. It is often seen on fire trucks, on the clothing of fire fighters, depicted on fire fighters badges and is often the chosen design of fire fighter's tattoos. So where did the Maltese cross come from, and how did it get to be known as a symbol of the fire service?

The Maltese cross is named after the island of Malta, which came to be the home of the Knights of St. John. The Knights of St. John existed during the 11th and 12th centuries. The armor worn by the Knights covered their entire bodies including their faces. Because of this, it was often difficult for the Knights to recognize one another during battle. They realized that they needed some type of symbol that could be used to quickly and easily identify themselves. They chose the Cross of Calvary which would later be known as the Maltese cross.

During the Crusades the enemies of the Knights commonly used fire as a weapon. It was quite common for a Knight to have to risk his own life to save another Knight or to extinguish a fire. The Maltese cross also became a hero's symbol, a medal of honor bestowed upon a Knight for acts of bravery and heroism in battle.

The Knights of St. John were also known for their care of the sick and injured. Combined with their abilities as fire fighters and the pride and honor they took in their work, the Maltese cross seems a fitting symbol of the modern fire service.

Today, Augusta Township Fire fighters are proud to wear the Maltese cross as a badge of courage, pride and commitment to the protection of life and property. Our Maltese cross can be easily seen on our department arm patch and our personal jewelry as well as on our hats, badges and ID cards. We proudly display the Maltese cross on two of our vehicles, Utility 3-1 and Utility 3-2. It is a symbol that you can be proud of too. Like the Knights of St. John, Augusta Fire fighters are ready and willing to fight in the battle against fire. To aid the sick and injured and to assist our fellow man.



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## A Fire fighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God, whenever flames may rage,

Give me the strength to save some life, whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child before it is too late

Or save an older person from the horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,

And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,

To guard my every neighbor and protect his property.

And if, according to my fate, I am to lose my life,

Please bless with your protecting hand my children and my wife.

Author unknown

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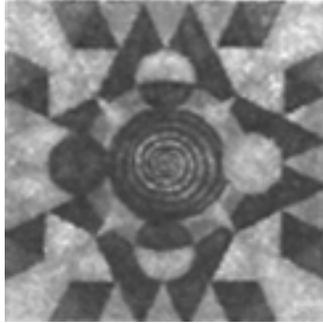
Equipment Rental & Lay-A-Way Available

2006 SCHEDULE  
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Spring starts week of March 29, 2006  
Summer starts week of June 28, 2006  
Indoor  
July 5, 2006

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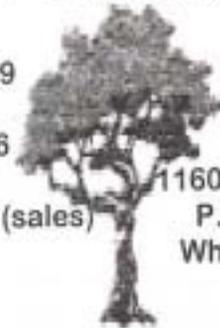
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Fax 734-461-9377  
Home 734-461-6866



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Home: 734/461-1298 kpokrywki@reinhartrealtors.com



**Karen Pokrywki**  
Sales Associate

## *Tips for Selecting a Realtor*

When you're ready to search for a new home or sell your current home, selecting a Realtor to work with should be the first priority. Select someone who takes the time to know you, who will go above and beyond the call of duty. A Realtor should listen carefully to your needs and what is important to you in a home. Take the time to meet with your Realtor in the office and search the MLS together. This can save you both time and money. Knowledge, professionalism and experience are all important factors to consider when selecting a Realtor. You will be spending quality time together. Partner with a Realtor you enjoy having in your company. Be open--give your Realtor feedback that can assist the search for the perfect home.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate call your Augusta Township Realtor. Call today for a current market analysis

**Karen Pokrywki 734/461-1298 or 734/646-9612**

*Loyalty comes with trust. Service and Performance are a great value to all of us.*

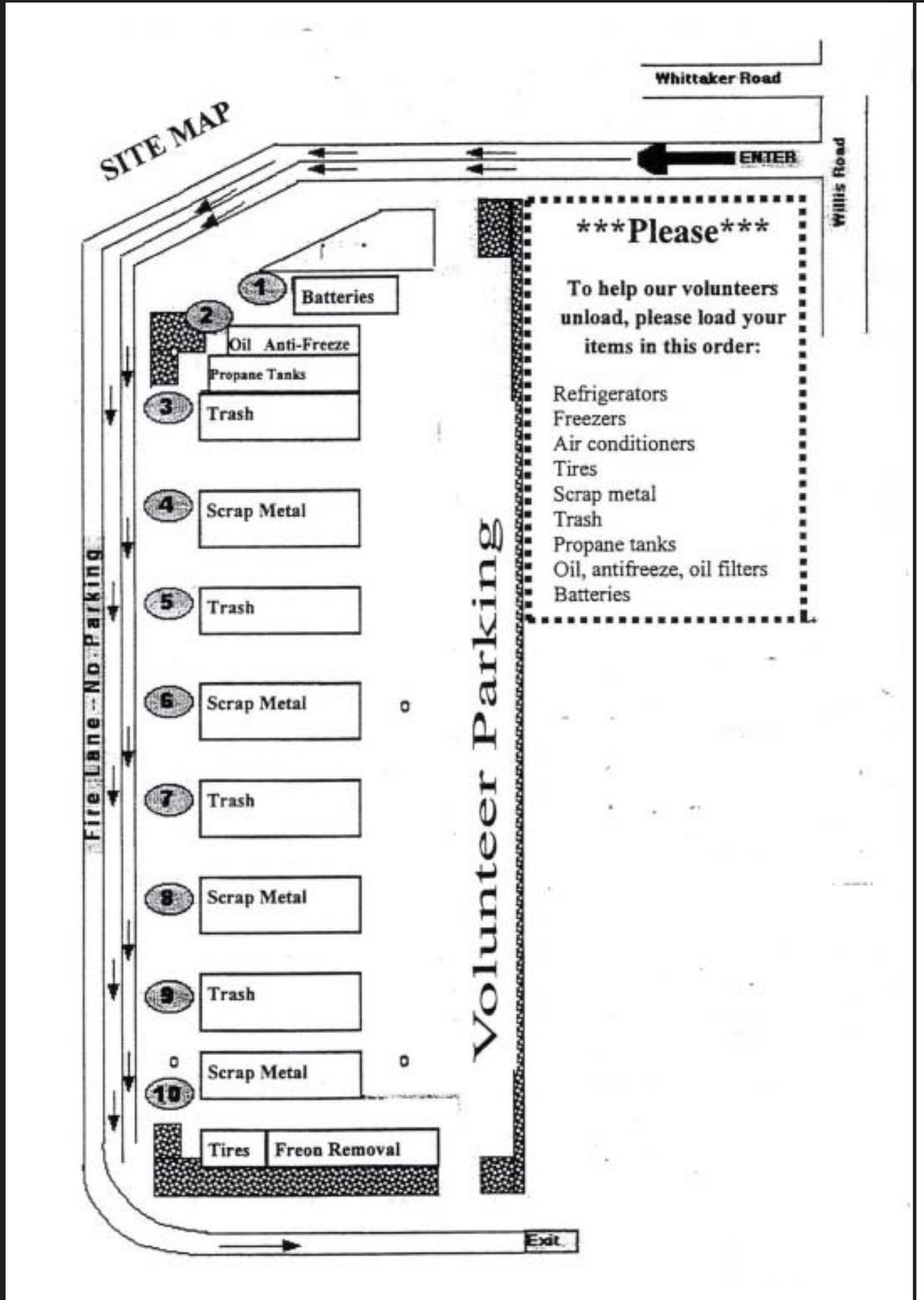
# Augusta Township

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- Yardmaster, LLC
- Ypsilanti Courier

## Location

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL**  
 Willis Rd. 1/2 mile West of Whittaker



# Spring Cleanup

**Saturday, June 3, 2006**  
**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## Contacts

Bill Manty  
 461-0171  
 wmanty@provide.net

Kathy Jackson  
 461-9270  
 ryork326@aol.com

Lynda Dew  
 461-0983  
 ldew@provide.net

## FEEES

\$

\$ 1 per Resident Vehicle  
 \$12 Freon Removal Charge  
 Air Conditioners  
 Refrigerators & Freezers  
 (must be empty)

### Items Accepted

Batteries (all types)  
 Oil, Oil Filters  
 Antifreeze, Transmission and Break Fluid  
 Propane Tanks  
 Lawn mowers  
 Auto Parts, Engine Blocks, etc.  
 Farm Equipment/Scrap Metal  
 Water Heaters, Plumbing  
 Furniture, Mattresses  
 Drywall, Shingles, Concrete, Windows  
 Appliances (washers, dryers, stoves, etc.)  
 Refrigerators, Freezers (must be empty)  
 Air Conditioners

### Items Not Accepted

To dispose of the following items  
 please call Washtenaw Home Toxic  
 Collection Center at 734-222-3950

Asbestos, Ammunition  
 Explosives, Flammables (gasoline, kerosene)  
 Radioactive Materials Medications  
 Latex Paint (dry out & put in trash with lid)  
 Asphalt, Roofing Tar Aerosol Cans, Glue,  
 Caulking Insect Killer, Weed Killer  
 Wood preservatives Oil Based  
 Paints & Thinners, Creosote

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for a  
 variety of tasks before and  
 during our spring  
 clean up event.

Lunch and Refreshments  
 Provided for Volunteers

Please Call:

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

To dispose of the following  
 call Recycle Ann Arbor at  
 734-971-7400

TV's, Computer Monitors,  
 Computer Hard Drives, Printers,  
 Fluorescent Light Bulbs,  
 Computer Diskettes,  
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## SMOKE DETECTOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

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 Fire Dept**

*Drivers are  
 requested to stay  
 with their vehicles  
 at all times.  
 Thank you*

**Scrap metal must be separated from trash, so please  
 follow the instructions of the volunteers unloading  
 your car.**

# Vist Us On The Web



**www.augustatownship.org.** Our Augusta Charter Township Website is now available to the community. Please surf on by and take a look. The website is packed with useful information including township office information, news and hot topics, board meeting agendas and minutes and much more. We look forward to your comments and encourage you to continue to check the site for the latest news and information.



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Mr. Woody Erickson

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### Range Ball Prices

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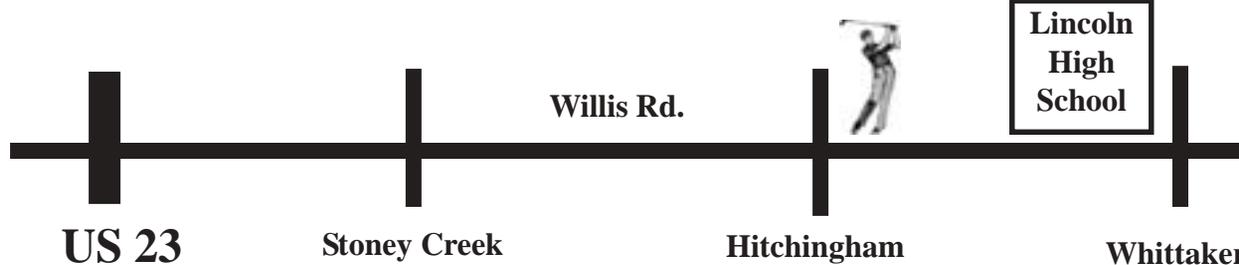
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## Restoring historic Childs Cemetery: Labor of Love for New Sexton



by: **Brian Shelby**

In our township we have a small cemetery that has been vandalized and neglected for years. It needs to be restored to honor those who served our country and built our township. The first person laid to rest at this cemetery was in 1835 and the last was in 1994. In my recent research I found buried under layers of dirt a marker from a Civil War soldier who fell in battle in 1865. This stone needs to be properly restored and reset.

I also found a letter at the township hall from a young lady by the name of Emily Cobbs. Her letter had been filed away for two years. She wanted to know what she could do to help with Childs Cemetery. I contacted her, and she told me she has family buried there.

After talking to more people who know about the cemetery I knew that restoring this historical cemetery was a project worthy of the efforts of anyone who wants to do something truly worthwhile.

The township board recently signaled their support of this effort by approving a flag pole to be installed at the cemetery. There will be a brief dedication at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21st. Belleville's boy

scout troop 793 has volunteered to be part of the clean up and rededication. With continuing help and support I hope to have the cleaning and partial restoration completed with a year's time.

I need any information or records--deeds to plots, pictures or anything else you would be willing to share with me about Childs Cemetery. The county has no information about it. All the cemetery records were destroyed in a house fire several years ago. So many of the people who helped to establish and build Augusta Township still have descendents living here that they need to be remembered and honored.

One of the very interesting people I heard from while doing my research was Doris Maleski. Not only does she have family buried at Childs Cemetery, she has been a part of history in her own right. She was one of World War II's "Rosy the Riveters"--women who took on factory jobs in support of the war effort.

This community volunteer project will be a great place to start to reclaim our past. It is high time to reestablish our township historical society. It has been neglected for too many years.

Support from Augusta Township's business community has been wonderful. So far we have received two flags from Congressman Schwarz of Michigan's 7th district. Willis Feed Mill is donating grass seed and fertilizer--Troy has been very helpful in this project. Hankansons Fabrication has provided the metal for headstone restoration and signs. Shari and Mark Mellinger, owners of Arrow Awards, will be providing the dedication plaque. Ross Medos and other VFW members will make up the honor guard.

### Editors Note

*Mr. Shelby is an experienced cemetery sexton and restorer of cemeteries. He did it for many years in Livonia and Northville. I spoke to him about what he is doing and hopes to do in coming months. He continued to dig and wash and explain how he restores damaged letters on stones. His knowledge and enthusiasm is contagious. He is excited that Augusta Township's businesses have stepped up to help. What happens next is up to you--John Blair*

## Hugh's History

by: **Hugh Davidson**



Cemeteries sing the song of the soil from which all life is derived and to which all souls have a claim. They become a celebration of life itself. The song of the little old cemetery on Tuttle Hill Road south of Talladay Road is a long one. Before the coming of white settlers, the site was an Indian campground. According to 73 year township resident, David Dejanovich, the area behind the cemetery running west beyond Paint Creek is an ancient Indian burial ground.

After the Indians abandoned the site it became the final resting place for many of Augusta's founding fathers and mothers. According to Chapman's History of Washtenaw County, published in 1881, the first settler to be buried there was William Flowers. Mr. Flowers died on August 14, 1835. The oldest remains in the Childs Cemetery were believed for years to be those of a 3 year old child, Purdy E. Hickock. However, cleaning and restoration of his stone has revealed that he actually died in 1869. At least 7 other people were buried there between 1835 and April 18, 1854 when the

First Congregationalist Church was established across what was then called "East Monroe Road"--now Tuttle Hill Rd. Eventually the cemetery was deeded over to the township by J. Webster Childs. The last person buried at Childs Cemetery was Helen McFall Brown who died on June 16, 1994. Mrs. Brown was a descendant of both the Childs and McFall families.

There are many prominent people buried in Childs Cemetery, not the least of whom are the two Childs brothers. Aaron and J. Webster Childs were born in Henniker, New Hampshire. Aaron, born December 1, 1806, came to Augusta in 1834. J. Webster Childs moved to Augusta in September of 1848 at the age of 22. Both brothers took part in the birth of the abolitionist Republican Party in Jackson, Michigan on July 6, 1854.

The first Augusta Township Board meeting was held in Aaron's home. He served as the first Augusta Township Clerk and served several terms as township supervisor. J. Webster served a term as township supervisor then ran for and won a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives. He served out that term and was then elected to the State Senate several times. He left the legislature in 1880 to take an appointment with the Michigan Board of Agriculture. Both brothers were honored in Chapman's History of Washtenaw County in 1881. Within the year both men were dead. Aaron at age 76 and J. Webster at age 56. Aaron's house is still standing, but J. Webster's home made way for the Dejonovich farm long ago.

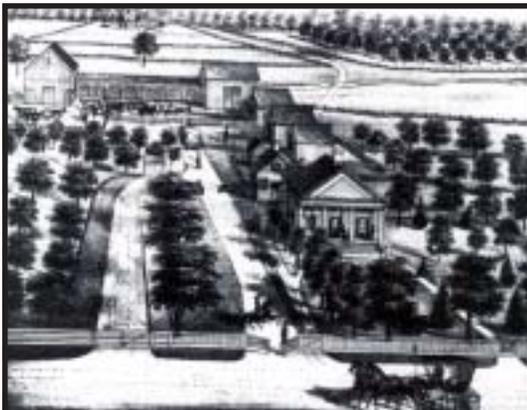
Other prominent men buried in Childs Cemetery include Paint Creek's first postmaster, David Hardy, and George Bennett, son of Underground Railroad conductor Prince Bennett. Prince Bennett and his family lived in the first frame house in Augusta Township. Fleeing slaves would hide under the floorboards of the porch before making their final run to freedom in Canada. The home stood on the corner of Willis Rd. and Tuttle Hill Rd. until well into the 1960's. Mr. Bennett, an African American, served three terms as justice of the peace, one term as township supervisor and three terms as township clerk.



**Brian Shelby prepares *William Flowers* head stone, the oldest in Childs Cemetery, for restoration.**



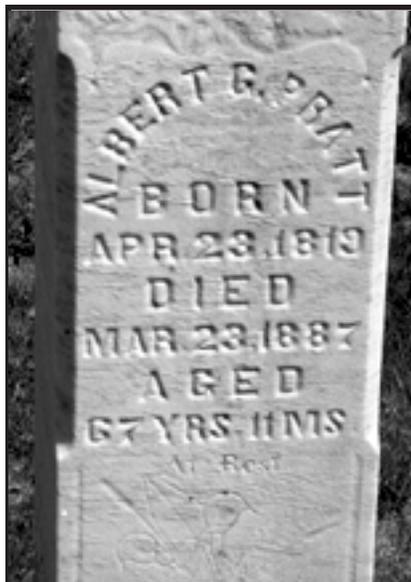
**Home across the road from Childs Cemetery was built as the First Congregational Church in 1854-55 at a cost of \$1300.00.**



**The home of J. Webster Childs circa 1880 stood on the west side of Tuttle Hill Rd. on the site of what is now the Dejanovich farm.**



**The home of older brother Aaron Childs still stands across the road from the site of J. Webster Childs's house.**



**Restored Headstone stands white and readable for first time in decades.**

## Open Burning Requirements

Open burning is permitted, provided that it meets the following requirements.

**Anyone desiring to burn shall call the fire department (461-9500) and leave their name, location of burning, duration of the burn, phone number and what exactly is being burned on the answering machine.**

1. No burning with winds 10 MPH or greater.
2. No burning within 5 ft of property line.
3. No burning within 15 ft of a structure.
4. No burning of piles more than 5 ft. in diameter.
5. Burning is only allowed between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm.
6. A person shall remain in attendance at all times.
7. No burning of building materials, chemicals, trash, asbestos or materials containing asbestos.
8. Methods for extinguishment shall be available on-site during the burning to include, but not limited to garden hoses, buckets of water, fire extinguishers, rakes or shovels.

## It's Spring-- Watch for Animals

Because of the mild winter, more than the usual number of wild animals are out and about looking for food. Our township is growing so fast that soon wild creatures will have no place to go. So, when driving please slow down and try not to hit them. I have removed way too many off the roads this year.

Close contact with strange animals is always risky. In recent years Southeast Michigan has seen a greater than normal incidence of rabies and distemper. Never approach or touch any animal, wild or domestic, unless you know it well. That cute kitten or pretty black critter with the white stripe or baby bird could be carrying diseases that could prove deadly to you or your pets. And even if it is perfectly healthy you could come away from the encounter with painful scratches or bites.

Spring is also time to get your animals vaccinations and heart worm preventive. Remember to never leave an animal penned or tied out in the sun or inside your car. Always be sure they have plenty of water and shade. And finally, please spay and neuter your dogs and cats.

**For information or help with animal control or rescue please contact Brian Shelby, Animal Rescue.**

**Pager:  
(734)504-2050 or e-mail: bshelby10121@yahoo.com.**