

Danby Township Newsletter—Fall 2008

Supervisor.....Richard Pohl	647-6379	Clerk.....Kristina Platte	647-6029
Treasurer ...Elizabeth Kolarik	647-2330	Trustee.....Gary Reisbig	647-4421
Trustee.....Pam McCormack	566-8168	Assessor...Stephen Smith	5 17 331-1857
Zoning Administrator...Jeanne Vandersloot			616 897-4242
Township Hall	649-2200	County Road Commission	616 527-1700
Portland Fire District	647-3205	County Sheriff	616-527-5737
Sunfield, Sebewa, Danby FD	566-8261	County Treasurer	616-527-5329
Roxand Fire District	(517)719-4753	Countv Clerk	616-527-5322

FROM THE SUPERVISORS DESK

Another year is winding down, summer is over and the cold of winter is fast approaching. Here at the township, budgets are reviewed and consideration made for 2009 budget year. We have continued our enhanced road graveling, with 8 miles per year. The most traveled roads get first priority for gravel, while every road will receive gravel within the eight-year cycle. New for 2008 we are trying a 1000' section of Peake Road, west of Grand River, with 6" of crushed limestone packed in place. Anybody traveling this road in the spring of 2008 found it nearly impassable. Kent County has done this on some hard-to-maintain roads for a few years with good results. We are still brining our roads three times each year, where some townships have cut back due to revenue short falls. Our culvert replacement and limited ditching will continue as in the past.

NEW FOR 2008 --SPRING CLEAN UP DAYS

We have joined the City of Portland and Portland Township for an area clean-up weekend last spring. We expect to join both entities in 2009 for another clean-up weekend. Watch the R&O and the township website(ww.danbytpw.org) for further details as the dates and what type of items are allowed.

We have formed a committee to look into possibly renting the township hall. Contact Pam McCormack or Gary Reisbig if you have any ideas or suggestions.

NEW AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

Back in August, the voters attending the August primary election got a first hand look at the new sound deadening panels that have been installed in the main hall. The acoustics in there were terrible with large groups of people making it very difficult to hear. The board has received very positive feedback from area residents. We are currently looking for old pictures which can be enlarged and used to decorate the walls in the main hall. Please contact any board member if you have any we could use.

A local contractor was hired to install a new roof after a leak was detected. In 2009 we expect to replace the concrete entrance and sidewalks around the building.

Special thanks go out to the many people on our boards and committees. New faces are always welcome to attend our meetings. Remember we are here for you. We welcome your ideas and opinions.

TAX COLLECTION

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

I will be available for tax collection each Friday in December from 9:00 to 11.00 a.m., on Dec. 31, Feb. 14 and Feb. 28 from 9:00 to 5:00 at my home. Other times by chance.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The planning commission recently completed the update to the master plan. It is available at the library in Portland and in Mulliken.

TOWNSHIP CLERK-ELECTION NEWS

For future elections the Danby Township Board recently purchased new crowd control materials and additional voting stations. The board is hoping with the crowd control and additional voting stations, the residents will have a more enjoyable voting experience. The goal is to make voting in our township more comfortable and time-efficient for everyone. If you need to register to vote, or are over 60 and would like to get on a permanent absentee voter list, please contact the Danby Township Clerk, Kristina Platte at (517)647-6029.

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. The cemetery rules and regulations are posted at the main entrance for your convenience. For a hard copy of the rules or for a cemetery fee schedule, please check the bulletin board in front of the township hall. If you have any questions regarding the cemetery or to purchase cemetery lots, please contact Clerk Kristina Platte at (517) 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.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

December Board of Review

If you think the homestead amount is incorrect (on your tax bill), please call your assessor right away. Call even if you are not going to pay your taxes until sometime next year. Your assessor can make a change to your homestead percentage at the December 9, 2008 Board of Review at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall. After that date your assessor cannot make a correction to the 2008

homestead percentage until the July 2009 board of review.

PA 620 Agricultural Capped Taxable Value

The state allows for some agricultural land to be purchased while keeping the old taxable value and the taxable value does not come uncapped the year after the sale like the rest of real properties do. For more information call the assessor, Stephen D. Smith, at 517 -647-2345 or 517-331-1857

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 or 517-331-1857 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. Do you know your fire district? If you live north of the river, you are in Portland Fire District. If you live south of the river and west of Murtha Rd. you are in Sunfield, Sebewa, Danby Fire District. Those living south of the river and east of Murtha Rd. are in Roxand Fire District.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

The Danby Township website will be undergoing changes in the next several months. There will be more useful links to help people navigate to the information they seek. Please be patient while these updates are implemented.

MEETING DATES

Township Board
Nov. 20, 2008
Dec. 18, 2008
Jan. 22, 2009
Feb. 26, 2009
Mar. 19, 2009
Annual Meeting March 26, 2009