



Newsletter Summer 2020

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Supervisor **Brian Shelby**
Clerk **Belynda Domas**
Treasurer **Susan Burek**
Trustee **Cath Howard**
Trustee **Dennis Chie**
Trustee **Chris Ortiz**
Trustee **Linda Adams**

From the Supervisor:

I am happy to report the following:

- The Willis Road lighting project between Bunton & Rawsonville I brought to the board at the beginning of my term is completed.
- The paving on Willis Road between Bunton & Rawsonville will be finished soon.
- As of April this year, with the help of volunteers we have filled a 30 yard dumpster by picking up trash from the road sides and ditches.
- The Spring Cleanup that was planned for June 20th has been canceled due to COVID. I am trying to reschedule for later in the summer. Watch the website for updates.
- The car show is moving forward for August 23rd at Lincoln High School. This event is free to the public. More details to come will be posted on the township web site.
- Our new water meter program will be starting soon. These are the most accurate meters available, you can check them on your smart phone for your usage.
- The dumpster service for recycling at the township hall was discontinued at the end of June. It was costing over \$22,000 a year and some people were using it for garbage. This money can be used for infrastructure needs such as roads and ditches.
- People have asked for years for curb side recycling. Stevens's disposal is the only company that offered this service at a reasonable price for residents to have the convenience of curb side recycling.
- The roads that will be worked on this year are: Liss Road, Judd, McKean, and McCrone.
- The August primary election will be here soon, please take the time to vote.

Thank you,

Brian Shelby

Clerk's Corner

We hope all Augusta Township Residents are safe during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to get through this together. We continue to work serving residents as best we can. Here are updates for US Census 2020, Augusta Township's website and upcoming 2020 Election information.

US Census 2020

In March 2020, homes across the country received official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. The census is important as it is the basis for distributing seats in the House of Representatives and funding for federal programs.

As of June 15 Michigan's Self Response Percent was 67.7%, Augusta Township's Self-Response Percent is 72.8%. We encourage the remaining residents to participate in the 2020 Census to increase Augusta Township's Self Response Percent to 100%. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, operations have been adjusted. Soon, Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted. If you need further information visit www.census.gov.

Augusta Township Website – augustatownship.org

Augusta Township employee Carol Zimnie has been doing a great job managing the townships website. Not only does she post routine township business, she has posted emergency information regarding sewer and water issues, COVID-19 updates and upcoming events. If you have any Augusta Township information that you would like posted, please email Carol at cashier@augustatownship.org.

In the last 180 days the Website has had over 5,700 views with 75% being new visitors and 25% returning.

Elections 2020

With the help of our amazing Election Inspectors, we held a safe, successful March 10, 2020 election. We were proactive and implemented hand sanitizing and regular effective poll booth cleaning. Looking back, we are so grateful that no workers or voters contracted the Corona Virus.

Comparing our August 6, 2019 to our March 10, 2020 Election we show the following exciting results:

| | August 6, 2019 | March 10, 2020 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Voters | 694 | 1956 |
| Total Absent Voters | 488 | 982 |
| In Person | 206 | 974 |

In January 2020, we invited Augusta Township registered voters not already on our Absent Voter list to join our Permanent Absent Voter List. As a result, the number of voters on our Permanent Absent Voter List has grown from 813 to 1790. Our goal was to increase voting participation when we sent out the mailing. Now we are so happy that residents who replied, have the option of voting safely from home for future elections.

Upcoming Election Dates

August 4, 2020 Primary Election
November 3, 2020 U.S. Presidential Election

Clerk (con't)

REMINDER: for the August 4, 2020 Primary Election

Voters on Augusta Township Clerk's Permanent Absent Voter List were sent an Absent Voter Ballot Application by mail the week of June 1, 2020. **Voters on the Permanent Absent Voter List are not automatically sent an actual ballot.** The voter can choose if they would like to submit the application to Augusta Township Clerk's office to receive a ballot by mail. If you haven't returned your application, do so now.

There are concerns with the US Postal Service taking longer than usual. There are restrictions with entering Augusta Township Hall. Both are valid concerns. To address them, we have installed a 24 hour drop box for Election materials. It is a slot that drops into a secure tamper proof locked box inside the building. We encourage the use of this drop box.

Respectfully,
Belynda Domas, Clerk
Kim Gonczy, Deputy Clerk
Michael Bartley, Election Manager

From the Treasurer's Office

I am very pleased to report that the Treasurer's office continues to operate smoothly. The cashiers, deputy treasurer and I continue to work within established guidelines to keep the township money accounted for. Our goal is to continue to have perfect audits.

The number of utility customers taking advantage of the automatic utility payment program managed by my

Treasurer (con't)

deputy continues to increase and numbered 246 residents this past billing cycle. This saves a substantial amount of processing time, which saves money for the township. Sign up forms are online but please contact Joanne at deputytreasurer@augustatownship.org if you have any questions.

Procedures have been established at the Hall to deal with COVID and effective June 22 appointments are required for entrance. It would be helpful if you pay with check or money order and utilize the Treasurer drop box mounted to the column on the porch. We are trying to limit exposure and request if payment must be made in cash you call ahead to let our cashier know you are coming and provide the exact amount due.

The Treasurer's office is taking on a more active role in the utility billing department. Bringing the utility billing in house has improved our utility billing accuracy and saves the township the expense of using an outside contractor.

A question I receive from residents is where the taxes collected by township are spent. My office put together the following illustration to show the breakdown. It should be noted that only 6.7% of your taxes stay in the township and only 1.4% goes toward general fund expenditure. Most of our dollars (93.3%) go to the county and the schools.

With best regards,

Susan Burek, Treasurer
Joanne Wade, Deputy Treasurer

WHERE OUR 2019 PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS WENT

