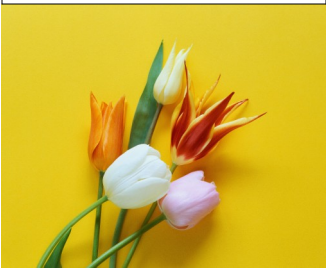




# Park Township News

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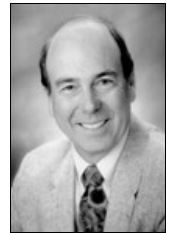


## Friendly Reminders:

- Veteran grave markers are available at the Park Township Office for Lakewood, Lakeshore, and Ventura cemeteries
- School Elections will be held on May 3
- Summer Taxes will be mailed July 1st and due September 14
- Donate old cell phones to be recycled for emergency responses for seniors and abuse victims

## Meet Our New Supervisor

Shortly after Amanda Price assumed her position as our State Representative, the Park Township Board appointed George Jacob to fill her unexpired term as Township Supervisor. He was sworn in on January 31, 2011, and will serve the remainder of Amanda's term which expires November 20, 2012.



George and his wife Barbara have lived in the greater Holland area for most of their married lives. They have been residents of Park Township for 14 years. George and Barb met while attending Hope College where they majored in Education. The Jacobs have two grown children and four grandchildren. Their son Shawn teaches English at Zeeland East High School, and their daughter Heather taught English at Holland East Middle School.

George and Barb started their teaching careers in Hudsonville. Then they taught together in Holland before starting their family. George taught in Saugatuck for two years before embarking on his thirty-plus-years school management career. After completing his Master's Degree in Special Education at Western Michigan University, George served as a special education director in Illinois. While living and working in Skokie, he completed his Ph.D. in School Administration at Northwestern University.

When the family returned to Michigan, George served as Director of Mental Health in Allegan County, Special Education Director in Kent County, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel at Lowell Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at Kentwood Public Schools, Superintendent of Memphis Public Schools, and retired as Superintendent of Ravenna Public Schools in 1997. George retired from school work on a Friday, and started a second seven-year career the following Monday morning as Vice President of Marketing for The Design Forum, a Grand Rapids based architectural and engineering firm that specialized in school construction.

The Jacob family has also been actively involved as independent business owners. They owned and operated Jacob's Ladder, a downtown Holland Christian music and video store, Razzle Dazzle, a Grandville women's clothing store, Career Consultants, a Grand Rapids based executive search company, and Professional Seminar Services, a motivational speaking firm.

George has expressed enthusiasm for his new role as Park Township Supervisor. "It is exciting to work with a wonderful team of hard working, professional employees at the township offices, and to join a dedicated board of public servants working hard to maintain Park Township as the most desirable place in which to live in Western Michigan."

## Stay Informed

**Join our e-mail list!** All you have to do is go to our web site at [www.parktownship.org](http://www.parktownship.org) and sign up to "Join Our Newsletter" at the top right-hand corner of the page. You will only have to enter your e-mail address, and that's it! Your address is safe, and you can opt out at any time. You will automatically receive monthly e-mails from the Park Township Office keeping you informed on the latest happenings.

Please help us spread the word.

## Budget 2011-2012

The Township Board recently approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, which begins on April 1. We are pleased to report that every fund is balanced.

The Township budget is actually a combination of several different funds with the largest being the General Fund. Our overall tax rate will be reduced from last year due to a reduction in the bike path system millage from .531 to .40. A summary of the funds follows:

### General Fund Summary:

**Revenues:** Our general fund revenues will be reduced due to declining taxable values and reflect a reduction of approximately 1.5% in our taxable value.

The other major source of General Fund funding is State Shared Revenues. This has been a vital source of revenue and we are cautiously optimistic that we will maintain close to our current level of funding.

**Expenditures:** We expect to maintain current service levels in most of our operating departments while keeping an close eye on our costs.

The General Fund includes most of the administrative activities, building inspections, financial and assessing functions and the Fire Department. We have created a Building Department that manages all the building inspection functions and provides for all facilities maintenance, including the bike paths and parks. We have also contracted with a professional planner to assist the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals and have hired a part time Code Compliance Officer.

We have budgeted for our annual cleanup days and fall leaf pickup. We also have reduced our anticipated Other Post Employee Benefit costs as a result of changes to our personnel policies. The budget also includes funds for some township wide drainage maintenance and for selected street repaving. Detailed lists for this work will be provided at a later time.

**Police/E-Unit Fund:** This fund provides financing for our contract with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department for additional public safety services. It derives nearly all

its revenues from the .67 millage rate which was reauthorized this past November.

**Park and Recreation Fund:** The revenues for this fund comes from the .5 mill rate and fees for recreation programs, building rentals and Tot Time preschool. On the expenditure side, Tot Time is anticipated to continue its current program schedule. The Recreation programs will also continue with slight modifications to the programs offered along with associated fee schedules. We have included funds for all the required coaches and officials plus we have added \$10,000 for the summer concert series and fund/contributions to Tulip Time and the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks.

On the Parks side, we have included funds for some architectural assistance (\$10,000) to look at possible upgrades to the Maatman Center and for some ADA compliance advice at the Community Center. We have included funds for paving the south side launch ramp (\$50,000) and for yet-to-be determined road end improvements (\$25,000). We also have included funds for the balance of tree replacement at Koppel Forest.

**Bike Path Fund:** This fund will see some dramatic shifts in both revenues and expenditures. On the revenue side, we have reduced the millage rate from .531 to .4, resulting in a reduction of anticipated revenues from \$447,000 to \$352,000. We currently maintain more than 51 miles of bikeway with no new construction planned at this time.

On the expense side, we have one full time employee assigned to the bike path system who will be charge of maintaining the system in "first class" condition. We will need some supplemental assistance to bring the system up to acceptable standards. The construction account includes \$500,000 for repaving and \$100,000 for system signage and other non-surface improvements.

**Sewer Fund:** This fund continues to be a non-operational fund in that it only receives revenue via special assessments and funds no operations. While we are not currently in the sewer "business" in that we do not sell or bill for sewer service, we

are responsible for some capital expenses for the system.

**Capital Projects Fund (formerly known as the Township Improvement Fund):** We are making use of this fund as an inter-fund financing mechanism. During the past year we made use of the reserves of this fund to avoid bonding fees in financing the Special Assessment District 77 (Mac Hills water) project. Principal and interest payments for that system will be repaid into the Township Improvement Fund. Likewise, we plan to do the same for SAD 78, the West Michigan Park Association dry fire line project.

This fund also includes \$250,000 transfer from the General Fund to establish a designated reserve for future fire equipment. We intend to continue to make use of this fund for financing future capital projects, including its use as both a revolving loan fund and a repository for reserved funds.

**Water Fund:** This fund accounts for the revenue and expenditures related to the sale of public water. We mainly purchase water from the City of Holland and resell it to our residents and businesses. This fund continues to be of concern because, in spite of our recent rate increases, we continue to show net expenditures exceeding net revenues.

Of major concern is the method and timing of water rate increases that we receive from our major supplier, the City of Holland Board of Public Works. This past year we received notice of a nearly 10% increase in our wholesale rate.

**Summary:** Again, we are pleased and relieved to be in the relatively healthy financial position we find ourselves. We will continue to be vigilant, however, in monitoring our activities throughout the coming year to assure we remain financially sound. Our staff is well prepared to provide a high level of service within the current financial climate and they deserve much credit for their contributions to date. We will also continue to keep a close eye on Lansing in order to be fully prepared should any legislative action negatively impact us. You can view more details at [www.parktownship.org](http://www.parktownship.org).

Jerry Felix  
Park Township Manager

## Bike Path Reconstruction and Maintenance

A considerable amount of maintenance is planned for the bike paths this year, including repairs, vegetation trimming and some repaving. Some sections have already been identified as needing repair or repaving, while other sections will be evaluated this spring after a detailed inventory of the conditions of the bike paths has been taken.

If you have concerns about the condition of the path in a certain location please feel free to call (or email) Eric Davis at 738-4244 ([edavis@parktownship.org](mailto:edavis@parktownship.org)).

Vegetation will be trimmed along much of the bike path system this year also. It has been determined that the paths should be free of vegetation at least one foot beyond

the asphalt paving on each side and ten feet high. Park Township employees will be working on trimming along the paths throughout the spring, summer and fall. Residents are encouraged to trim vegetation on their property that may be encroaching on the bike path.



## New "Drop Box"

Park Township has a new drive-up drop box located across from the main entrance to the Park Township Office building. This new box offers convenience and security for making after hours water payments, tax payments, recreation sign-ups, etc. The box is checked for deposits every morning and afternoon.



The old drop box located inside the main entrance foyer is now closed, and the exterior doors are locked after hours.

We have also replaced our mailbox with a new security mailbox. It is only accessible by key.

## From the Fire Chief's Desk

In 2010 our calls for service topped out at 255, an average number over the last few years. We also received 5 grants totaling \$145,000, allowing us to replace equipment including 36 new airpacks, 2 portable radios, and 4 mobile radios.

Later in 2011 the fire department will be audited by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The ISO directly affects your house insurance premiums, depending upon the ratings they award. During this grueling evaluation ISO will review our emergency communication and dispatch facilities, the water system, the fire department as a whole, our apparatus, equipment, types of calls, number of personnel responding per call, training, recordkeeping, etc. Current ratings, awarded by the ISO in 1997 are:

- James Street to the south and along Lakeshore Drive - Class 6
- James Street to the north - Class 9. (Lack of a water system or hydrants in this area was the biggest reason for the higher rating.)

Hopefully our careful planning, purchasing and management will decrease the Class 9 ISO rating and decrease house insurance

premiums for our residents as well. If you have questions about this process please call Station #2 at (616)399-7388.

Safety in Your Home: "Is Your Number Up?"

Fire, police or ambulance services do their best to respond quickly to your residence when you call for help by dialing 911. Often the number to a resident's home is not posted, is not visible due to deterioration, is not easily visible at night, or the signage is a similar color to house's exterior and difficult to read. This can mean the difference between life and death to the person needing help.

An example: you call 911 for emergency responders to come to your house for a medical emergency. The ambulance, fire and/or police department arrives within minutes and is driving up and down your street looking for the house number they were dispatched to, which is not clearly posted. It takes critical time to determine your house number by checking the surrounding house numbers. This is not uncommon; it happens on a routine basis. As responders we do not have a moment to

spare; every second counts when someone needs life-saving treatment.

Please do not let yourself or any member of your household suffer injury, or worse, because of something as simple as your house number not being posted clearly. If you live in a multi-family dwelling, be sure your *unit number* is also clearly displayed. Four inch (4") numbers should be posted by the front door, on the garage, on the mail box, on a post in the front yard, visible from the road and well lit at night. Thank you for your vigilance.

Have a great summer and let's not meet by accident.

Chief Scott Gamby



## Recreation News



**Farmers Market**

**FARMERS**

### MARKET VENDORS NEEDED

The Park Township Farmers Market is an open-air, outdoor market bringing shoppers, local growers & producers together. Stock up for the weekend!

**WHEN:** FRIDAYS from 8am–3pm May 27 – Sept 16

**VENDOR FEE:** only \$12/Friday

**WHERE:** Park Township

Market Place entrance, 1286 Ottawa Beach Rd adjacent to the Ottawa County Fairgrounds

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A**

**VENDOR:** call 738-4233 or

[www.parktownship.org](http://www.parktownship.org)



### MARSHMALLOW DROP

**- FREE**

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a marshmallow! Children will enjoy gathering thousands of scattered marshmallows dropped from a helicopter! Turn in the marshmallows to receive a bag of Easter candy surprises. This is not a competition. No registration necessary. Easter bunny and helpers will also visit!

**WHEN:** Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm (day before Easter)

**WHERE:** Park Township Airport 1269 Ottawa Beach Road



### KIDS FISHING DERBY

State of Michigan Free Fishing Weekend-so no fishing license required! Pond will be stocked with Rainbow Trout, plus the Holland Steelheaders group will clean your fish as time permits. Take home or "catch & release".

**WHO:** Only kids ages 2-15 may participate, adults may "help"

**WHEN:** Sat. June 11 from 9-11am

Fun prizes/trophies awarded at 11:15am. Must be present to win. \*Bring your own fishing pole and bait

**WHERE:** Riley Trails pond

On Riley Street, E. of Lakeshore

Barb Burmeister, Recreation Director

## Avalanches-Spring's Precursors (Tot Time)

Tot Time, beginning its thirty-seventh year in the fall of 2011, continues to be overwhelmed by positive avalanches.

### AVALANCHE 1. Tot Time Registration



Snowstorms always seem to bring an avalanche of calls registering prospective Tot Timers. We're rapidly filling our twenty slots for children age three

by July 15, 2011, and our forty-eight slots for children age four by December 1, 2011. Call 269.857.2353 today to register your child.

### AVALANCHE 2. Ready for School

Ready for School, an organization inaugurated in October 2008, is spear-heading a community-wide initiative to insure children's readiness for kindergarten. Three current Tot Timers have received much appreciated Ready for School tuition assistance grants. In addition Ready for School offers scholarships for pre-school teachers' in-service training.

### AVALANCHE 3. Community Generosity—Cases-In-Point

Park Township residents never cease to amaze me! The first week of Tot Time, a parent in a quiet aside to the teacher said, "Please give me a list of things you'd like for the classroom and I'll provide them." Slightly abashed but over-excited, the teacher gave her a lengthy list. Our inventory now includes everything that was on that list!

Helping to refine Tot Timers' motor skills, Amanda and Lincoln Bauer donated prism bricks, a sand toy set, a touch and match board, and mega nuts and bolts—214 pieces in all. (Aren't **you** glad **you** don't have to pick up at Tot Time?) Also Brad and Kimberly VandenHeuvel donated cardboard and plastic block sets and puzzles.

Encouraging our Tot Timers in the development of their emergent reading skills, Boyd and Sara Wilson donated



two book shelves, which add luster to our book displays.

Assisting in introducing the fine arts to Tot Timers, Tammy Clark brought the Black River High School orchestras for on-site performances, and Sue Hill shared her talents with us at the Park Township Art Center.

Should you want to share talents with, comment on, register for, or donate to Tot Time, please contact me, Mary Alice Ritsema, at 269.857.2353 or [mrisema@parktownship.org](mailto:mrisema@parktownship.org)



## New Code Compliance Officer

We are pleased to introduce Ed deVries as our new Code Compliance Officer. Ed recently retired after more than 30 years with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department with the last nine as the Community Policing Sergeant for Park Township.

He is very familiar with Park Township, having been born and raised in the area. Ed graduated from Holland Christian High School, and has raised his family here. He also served on the Planning Commission and has assisted the Township on many other traffic and safety issues.

Ed's duties are to secure compliance with a variety of our Township Ordinances including trash, junk, abandoned autos and the like. He will do some patrol work and respond to any complaints that we receive. He will make site visits, document the conditions and, if necessary, direct the property owner to clean up/fix up in order to come into compliance with our current ordinances. Ed is also empowered to issue civil infractions citations should it be necessary. Our goal, of course, is secure compliance and the issuance of citations is something we would rather not do. We believe that Ed's background and training will serve us very well as we step up our Code Compliance efforts.



Again, we are most pleased to welcome Ed in his new position with Park Township.

## Ottawa County Fairground's Schedule of Events

The 2011 Ottawa County Fairground's schedule includes the following public events:

- April 16, Winter storage items removal date.
- April 23, 4H Live Stock weigh in
- May 1, Blessing of the Bikes motorcycle rally
- May 2-14, Tulip Time Camping available to public
- May 27, Farmers Market begins
- June 11, Children of Fallen Riders motorcycle rally
- June 17, Holland Garden Club plant sale
- July 25-30, Ottawa County Fair
- September 17, First winter storage date
- October 5, second winter storage date
- October 29, Last winter storage date

For more information visit the Ottawa County Fairground web site at [www.ottawacountyfair.com](http://www.ottawacountyfair.com)



## Airport Events

Park Township Airport would like to invite the public to come to the events that are scheduled at the airport this summer.

The first event is for the kids, it's a **marshmallow drop**. We will be dropping marshmallows from a helicopter. After the marshmallows have landed the kids can retrieve them and turn them in for a treat. The fun will start at 1:00 pm. on April 23.



The next event is on June 24, 25, 26 it will be a **Sonerai aircraft fly-in**. You will be able

to see these aircraft up close and meet the pilots that build and fly them.

The bright and colorful powered **paragliders** will be flying on July 15,16,17. The best time to see them is in the early mornings and in the evenings when the winds are calm.

On Aug 20 we will be having the annual **Air-Affair**. Breakfast will start being served at 8:00 am for a small



fee. We will start flying Young Eagle flights at 9:00 am weather permitting. The Young Eagle flights are given to kids and young adults from the ages of 8 through 17. They will get a chance to fly in an aircraft and see Lake Michigan from the air and fly over scenic Holland, MI. There will be aircraft on display along with Park Township's fire truck. It's a great time to talk with the pilots and ask questions about their aircraft and flying.

We hope to see you there and have a great summer.



# PARK TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

PRSRT STD MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Holland, MI  
Permit #19

## *Summer Recreation Brochure Enclosed!*

Phone: 616-399-4520  
Fax: 616-399-8540  
E-mail: [info@parktownship.org](mailto:info@parktownship.org)

Office hours: 8 am to 5 pm  
Monday thru Friday

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Visit our website at:  
[www.parktownship.org](http://www.parktownship.org)

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## Spring Leaf Drop Off

Disposal of leaves brought to a collection site will again be provided in cooperation with Holland Township.

Those wishing to use this service may bring leaves to any of the sites listed from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** on **Saturday, April 2.**

**Fairgrounds**  
Ottawa Beach Road

**Dunton Park**  
Howard Avenue

**Maatman Center**  
Harrington Avenue



**LEAF Drop Off Only.** No branches or brush will be accepted. If leaves are brought to the drop off site in plastic bags, you will be asked to empty the leaves out of the bags into the disposal bins. No plastic bags are accepted. However, paper bags may be used.

## Park Township Clean-Up Days

In cooperation with Holland Township, The 2011 Clean-Up Days will be held at Black River Recycling, Lakewood Boulevard between 120th and 112th Avenues (first driveway east of Kendall Electric at 11560 Lakewood Boulevard) during the following dates & times.

April 16	7 a.m.-2 p.m.
May 21	7 a.m.-noon
June 18	7 a.m.-noon
July 16	7 a.m.-noon
Aug. 20	7 a.m.-noon
Sept. 17	7 a.m.-noon
Oct. 15	7 a.m.-noon

No paints, drain oils, solvents, or other petroleum products, fuel tanks, sealed containers, or normal household garbage. Batteries and lawn waste will be accepted (no tree stumps). There is a limit of 2 appliances and 4 automobile tires per household. Loose roofing materials will not be accepted. All roofing materials must be boxed or bagged.

Please Note:  
Proof of residency is required.

