

BOSTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - 2009

Greetings from Boston Township – It's tax time again as you likely have expected. We frequently get questions like "what do you do with all that property tax money you collect." Granted we collect a lot. The tax millage rate for homesteads in the township runs about 25 mills. Of this amount about .75 mills is retained by Boston Township. This is about 3% of your tax bill. We also get the state revenue sharing; that amount is questionable. Like most businesses today, it's tough operating. Having said this we would like to inform you of some activities of interest:

- Deck at the Saranac Cemetery. During the spring, Eagle Scout Ethan Priest constructed a wooden platform to be used for the speaking at the annual Memorial Day program. Ethan donated the labor and construction plans. This was his Eagle Scout project. The platform is known as the Dave Mackey Memorial.
- Township Clean Up Day – Treasurer Lamphere once again conducted a clean up day where residents could bring their unwanted items, used appliances, junk, etc. to a rented dumpster.
- Limestone Application – In 2008, the township tested limestone on a short stretch of road. This limestone appeared much more durable than gravel, although more costly. We plan to consider using this on additional stretches next summer.
- 2010 Election Schedule – Here is the list of elections and dates for 2010:
 - Tuesday, May 4 – School Election (*All precincts vote at Twp Hall*)
 - Tuesday, August 3 – Primary Election
 - Tuesday, November 2 – (*Primary and General Elections: Precinct 1 votes at St. Anthony Church – Precincts 2 and 3 at Twp Hall*)
- Taxable Values – A bit of good news, although very slight: taxable values for 2010 will be slightly less than this year. The inflation rate to be used in calculating taxable value will be .997, or a negative .03%, thus reducing taxable value, assuming no new construction or uncapping situations. You will see this on your 2010 Notices of Assessment next March.
- Special Assessment Districts – By petition, groups of people ask for assistance in black topping, mainly private, roads. The township acts as engineer and financing agent. The total costs are borne by the participants and are recovered by additions to their tax bills. Two such projects are underway at Dausman Park on Morrison Lake and Hawks Landing off Conklin Road.
- Policing – For some years Boston Township has contracted with Ionia County for services of a sheriff's deputy to enforce ordinances and other duties to

help ensure a safer and more desirable community. Deputy Brian Brinks currently serves in this capacity.

- Development – This has slowed to a crawl. In 2004 we approved 74 property or land splits. By contrast, this year so far it's 2. Building permits issued by the County stand at 75 for 2009. These historically number over 200. Until this year, Boston Township was the most rapidly growing township in the county. Boston Township has the highest taxable value of any tax jurisdiction in Ionia County – followed by the City of Ionia.
- Gravel Road Speed Limits – Think there's too much speeding on gravel roads? So do we. Recently the Board passed a resolution, as did most townships, asking the State Legislature to drop the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph. But don't count on it passing anytime soon.
- Website – Boston Township has a website! Visit us there for copies of ordinances, forms/applications, links to tax and voter information, and general information. Our website address is www.BostonTwp.org

Have an Enjoyable Holiday Season!!

Boston Township Board

Supervisor Robert Dunton

Clerk Lori Spoelstra

Treasurer Mary Lamphere

Trustee Bruce Harvey

Trustee Kenneth Olson

Trustee Michael Perry

Trustee Joseph Stuck