

November/December 2011

Milton Township News

Office Hours:

Monday 9:00-5:00
Wednesday 9:00-1:00
Friday 9:00-5:00



32097 Bertrand Street Niles, MI 49120

Phone: (269) 684-7262 Fax: (269) 684-1742

Email: milton@miltontwp.org Website: www.miltontwp.org

Special Points of Interest

Public Hearing, Milton Township Amended Master Land Use Plan—Mon Jan 9, 2012, 630pm

Presidential Primary Election Day

Feb 28, 2012 - 7am - 8pm

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

3rd Monday Each Month

Township Board of Trustees
7:00pm

1st Monday Each Month

(unless changed by Holiday)

Planning Commission
6:30pm

From Our Township Supervisor

3 years have passed since I was sworn into office as your township Supervisor. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with residents during this time and helping resolve the many issues that have arisen. As I move into my last year in office, I wanted to reach out to you one last time and ask if there is anything else that is pressing that you would like me to tackle as your township Supervisor before I leave office in November. If so, give me a call, drop me a note, or send me an e-mail.

US Highway 12 is slated to be repaved next year starting in May. We have additional information available on our website. A map showing the new turn lanes on US Highway 12 at Gumwood and other highway changes can be viewed at our township hall.

Have you ever thought about what roles the elected township officials serve? Have you ever thought about running for office or serving your community

on an appointed committee? I am working with the clerk's office to offer a workshop that will explain the various elected positions, how to run for office, and deadlines/forms that are needed. I am planning to have this during the month of March so keep an eye out on our website and township bulletin board regarding dates/times of the workshop.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to all of you that have contributed time and ideas to help make Milton a better community for us all. This has helped keep our property taxes one of the lowest when compared to our surrounding communities.

Robert Benjamin, Milton Township Supervisor
(269) 262-0111, supervisor@miltontwp.org

From Our Township Clerk

MILTON VOTERS MOVING INTO 21ST CENTURY!

With the Michigan Presidential primary scheduled for February 28, 2012, Milton Township will use a computer called an "electronic poll book" in order to process a resident's voting record. Milton Township received the new computer from Michigan's Secretary of State Office at no cost to the township.

"Both the deputy clerk and I have been trained on the new software," said Clerk Eric Renken. "The poll workers will be trained in plenty of time for the election", he added. "We're looking forward to this new equipment making the casting of votes

and record keeping a lot easier for both the voter and the township."

In preparation for the 2012 election, new residents in Milton Township should make sure that they are registered to vote. Residents should have received a new Voter Identification Card with the 5-digit number. If there are any questions about voting status contact the Clerk's office during regular office hours, or go on line to www.michigan.gov and select "Elections in Michigan" to see if you are registered.

Eric Renken, Township Clerk,
clerk@miltontwp.org



**Milton Township
Change in
Population**
(source: US Census)

Population in 2000:
2646

Population in 2010:
3878

**Increased by
46.56%**

**Comments From Our Planning Commission
Chairperson and the Zoning Administrator**

For over 18 months, the Milton Township Planning Commission (PC) has worked with the community to create an "Update" for the Milton Township Master/Future Land Use Plan, as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act of 2008. Such review and/or update should occur every five (5) years, and the last "major" update for our Township Plan occurred in 1999 and still guides our actions today.

The draft/amended Master Plan that is now being considered for possible adoption will replace the current plan. Our Township faces many challenges in the future, and the proposed plan will provide a basis to guide land use for the next 10 to 20 years.

Compilation of the plan was a formidable undertaking. Most noteworthy is the fact that the PC has been totally open and inclusive in this work period. Two public sessions were held to receive

direct, person-to-person input from property owners of Milton Township. The PC also conducted all of its meetings in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and also posted copies of the draft Master Plan/Future Land Use Plan on the township website for easy download and review. Opportunity for property owner input occurred at each monthly meeting.

In developing the proposed future land use map the PC further had to account for past decisions/land divisions which negatively impact the majority of resident's desire to protect prime farmland. If you have any questions feel free to contact the following officials:

Planning Commission Chairperson: Kelly Sweeney 269-683-2564
Zoning Administrator: Paul J. Sniadecki (269) 329-8320

KEY CONCEPTS for Master Plan

ZONING MAP:

This is a map showing the boundaries of the Zoning Districts *currently in place* in our Township. Milton Township's Zoning Map is on display in the Township Hall and is also posted on our website. The current Zoning Map and Zoning Districts were last adopted in 2000.

**FUTURE LAND USE
MAP:**

A Map showing the general area of the Zoning Districts *that might be in place 10 to 20 years into the future*. This map is a projection and is hypothetical. It only provides a basis for the Township to consider rezoning requests from property owners. The Future Land Use Map does not guarantee, nor does it automatically require, that any Rezoning actions take place.

**MASTER PLAN GOALS
AND OBJECTIVES**

Represents major activities and initiatives to be undertaken by the Township Planning Commission and Board of Trustees to implement an *approved* Master Plan/Future Land Use Plan. The progress toward implementation, and achievement of milestones, should occur on an annual basis. The goals and objectives of a Master Plan reflect the input and consensus of the community as expressed to the PC.

**TOWNSHIP PLANNING
COMMISSION:**

The township commission established by Michigan Law to develop and implement Master Plans and Future Land Use Provisions. Also the local body responsible to recommend amendments to the local Zoning Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Master Plan Update

Monday January 9, 2012, 630pm is the date/time for the Public Hearing for the draft/amended Master Plan. All property owners, residents, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend. Opportunity to provide input, either favorable, or not favorable, will be provided with a maximum of 3

minutes per person.

Subsequently, the Planning Commission will consider all comments and deliberate whether to recommend adoption to the Milton Township Board of Trustees. Later, the Board of Trustees will take final action on what version of the Master Plan to adopt.



From the Treasurer's Office

Winter tax collection will start December 1st, 2011. If you have an escrow account, be sure your mortgage company requests the tax bill from the township.

Please call the township if you do not receive a bill. It is the responsibility of each property owner to be sure taxes are paid on time. Duplicates of bills can be obtained from the township office. Please follow payment instructions as noted on each tax bill.

Dog tags will be sold at the township hall starting December 20, 2011 through February 28, 2012. Proof of rabies vaccination and neutering/spaying required as necessary.

Delinquent summer 2011 tax bills will be collected at Milton Township with penalties until February 28, 2012.

All delinquent Personal Taxes (not property) are collectable only at Milton Township.

Linda DeBroka, Treasurer

Commissioner's Corner

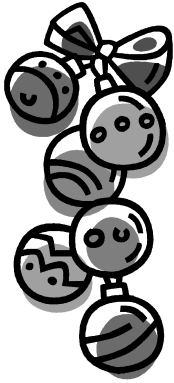
Cass County Updates and Information

- Did you know that before you dig you should call 811 to have the area checked for buried underground electrical, telephone, or natural gas cables and pipe? If you use LP gas you must also call your local LP service provider to have them check for any buried LP tanks or LP lines. *Miss Dig does not check for LP lines.*
- Do you have any expired or no longer needed prescription drugs? If you do not want to wait for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection to dispose of them, the drugs can be dropped off at the Cass County Sheriff's office between 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Enbridge Energy Company will be replacing a five-mile section of their oil pipeline next summer. The replacement will start at their pumping station located in Milton Township.
- Final approval was given by the Building Authority for the construction of a new maintenance and training building at TK Lawless Park. Animal Control is in the process of finalizing plans for expansion of the Animal Control facility. The majority of the funds for this expansion is from a \$225,000 bequeath to Animal Control from the Molica estate.
- The Board of Commissioners authorized the Road Commission to seek a 1-mill millage on property taxes to

help fund primary roads. The request will be placed on the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary ballot. I supported putting the millage request on the ballot so you can decide if you want this millage. Personally, I am not in support of this millage for two main reasons. First, it is for primary roads (roads primarily used for enterprise and industry) which should be funded by state government. As I explained at several Board of Commissioners meetings that by supporting this millage we are only bailing out the governor and state legislatures. They are not doing their jobs in finding a way to fund the primary roads. The cost of primary road maintenance should not be a burden on property owners. Secondly, a property tax millage request to support the secondary roads in Milton Township will probably come before the residents within the next two or three years. That millage I would support because the secondary roads primarily serve the property owner.

Please contact me should you have any county related issues.

Robert L. Ziliak, Commissioner, District 15



TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor Robert Benjamin 269-262-0111
supervisor@miltontwp.org

Treasurer Linda DeBroka 269-684-7262
treasurerdebroka@miltontwp.org

Clerk Eric Renken 269-684-7262
clerk@miltontwp.org

Trustee Sharon Ward 269-683-9505
trusteeward@miltontwp.org

Trustee Don Kronewitter 269-684-0467
trusteeKronewitter@miltontwp.org

Planning Commission

Kelly Sweeney, Chair 269-683-2564
Diane Shields, Vice-Chair 269-663-2962
Ronald Jureziz, Secretary 269-684-8546
Jeremy Clanton, 269-684-7111
Richard Hebard, 269-663-3324
Sandra Redman, 269-687-1635
Sharon Ward, Ex-Officio Member, 269-683-9505

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer

Paul Sniadecki 269-329-8320
zoning@miltontwp.org

We're on the Web at
www.miltontwp.org

Assessor

Douglas Brousseau
Edwardsburg, MI
(269) 699-7619

Building Inspector

Wayne Hardin
At the Ontwa Twp. Hall in Edwardsburg
269-663-2347
(Tue., Thu., Sat. / 9am to Noon)

Electrical Inspector

Johnny Hamilton 269-684-7848

Mechanical Inspector

David Swanstrom 269-684-5271

Plumbing Inspector

Ed Wainwright 269-663-8542

Board of Review

Roger Kempton, Chair 269-683-2875
Robert Thibodeaux 269-683-8659
Steve Sante 574-220-6085

Zoning Board of Appeals

Diane Shields (Chair) 269-663-7508
Linda DeBroka 269-684-7262
Sue Kronewitter, 269-684-0467
Robert Ziliak (Alternate)

MILTON TOWNSHIP
32097 Bertrand Street
Niles, MI 49120

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STD MAIL

Permit 449

Niles, MI 49120

ECRWSS

Postal Customer