

## DANBY TOWNSHIP FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

**Supervisor Richard Pohl 647-6379**  
**Treasurer Elizabeth Kolarik 647-2330**  
**Trustee Gary Reisbig 647-4421**  
**Zoning Administrator 616 897-4242**  
**Township Hall 649-2200**

**Clerk Kristina Platte 647-6029**  
**Trustee Pamela McCormack 566-5013**  
**Assessor Stephen Smith 647-2345**  
**Website: [www.danbytwp.org](http://www.danbytwp.org)**

### FROM THE SUPERVISORS DESK

The township has been very busy the last year and a half. When the Portland Federal Credit Union purchased property in Danby Twp. from the Church of the Nazarene, it allowed the church to build a huge addition, which in turn brought the need for public water for fire sprinklers. The board worked on several agreements to get city water to the church but was unable to satisfy their needs which changed several times. We held a public hearing on a proposed 425 agreement that we, with the help of our attorney, drafted. The public was very opposed to our approving this agreement so we voted it down. The board continued efforts to get city water for the church as well as protect the township as a whole, now and for the future. In December of last year, I heard that the City of Portland was purchasing the 58 acres on the corner of Grand River and Cutler. They did purchase the property in January and moved to annex it into the city. This started a whole new issue like never seen before. Danby Township scheduled a public meeting on a very snowy Saturday and brought in a speaker from another township who had a similar experience. Then the word "detachment" became the new buss word. This meant a vote of the people from both Danby and the city of Portland could decide where the property would stay. Petitions were circulated by a volunteer citizens group and forwarded to the county clerk to have an election on November 6, 2007. After many meetings with our attorney, Mr. Homier, and a joint meeting with the city council members, talks started up to come to a

compromise agreement that both entities could support. In September the township board and the City of Portland both supported the agreement. This combined the 58 acres with the church property on the same agreement allowing utilities to be extended into Danby Township for the first time. The board and the public were in favor of this agreement. Danby Township board also saw changes during this time of turmoil. Mary Price resigned as trustee for health reasons and was replaced by a familiar face, Gary Reisbig, former trustee and supervisor. The board felt that Gary's experience could be helpful in these tough times. Later in the year William Nichols resigned effective 9-30-07. Pam McCormack was appointed to take his place as trustee.

The **Planning Commission** also had a very busy couple of years. The PFCU land purchase required rezoning. They had a proposed new subdivision that later became a mining operation with the expansion of Millers' gravel into the county and township. They also worked very hard updating our zoning ordinance bring things more in line with current needs and now updating our Master Plan as required by law. A meeting was held November 12 to gather public input for the master plan update.

I want to thank all the people who make Danby Township what it is today--all the various board members, the citizens' group who gathered signatures for the detachment vote. Without their sacrifices none of these goals could have been met.

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## ROAD AND BRIDGE NEWS

This year was really tough for the Road Commission to try to keep our roads in decent shape. The lack of timely rains made it nearly impossible for them to grade and brine our roads. We did two years of graveling in 2007 with some 16,000 yards being applied on township roads. We cancelled last year's gravel application because it would arrive so late in the year. In September the county road commission came to an agreement with Michigan Department of Transportation and Danby Township to repave Peake Rd. bridge approaches. In addition, we have been notified that the Keefer Hwy. Bridge over Sebewa Creek will need to be replaced by 2010.

## TOWNSHIP CLERK

Please contact the township clerk, Kristina Platte, at 647-6029 if you have questions regarding voter registration, elections or cemetery lots.

## TAX COLLECTION

As you probably noticed, all of the millage collected for the county operations has been moved to the summer taxes along with the state education tax.

I will continue sending tax bills to mortgage companies as in the past. If you have concerns, you may always call me to check at 517 647-2330

## CEMETERY NEWS

The township board would like to thank Sextons Russ Odom and John VanHouten for keeping the cemetery looking so nice. These two men work very hard mowing and weed trimming so that Danby Township residents can be proud of their local cemetery. This year in the cemetery, you will notice new paved roads which were completed in October. The cemetery rules and regulations are posted at the main entrance for your convenience. Should you have any questions regard the cemetery, please contact Clerk Kristina Platte at 647-6029.

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The zoning administrator, Jeanne Vandersloot, can be reached at (616) 897-4242. Contact Jeanne if you are planning a building project. You can e-mail her at [zoningadmin@msn.com](mailto:zoningadmin@msn.com).

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

If you have questions about taxable value, SEV, or homestead amount on you tax bill, call the assessor at (517)647-2345.

### Homestead Exemption

A reminder that the state has split the Homestead Exemption into two different exemptions. One is called the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and the other one is called Qualified Agricultural Exemption (QAE). To qualify for a PRE for the entire year, you must both own and have moved into the home on or before May 1<sup>st</sup> .

### Land Splits

If you want to sell off part of your property, or do a lot split, you must get approval under the 1997 State land Division Act. Call the assessor, Stephen D. Smith at (517) 647-2345 for a land division split application.

## BURN PERMITS

If you plan to do any burning, please contact the fire district in which you live to get a burn permit. There is no cost to you for this. A simple call could save the township hundreds of dollars.

In Portland Fire Dist., call 647-3205

In Sunfield, Sebewa, Danby Fire Dist. ,

Call 566-8872

In Roxand Fire Dist., call 649-8332

*Wishing you a happy and safe 2008*