



Park Township news

2010 Spring
Edition

2010 Park Township Annual Report

Here are highlights from the Annual Report by Supervisor Amanda Price. See the full text at www.parktownship.org:

On behalf of Board of Trustees, here is the 2010 Park Township Annual Report.

Township Governance

- Spring, 2008: Board voted to move from full-time paid Supervisor to a part-time Supervisor with a full-time professional township manager.
- November 2008: **three new Board members:** Skip Keeter, Clerk, and Trustees Jerry Hunsburger and Michael Toscano. Jeff Ebihara was elected as Trustee, Amanda Price elected Supervisor. Treasurer Jan Steggerda and Trustee Doug Dreyer were reelected.
- May, 2009: Trustee Ebihara resigns for out of state employment. After open interviews, Bob Ellis appointed as Trustee.
- May 2009: Board hires Jerry Felix as Township Manager.

Strategic Planning

December, 2008: The new Board met to discuss and develop a strategic plan. We identified areas/issues that needed our concentrated efforts. This process has continued through 2009.

Master Plan Process

- We have initiated a new Integrated Master Plan (IMP) process to update our master land use plan, park plan and create a capital improvement plan. It will focus on distinct areas of the township (i.e., Macatawa, Southside, Ottawa Beach, Waukazoo, Park Central area).

Our innovative approach has Engineering and Design firms working together to deliver a plan that is specific to neighborhoods, integrates our Parks Plan, discusses green infrastructure and green-

ways, and brands Park Township as a destination.

Planning Commission

Spring 2009: the terms of 2 Commission members expired at the same time. The Board reduced the Commission from 9 to 7 members. From May, 2007 to May, 2009, we had a 38% reduction in building/zoning permit applications which resulted in sporadic commission meetings.

Groundwater Issues

- June, 2008, several inches of rain saturated the water table in many areas. In December, we had several inches of snow, followed by a thaw causing more flooding.
- A citizen's committee investigated the causes of high groundwater and recommended alternatives, including hiring professional engineers. (See website for full list of recommendations.)
- The Board funded a temporary pumping system to remove water off the road in the Quincy/Estate Drive area.
- June 2009: another large storm caused flooding for many more residents. Additional areas hit hard included Greenly, Riley, 168th near Lakewood and Perry, Ottawa Beach Road, Post and Waukazoo and South Shore Drive.

From updated data, new drainage routes were outlined with a final recommendation for a new drainage district to be constructed from Quincy to Lake Macatawa near or along 168th.

Other Lessons Learned

- During the June 2009 storm, the electric lines serving south Park Township were cut off when floods washed out 32nd Street near Old Orchard. Our south side Fire Station lost power and was without a backup generation. New backup power generators at both the north and south fire stations were installed in late 2009.

The June 2009 flooding also caused some environmental contaminants to be released above ground. At the time, we lacked a policy to require clean up of the contamination. A new ordinance has since been enacted to address cost recovery for environmental or hazardous contaminants.

Communications

- Our website was redesigned to be more user-friendly. It was used extensively in 2009 to report on high water issues and the status of committee meetings, engineering and drain commissioner findings.
- Newsletters continue to be sent to residents.
- We have instituted a series of meetings with interest groups. Starting with resident meetings in the Estate Drive, we have met with our business owners, our blueberry farmers, Superintendents Brian Davis of Holland Public Schools and Pat Koeze of West Ottawa. Board representatives intend to meet regularly with other Township groups.

Outlook for 2010

In 2010, the Board anticipates the following:

- Our total taxable value will decrease by 1.5%, affecting our overall budget.
- Both the Bike Paths and Police/E-Unit Millage fund will be up for a renewal vote later this year.
- The County Drain Commissioner's office will oversee the Park West Drain construction project.
- The Integrated Master Plan process will begin with input from Park Township residents,

We expect the overall number of building projects to remain low.

The Board of Trustees considers it a pleasure to serve you as your elected representatives. If you have comments or questions for any of us, please call us at 616.399.4520.

Park Township Budget

The Park Township Board of Trustees recently approved the Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 budget. The fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31...

This budget marks a significant format change from prior years in that we have established several new funds, or accounts, to better identify the revenues and expenses for those activities financed by our separate millages. These include the Police- E-unit Fund, the Parks and Recreation Fund and the Bike Path Fund. In prior years these activities were all included within the Township's General Fund. We believe this change will allow us to better able track revenues and expenses for these activities.

The new budget can be characterized as a "hold the line" budget in that revenues available will be reduced from prior years. The funds generated from the millages levied will be lower due to the reduced overall taxable value of the Township. For this year we anticipate a reduction of between 1.5 and 2 percent in taxable value, which generates less revenue. Coupled with major reductions in revenues we receive from the State of Michigan, and a reduction of fees generated by building activities, the overall all level of expenditures will also be reduced.

For specifics, the General Fund, which provides for the funding for the overall administration of the Township, will be reduced by nearly \$200,000, exclusive of interfund transfers. We have trimmed expenses in many areas to balance the General fund but will continue to provide

excellent services, however. Revenues and Expenditures will total just over \$2.47 million.

The Police- E-unit Fund will provide for our current contractual arrangement with the Ottawa County Sheriff's office and the related E-unit response program. This operation is funded with a special millage of .67 mills, and will require a renewal vote during this calendar year. We anticipate spending nearly \$610,000 during the budget year.

The Parks and Recreation fund is also financed in part with a .5 dedicated millage rate and also includes our wide variety of recreation programs. Revenues and Expenditures in this fund will be just over \$560,000.

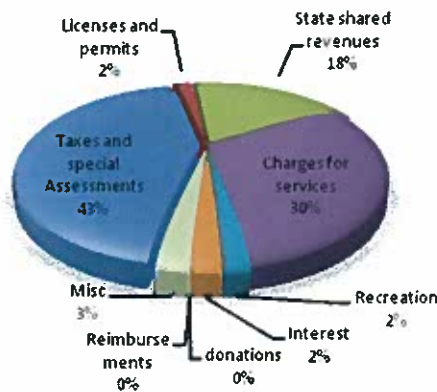
The Bike Path Fund is also funded with a special dedicated millage, this one being a .5351 mill levy. This fund is responsible for maintaining our 55 miles of bike lanes, including the sweeping in summer

and plowing in winter. We anticipate spending around \$490,000, with nearly half of that being spent on repaving those areas in greatest need. This millage will also be expiring and will be up for renewal during this year.

Our budget is rounded out with the Township Improvement Fund, the Sewer Debt Fund and the Water Operating Fund. Both the Water and Sewer Funds are funded by special assessments or charges for water usage. We are using the Township Improvement Fund as a financing resource, an internal revolving fund, for several capital improvement items.

Overall, Park Township continues to be in a fairly healthy financial position. The Board of Trustees will continue to be diligent stewards of Township resources in order to reduce our costs while still providing high quality services. For additional information you may review the entire budget on our website, Parktownship.org or you may contact Jerry Felix, Township Manager at 399-4520.

Park Township 2010 - 2011 Revenues



Park Township 2010 - 2011 Expenditures



Markers for Veteran's Graves

Park Township is furnishing flag holders and flags to mark the graves of veterans buried in Lakewood, Lakeshore and Ventura Cemeteries. You may pick up the markers at the Park Township Office

beginning May 1st. However many of the grave sites have already been marked by our cemetery sextons Lee Harris and Kristi Rosendahl.

NEW: Lakewood and Lakeshore cemeteries now have a gravesite map and grave locations posted on site.



Census 2010

According to a study by the Brookings Institution, total census-based spending in Michigan was \$10.7 billion in fiscal year 2007—around \$1,071 per Michigan resident. Over ten years, that adds up to \$10,710 per person!

In 2007, there were an estimated 119,048 persons living in the Holland / Zeeland area. This means in 2007 alone around \$127.5 million in federal funds were spent in the area based on the 2000 census results.

April 1st 2010: National Census Day. Use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail.

April - July 2010: Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail.

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 April 3.**

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.

Clean-Up Days



In cooperation with Holland Township, The 2010 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 17	7 a.m.-2 p.m.
May 15	7 a.m.-noon
June 19	7 a.m.-noon
July 17	7 a.m.-noon
Aug. 21	7 a.m.-noon
Sept. 18	7 a.m.-noon
Oct. 16	7 a.m.-noon

Please Note: Proof of residency is required.

No paints, drain oils, solvents, or other petroleum products, fuel tanks, sealed containers, and 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.

Recreation News

All around the world outdoor ice rinks spring up to mark the onset of winter! This winter Park Township joined in by creating our first ice skating rink compliments of the Park Township Fire Department and Park Township Maintenance. A great time was had by everyone using the rink which was located by the



Park Township Dog Park off Ottawa Beach Road. Stop by next winter where we hope to have skates available for use for those that don't have any!

Look for many new classes this summer including: Pilates On The Beach at the Holland State Park, Composting and rain barrel workshops for adults, soccer camps, kids art at a working art studio, Crazy About Horses Youth Art Class focused



around horses with the visit of a real one and much more.
Barb Burmeister
Recreation Director

From the Fire Chief's Desk

Since the Park Township Fire Department was organized in 1947 our call volume has been slowly rising with the increase in population. But 2009 was a record year for call volume. We ended the year with 310 calls, an increase of 53 calls over the next highest amount of 257. June was our busiest month with the severe storms our area experienced. June 19 and 20 we ran 38 calls due to storms and ended the month with a record breaking 58 calls. Although there was no fire damage, our township sustained heavy property damage.



We are happy to announce that last month we were awarded a FEMA grant of \$119,700 for 24 SCBA (airpacks). Our existing airpacks are failing at an

increasing rate due to the age of the equipment. Personnel will attend FDIC in Indianapolis in April, which is the largest training conference and trade show for the fire service industry. They will evaluate manufacturers of SCBA equipment and select several we will examine more closely. We hope to have this new equipment in service by fall 2010.

Safety in Your Home – Household Hazardous Materials

A typical home contains dozens of products that can harm human health or the environment. These products are used in cleaning, home improvements, automobile maintenance, lawn and garden care, hobbies, and many other tasks. Each year, thousands of people are injured by exposure or accidents involving household materials.

- Store only a small amount of gasoline in an approved container outside of the home and NEVER use gasoline inside the home.

- Keep gasoline out of children's' sight and reach. Children should never handle gasoline.

Read all of the labels of the products in your home. If the label has the words

"Warning", "Caution", "Poison" or "Danger", keep out of reach of children, and lock them up.

- Have child safety caps on all chemicals, medications and cleaning products. Keep all products in original containers with the original labels on them. Dispose of any outdated products properly.

- Never combine or mix the products that are outdated or going to be disposed of.

Household chemicals and waste enters our land, water and air during use or improper disposal. Please go to the Park Township website at www.parktownship.org for information on disposal sites (Drop-Down Menu: Documents & Forms, Services, Recycle Information, Household Hazardous Waste).

Call the Poison Control Help number 1-800-222-1222 if you have questions about poisons.

In conclusion, we would like to recognize retired Firefighters Ed deVries for 30 years of service, and Al Harrington for 50 years of service! You will be missed! Congratulations and best wishes in your years of retirement.

Have a safe summer and let's not meet by accident!



Chief Scott Gamby

Recycle!

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL:

The Ottawa County Resource Recovery Service Center, is a place where Ottawa County residents can bring used oil and other household hazardous waste to dispose of safely and at no cost.

Holland Facility New Days

14053 Quincy

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and

the 2nd Saturday of each month

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Hazardous waste includes: used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, old gasoline, computers, car batteries, aerosols, oil based paint, pesticides, garden chemicals, household cleaners, mercury, drain cleaners, solvents, paint thinner & stripper, and pool & spa chemicals. NO latex paint, tires, or appliances.

DONATE USED CELL PHONES:

The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office and the 911 Cell Phone Bank provide emergency communications to seniors and victims of abuse in our community.

A RECYCLE IT box for cell phones is located at the Park Township Office. All brands and all models are accepted.

If you are an Ottawa County senior or a person-in-need, the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office can assist you in obtaining a cell phone capable of making emergency 911 calls from your home, car, or anywhere you have an adequate cell phone signal. Please contact the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department at 616-738-4000.



Tot Time Preschool

Thirty-six years and counting...



What a thirty-fifth year Tot Time has had with our sixty-four Tot Timers and their parents! Much activity has taken place on-site as well as off-site. Each child has had lots of experiences with group dynamics: leaning on each other, listening, learning, and laughing together; gaining leadership confidence by being in the spot light, center-stage, sitting on Santa's (Wes Glass with Nell Glass looking on!) lap, and starring in Show-and-Tell time

as Special Helper; while underscoring individuality with imaginative independent play.



Community-wide off-site learning and growing experiences have included the Outdoor Discovery Center; Hope College's biological museum complete with dinosaur bones; Champion Gymnastics; Dutch Village; Miss Jodi's Dance; Park Township Fire Station, with its much-loved fire dog Patches; Carolyn Stich's downtown Art Studio; roller-skating; and West Ottawa High School Orchestra, with conductor John Scholten,

musicians, Tot Timers, and instruments all interacting!

The staff Julie Hedges, Beth Monhollon, Beth Snoop, and I are already looking forward to our eleventh, tenth, second, and thirty sixth years respectively. Please call me (MaryAlice) at 269.857.2353 soon to register your child for 2010-2011 classes.



Ottawa County Fairground's Schedule Of Events

The 2010 Ottawa County Fairground's schedule includes the following public events:

- April 17, Winter Storage items removal date
- April 23, 4H Live Stock weigh in
- April 25, Blessing of the Bikes
- April 26 thru May 15, Tulip Time Camping
- June 17, Holland Garden Club Plant Sale

- June 23 thru June 26, Mewmar Kountry Club Motor Home Rally
- July 26 thru July 31, Ottawa County Fair.
- August 7, 4-H Horse Show

- September 9 thru September 12, Bader SK Chapter 49 Motor Home Rally
- September 18, 1st Winter Storage Date
- October 6, 2nd Winter Storage Date
- October 30, 3rd Winter Storage Date



For more information visit the Ottawa County Fairground's web site at: www.ottawacountyfair.com

Park Township Airport Air Affair

The public is invited to watch the colorful Powered Paragliders on Jun. 4-5-6. The best time to watch is in the early mornings and evenings when the winds are calm. There will also be a fall event on Sept. 10-11-12.

The public is also invited to come to the Park Township Airport on Aug. 21 for Air Affair. People can see aircraft up

close and talk to the pilots who build and fly them. Young children will be taught how to build and fly free rubber band powered balsa aircraft in a program we call make-fly-take. Free Young Eagles first flights are offered for 8-17 years olds by experienced area pilots, weather permitting. Breakfast and lunch will be served for a small cost. There will be lots of fun for people of all ages. The fun starts at 8:30 am.

Keep an eye on the airport sign for other airport events coming this summer.



Brian Fredrick,
Park Township Airport Manager

**Park Township
Spring Newsletter
&
Recreation Flyer**

Park Township Office
52 - 152nd Avenue
Holland, MI 49424

Phone: 616-399-4520
Fax: 616-399-8540
E-mail: info@parktownship.org

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Visit our website at:
www.parktownship.org

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Park Township Directory

Township Board

Supervisor— Amanda Price

Clerk— Skip Keeter

Treasurer— Jan Steggerda

Trustees— Doug Dreyer, Bob Ellis,
Jerry Hunsburger, Michael Toscano

Township Manager— Jerry Felix

Planning Commission

Nicki Arendshorst— Chairperson

Bill Cole

Ed deVries

Bob Ellis

LeeAnne Jachim

Joseph Lampen

Steve Schaftenaar

Zoning Board of Appeals

John Foster— Chairperson

Nicki Arendhorst

Joannie Bouman

Doug Dreyer

Lu Reyes

Township Assessor— Al Nykamp

Township Building Inspector—
Eric Davis

Township Fire Chief— Scott Gamby

Recreation Director—
Barb Burmeister

Tot Time Director—
Mary Alice Ritsema

County Commissioners— Joyce Kortman
& Philip Kuyers

U.S. Representative— Peter Hoekstra

State Representative— Arlan Meekof

U.S. Senators— Carl Levin
& Debbie Stabenow

State Senator— Wayne Kuipers

Herrick Library Rep.— James Barry
& Susan Van Allsburg

Hospital Representative—
Greg Maybury

Cemetery Sextons— Lee Harris
& Kristi Rosendahl