
WILBER TOWNSHIP NEWS

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Fall-2015

Supervisor's Corner

Island Lake, or Big Island Lake as it is commonly referred to, is partially located within Wilber Township and three other townships. The property owners around this lake have shown an interest in a lake improvement project of some sort for many years; some feel muck is the major problem, while others feel weed control is a good place to start. Others would be interested in a study to help point any actions in the right direction. All of these options will have a cost and a different benefit to the property owners around this lake. The concern and most important goal of the township is that property owners are informed to the best of our ability as to how much it will cost, who will it cost, and what will be done if the property owners decide an improvement is desired. The best way to accomplish this is through a petition process. The language in the petition will spell out the project that is being proposed, as well as the cost per benefit. The downside to this approach is that it is time consuming and difficult for the interested to accomplish, but as they say, "if it's worth doing..." This was the path taken on Indian Lake as well. Indian Lake currently has a Special Assessment District for weed control and is awaiting its first year of treatment.

Some of the property owners on Island Lake have taken the initiative to get a project started. They represent property owners in both Wilber and Plainfield Townships. They have started a lake association with the goal of advancing this process and have given us their contact information for anyone interested. It can be obtained by calling the township hall. Also, be reminded that this association is not an arm of or in any way connected to Wilber Township. Wilber Township would, however, appreciate your comments relating to (Big) Island Lake, which can be mailed or emailed to the township hall.

Mark Nunn

Important Notice About Township Treasurer's Office Hours

Effective with the township's winter tax cycle, the township treasurer is changing his office hours at the township hall for in-person tax payments to **Wednesdays, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm**. They were formally held at the same time, but on Fridays. Of course, tax payments can still be mailed to the township hall, or if desired, inserted in the drop slot in the front door of the township hall. Winter tax bills are scheduled to be mailed December 1st, and are due by February 15, 2016, without incurring late penalties.

If you do not receive your tax bill by about December 7th, please call the township hall and leave a voice mail message.

If you have to report a change of mailing address, use the same procedure.

Indian Lake

In our last newsletter we detailed the activities that had been undertaken to that point in trying to establish a Special Assessment District for the purpose of weed control on Indian Lake. Since then, petitions were circulated to property owners on the lake, signatures obtained & verified attesting that the sufficient number of those in agreement with the initiative was met according to PA 188 of 1954, the Special Assessment District (SAD) was certified, and the two required public hearings were noticed in the local newspaper and by individual first-class mailings to each property owner involved. The two public hearings were then held, the first on August 29th and the second on September 12th.

There being no objections held at the public hearings, the SAD was forwarded to the Iosco County Treasurer, where the assessment amount for each eligible parcel was included in the December 2015 winter tax statements that will be mailed on December 1, 2015.

2016 Election Cycle (from the Michigan Bureau of Elections)

The Michigan Presidential Primary Election has been set by the legislature for Tuesday, March 8, 2016. As in 2012, it is designated as a “closed primary”, which requires that a voter choose a Republican, Democratic, or no-Presidential Primary (i.e., local issues only, when applicable)* when voting absentee or at the polls on Election Day. While a voter must select a specific party ballot, there is no political party registration in Michigan’s voter registration system.

*NOTE: It is unknown at this time if there will be any local/state issues on the March 8th ballot.

In the 2012 Presidential Primary, the percentage of Wilber Township voters who cast ballots was 18.3%! Even so, this was higher than the state percentage, which was 16.7% of registered voters.

Voters who are eligible to vote absentee must declare a political party and cast votes only for candidate(s) within that party. Absent voter applications *for this election only* will contain a section to specify party preference so the appropriate ballot can be sent.

A registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot in any election if he or she is: 1) 60 years of age or more; 2) is unable to vote without assistance; 3) expects to be absent from his or her city or township of residence for the entire time the polls are open on election day; 4) is in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; 5) has been appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of his or her precinct of residence; or, 6) is unable to attend the polls due to his or her religious beliefs.

Eligible voters in Wilber Township meeting any of the above criteria can receive an absent voter ballot application by writing or calling the township hall, if you are not already on the permanent list to always receive an absent voter application.

Other election dates in 2016 are:

August 2, 2016 State Primary Election

November 8, 2016 State General Election

Note: The township is currently accepting applications for precinct workers for the August and November elections and beyond. Anyone wishing to receive an application can call the township hall. Training & certification classes will be held in the summer of 2016.

Candidate Listing PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY March 8, 2016

On November 18th the Michigan Department of State announced the candidate list for the 2016 Presidential Primary. State party chairs of the Michigan Republican and Democratic parties had until 4 p.m., Nov. 17, to add names of other candidates to the list for their party. Neither party added to the list. A candidate on the list has until 4 p.m. on Dec. 11 to notify the department that he or she is not a candidate. Voters statewide will be able to view a sample ballot for their respective jurisdiction online as we get closer to Election Day at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

Republican Party

Jeb Bush
Ben Carson
Chris Christie
Ted Cruz
Carly Fiorina
Lindsey Graham
Mike Huckabee
John R. Kasich
George Pataki
Rand Paul
Marco Rubio
Rick Santorum,
Donald Trump

Democratic Party

Hillary Clinton
Martin O’Malley
Bernie Sanders

Wilber Township Cemetery



For the past three years groundskeeping at the Wilber Township Cemetery has been a family affair, being performed by the Mioduch family composed of Dan, Cheri, Kevin and Jessica. Every month they’re there, mowing, raking, picking up branches, weeding, and generally keeping our cemetery in pristine condition. And every month, the town hall receives compliments and praise for its condition. Thanks!! It is greatly appreciated!

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Supervisor: Mark Nunn 989-362-2022

Clerk: Robert D. White 989-362-5410

Treasurer: Steve Ferguson 989-362-5410

Trustee: Sally Krueger 989-362-2510

Trustee: Mary Pingot 989-329-5020

Zoning Administrator &:

Ordinance Officer: Ron Phillips 989-362-5410

Assessor: Robert Boschma 989-362-4387

Cemetery Sexton: Dave Mioduch 989-362-8222

Planning Commission:

Robert Golka, Chair 989-362-7047

Rich Fullerton, Vice-Chair 989-362-2213

Robert White, Secretary 989-362-5410

Frank Kassuba, Member 989-362-8515

Cheri Mioduch, Member 989-254-0437

Calendar of Events

REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL. WHEN THE FIRST MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY OR HOLIDAY-OBSERVED, MEETINGS ARE THE FOLLOWING MONDAY. REGULAR MEETING DATES WHICH PRECEDE ELECTION DAYS ARE ALSO MOVED TO THE FOLLOWING MONDAY— SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD, OR CHANGES IN MEETING DATES, ARE POSTED ON THE TOWNSHIP HALL BULLETIN BOARD, THE MESSAGE CENTER, AND OUR WEBSITE.

REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR THE BALANCE OF 2015 AND 2016: DECEMBER 10, 2015; AND FOR 2016 (PROPOSED): FEBRUARY 11, APRIL 14, JUNE 9, AUGUST 11, OCTOBER 13, AND DECEMBER 8. MEETING TIMES ARE 7:00 P.M. SPECIAL MEETINGS ARE HELD UPON REQUEST, OR AS NEEDED. ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, OR BOARD OF REVIEW, PLEASE SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST TO THE TOWNSHIP HALL.

Disabled Veteran's Property Tax Exemption

Our spring newsletter described Public Act 161 of 2013 which allows property tax exemptions on a principal residence for any honorably discharged veteran who has been "permanently and totally disabled," and meets certain other requirements. The exemption also applies to their un-remarried surviving spouses who own and use the home as their homestead.

The State Tax commission requires eligible disabled veterans to annually file an affidavit in order to receive the exemption. Eligible veterans receive an annual eligibility letter from the Veteran's Administration, usually around December 10th. The assessor notes that in past years these letters have often been mislaid, and urges that a copy of this letter be forwarded immediately to the township, in care of the assessor, so that they can be kept on file and ensure it is available to the Board of Review at the appropriate time.

The assessor plans to send out the application forms to all disabled veterans who received an exemption in 2015.

These exemptions are usually processed at the July Board of Review, but the Board can act on them at any session in the calendar year for which the exemption is being applied. The assessor will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The Board of Review MAY NOT address an exemption for a prior year. Any veteran who thinks he or she may qualify for an exemption, or has any questions about the exemption, should contact the assessor or his/her V.A. Representative for additional information.

2016 Board of Review Schedule

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 3:pm; this is the annual organizational meeting and no appeals are heard. Due to the March 8th Presidential Primary at the town hall, this meeting will be held in the community room of the Wilber United Methodist Church

Monday, March 14, 2016: 9am–noon & 1pm–4 pm*

Tuesday, March 15, 2016: 1pm–4 pm & 6pm–9pm*

Tuesday, July 19, 2016: 11 am*

Tuesday, December 13, 2016: 7 pm*

***Meetings held at the township hall**

NOTEWORTHY

The following is quoted from the Michigan Secretary of State's *Express* newsletter sent to our office on October 6, 2015.

Don't Veer For Deer!

It's that time of year again when deer are on the run. In Michigan an average of 146 vehicle/deer crashes occur every day.

Watch for deer, especially at dawn and dusk. If you see one, approach cautiously because it usually means more are out of sight. When you see a deer-crossing sign, slow down.

And most importantly, "**Don't veer for deer!**" That's the name of the campaign this year by a coalition of traffic safety organizations. Here's how to react if you and a deer are on a collision course:

- Don't swerve. Instead, brake firmly and hold tight to the wheel.
- Stay in your lane and bring your vehicle to a controlled stop.
- If you hit a deer, pull off the road and turn on your emergency flashers.
- Don't try to move the deer unless you're convinced it's dead.
- Report the crash to the nearest police agency and your insurance company.

A group of concerned citizens and public officials in northeast Michigan, under the name 'Four-ward Northeast Michigan' is heading a drive to establish a 4-year college in Alpena. One of the proponents is Joe Lukasiewicz, a state candidate for the 36th district state senate seat. Lukasiewicz says that a 4-year college "would provide long-term economic benefits to the region by creating a better educated work force and hundreds of jobs." In addition, he says that "millions of new dollars would be spent in the local economy by students and visitors."

Forest Health Evaluation

Alcona/Iosco Conservation District Forester Andy Beebe would like all property owners to know that he is available to provide a free forest evaluation of their property, as part of the many services provided by the conservation district.

For more information or to schedule an evaluation, call Andy at 989-335-1056, or email him at andrew.beebe@macd.org

Genealogy

We frequently receive inquiries from individuals about years gone by in Wilber Township. One of the most recent was from someone asking about a place called the "Block House Settlement." It seems that his great grandfather died there in 1891, but so far we've been unsuccessful in determining the exact location of such a place. If you have any information about this, please contact or email the township hall.

Town Hall Grounds

In 2005 township residents Jim and Pat Mielke donated three large plant urns, complete with flowers and foliage, to display in front of the town hall. Since then, every spring they have replaced the plantings to beautify the entrance. And every year, we receive positive comments about the welcoming and inviting atmosphere they engender.

Special thanks to the Mielkes!

Comments about the newsletter, as well as information and topics you would like to see included in future editions should be submitted in writing:

Wilber Township
3120 Sherman Road
East Tawas, MI 48730 or,
E-mail: wilbertownship@hughes.net
Thanks. Bob White, Clerk
Website: wilbertownship.com

Burn Permits

Burn Permits are required for all outdoor fires, other than small cooking fires, campfires, or fires contained in an approved and covered outdoor container. Burn Permits are issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, either via their web-site, or their toll-free number.

www.michigan.gov/burnpermit
1-866-922-2876

All burn permits are for one day only