



Charter Township of  
*Augusta*  
Michigan  
8021 Talladay Road P.O. Box 100  
Whittaker, MI 48190-0100

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

## Newsletter - Winter 2019

### From the Supervisor:

I am happy to report the following:

- A project I brought to the board at the beginning of my term is moving forward. At the November 12th board meeting we unanimously voted to install LED street lights on Willis Road from Bunton to Rawsonville. This will bring better lighting and enhance safety for drivers and pedestrians.
- The car show was a huge success with 150 cars and 700 people. Dan Woolf and all the volunteers did a great job.
- New video cameras have been installed in the township parking lot, on the patio, inside the township hall and inside the modular. These cameras provide much better security and safety.
- We will be breaking ground for the new fire station soon.
- If you have any documentation for ownership of a plot in Stoney Creek Cemetery or Childs Cemetery, please bring it in to the Township so we can complete and verify these records.
- We still have some abandoned homes that need to be rehabbed or taken down. Two more should be demolished by the end of the year.
- Lynn's Confections is the new center point of Willis. When she opened her store, Lynn and I discussed how to draw more attention to the area by having different events for holidays. There will be a Christmas event with Santa again this year. All the area businesses have been participants in the events. It has been a real boost in unifying the community.
- We will know in November if we get a grant for the Park. Soon after the grant is received the project will move forward.
- I would like to thank the Township Staff and Fire Department for how well they serve the community.

*Brian Shelby*, Supervisor

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### Clerk's Corner:

There are so many things the Clerk's office has been involved with this year it was hard to pick which things to write about. We narrowed our corner down to the US Census 2020, the new township website and 2020 Election dates.

#### US Census 2020

The 2020 Census count will begin shortly. Every household in Augusta Township and the entire United States will be asked to answer a short series of questions that will influence policymaking and planning for the next decade! Census information helps shape the future of Augusta Township because Census totals help determine the amount of funding that state governments and local communities receive from the federal government for the next ten years. Augusta Township relies on this income.

As your Clerk and Deputy Clerk we feel it's critical that Augusta Township has the best possible Census count. Therefore, we began Census work in July 2018 participating in the 2020 Local Update of Addresses Operation known as LUCA. This work involved updating the old Census data with all the new homes built in Augusta over the last ten years. We received numerous "Thank You for your Participation" emails from Washtenaw County and the US Census Bureau.

In August of 2019, we continued Census work by participating in the 2020 Census New Construction Program. This captured all the houses that were built after submitting the LUCA data.

We hope all Augusta residents participate in the 2020 Census. If you want further information regarding the upcoming 2020 Census visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

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## From the Treasurer:

Hello residents!

When I ran for office, I knew it was paramount to get the financial books in order and to restore trust in the office. We immediately got to work to understand the duties and functions of what would best serve the treasurer's office. One of the first changes was to hire staff that could focus on money collection and also serve the residents with other business they came to the hall for. I am very pleased with the integrity and hard work the staff provides my office every single day. I was also able to hire a competent accountant to assist my office in the financial management and responsibilities of the treasurer's office. Joanne keeps my office running smoothly and puts in a lot of hard work and brings innovative ideas. Once the day to day functions were in place, we tackled some projects to better serve the township and to save lots of money. The first was to bring the tax collection back in house. We were paying the banks a lot of money to process the tax payments. We saved the township \$30K annually in bank processing fees alone.

In the last year, the board started focusing on the issues we were having in our utility department. My deputy and I saw an opportunity to streamline the utility collection by not only implementing an automatic payment process through ACH transfer, but to also bring the utility payments in house, just like we did the tax payments. Now that we are no longer sub-contracting a billing vendor, we are now saving thousands of dollars more. We also developed a new payment plan process to help utility customers who needed assistance in payments.

The last piece was to bring in the utility billing process in house as well. That is what my office is currently assisting with. One of the big improvements in doing this, is to finally be able to utilize our BS&A software to great advantage and therefore have a much more robust reporting and tracking of the payments. This helps the utility operator to manage the work they need to do to serve utility customers with their water and sewer needs, reduce error, and to make sure we bill customers properly.

As the clerk's and supervisor's office who also implemented many positive changes, all these efforts add up to us securing two perfect audits in the last two years, and also just recently helped us secure a AA rating, the highest the township has ever received. This helped us secure bonds to not only build our fire station, but to also have money to start making some long-needed improvements in our water system. I am very proud to be serving with a board and staff who has done so many good things for our township.

Regards,  
**Susan Burek**, Treasurer  
**Joanne Wade**, Deputy Treasurer

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## Clerk's Corner (continued)

### **Augusta Township Website – [augustatownship.org](http://augustatownship.org)**

It's imperative for every government to have a functional website. Local governments must be able to easily and immediately share information with citizens. As your Clerk, I served on the Augusta Township Website Committee with Heather Rowland, Chris Ortiz, Tressa Gipfert and Kevin Howard.

The Website Committee goals for creating a new website included: ease of use, basic content, design, compliance, and online services. After obtaining several bids, meeting with website designers, the committee received Board of Trustee approval to use Shumaker Technology Group for designing our new website.

In the last ninety days the Website has had over 9,225 views!

A big thank you to all the members of the Website Committee for helping. Augusta Township needed a new website and could not have accomplished the task without each one of you helping.

Visit the new website today using your phone, tablet or any other media and you will find it is fully functioning!

### **Elections 2020**

2020 is an exciting year of Elections. Here are the dates, mark your calendars!

- March 10, 2020 Primary Election
- August 4, 2020 Primary Election
- November 3, 2020 U.S. Presidential Election

If you have any election questions please contact our Election Manager, Michael Bartley.

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