

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2008

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. - noon

The Township Supervisor, Clerk and/or Deputy Supervisor are available at the Township Hall during office hours. Please feel welcome to stop in.

Township officials are also available at other times by appointment.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Improvements to the Township's Building Department are occurring weekly. All permit applications (zoning, building, mechanical and electrical) are conveniently located on the Township website as well as forms to apply for an address or land division. Please check out the Building Department page of the website. Building Inspector Cardiff has recommended a number of improvements to the permit application forms that will result in fewer forms to fill out. For the most current versions of permit application forms, please check the website. All forms will be in final form and posted by January 1. Permit applications may also be picked up at the Township Hall.

Completed application forms may be mailed to the Township Hall (7901 North 6th Street) or dropped off. If the Hall is closed, there is a drop box for convenience.

Reminder: Zoning permits are now required for projects not otherwise requiring a permit from the Township. Agricultural buildings, sheds over 100 square feet are some of the buildings requiring a zoning permit. The permit fee is \$25. Applications may be found on the website and must be obtained prior to work commencing. Completed applications should be returned to the Township Hall. Please see the Zoning Permit section of the Zoning Ordinance for complete information.

RECYCLING RESUMES MARCH 14th

Thank you to everyone who continues to collect recyclables through the winter in anticipation of the March collection date. The Township will offer two junk days in 2009: May 9th and October 10th. Junk days are a free service for Alamo Township residents (identification required). Cement, oil-based paint, tires, oil, hazardous materials and appliances containing Freon cannot be accepted. Latex paint is accepted; however, please remove the lid and allow the paint to dry or mix it with a thickening agent (such as cat litter). Better yet, consider donating it to Habitat for Humanity. Metal is collected separately from trash. Regular recyclables are also collected on junk days.

Household recycling for Township residents is available free of charge on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (except January and February). Mixed paper including magazines and junk mail (no waxy coatings), newspaper, cardboard, plastic (#1, #2, #3 & #5 only), clear glass (no lids), tin foil and cans are accepted. A complete list of acceptable materials is on the Township website. Please separate newspaper (for the Boy Scouts) from mixed paper.

Best Way Disposal offers plastic recycling (free of charge) at its transfer station located at 2606 Miller Road. They will accept virtually all plastic bags including grocery, dry cleaning, produce, water softener salt bags, shrink wrap, cereal box liners, etc. No candy wrappers or clear, crinkly plastic. A number of establishments have begun accepting plastic grocery bags. Collection bins, for instance, are located in the lobbies at Hardings (West Main), Wal-Mart (9th Street) and Meijer (Plainwell/Otsego). Hats off to these establishments for offering this valuable service.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department officers meet 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. the 4th Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public and citizen input is welcome. Chief Moore encourages residents to stop in at the station anytime the station is staffed.

If you haven't already done so, the Fire Department suggests a few fire safety tips for the heating season:

- Have all fireplaces and chimneys inspected by a professional before lighting a fire.
- Check or change batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

The Fire Department conducted a candy check on Halloween and continues monthly training activities. Thanks to the Martin family for donating a house to permit the Department to practice live fire drills and techniques. Thanks, also, to Dick Bennett for providing hunter safety training.

Alamo Fire and Rescue cannot help you if they cannot find you. The Alamo Firefighters' Association sells reflective address signs for \$10.00 per sign. To order a sign, send payment along with the following information:

Name
Address
Phone number

List the numbers you desire on the sign.
List vertical or horizontal placement of the numbers.

Send to the Alamo Firefighters' Association
7840 North 6th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Sign(s) will be delivered in 7-14 days.

The Alamo Fire Department is always looking for men and women with a desire to serve and protect the community. Fire Academy, medical training, and equipment are covered by the Township. Interested persons may obtain more information by calling Chief Moore (345-3010) or by sending an

e-mail to alamochief@sbcglobal.net. Applications may be found on the Township website.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

The DE Avenue Park is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Access to the park (and parking) when the gates are closed is available at the west gate.

Thanks to Lou Conti of the Parks Board, there will be groomed cross country ski trails on the Rector and Stoneburner Trails within the DE Avenue Park this season. The Parks Board is excited about this new opportunity and hopes to see you on the trails.

The Parks Board is in the process of reviewing its 5-year plan. If you have suggestions, please feel welcome to contact any Parks Board member.

The Parks Board and the Board of Trustees are looking forward to adding a park on C Avenue as Aggregate Industries donates land to the Township for the 2nd of 3 planned parks. The Parks Board also welcomes suggestions for potential uses for this most generous donation.

Mark your calendars for the 2009 classic car show at the DE Avenue Park: June 27.

Volunteers for park projects are always welcome. Specifically, the Parks Board is looking for volunteers to develop a Farmer's Market and, a community-wide garage sale to begin in 2009. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Parks Chair Jon Little (381-8387) or leave a message at the Township (382-3366).

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Residents may drop off their household hazardous waste at 1301 Lamont (off Lake Street near the Sheriff's Department). This is FREE to Alamo Township residents and no appointment is needed. Oil-based paint products, motor oil, fire extinguishers, electronics, solvents, antifreeze, pesticides, mercury and many other items that cannot go into your regular trash are accepted. Drop-off hours are Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday from noon until 6:00 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of

each month from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm or call 373-5211 for a complete list of acceptable materials.



UPDATES FROM THE TREASURER

Winter taxes were mailed on November 29th and are due no later than February 17th, 2009. Taxes paid February 18th through February 28th are subject to a 3% late fee. Taxes paid after March 2nd are considered delinquent and then must be paid to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer. The extra day to pay taxes this year is due to February 28th falling on a Saturday.

If summer taxes were not paid, they are now considered overdue. Late fees will be applied (1% each month) taxes remain unpaid. Beginning February 17th, an additional 3% late fee is added.

G AVENUE HAUL ROUTE

The Board of Trustees has hired a traffic engineer to conduct an independent and unbiased review of the suitability of G Avenue from 10th to 6th as an appropriate haul route. As a result of Oshtemo Township prohibiting the use of 10th Street and instead establishing G Avenue its truck route, the Alamo Board of Trustees must address the use of G Avenue under the terms of the Consent Judgment. The Consent Judgment is available for review on the Township website.

ALAMO TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Meeting schedules, approved minutes for the Trustees, Zoning and Parks Boards, tax information, department news, and recycling information are readily available at www.alamotownship.org. In addition to enhancements to the Building Department page, Township municipal ordinances are now available on the Ordinance page. A Zoning map has been added to the page and the full Township Zoning Ordinance has now been added. Links to other sites have been added for your convenience. For instance, a link to the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Waste webpage has been added.

MUSEUM

The Township hosted a retirement celebration to honor the former curator of the Alamo Township Museum, Mary Goble. Many community members took the opportunity to express their appreciation to Mary and tour the Museum. Many thanks to Mary and the volunteers who staff the museum and preserve the Township's history. The Township welcomes new curator, Brian Smith.

The museum is currently scheduled to be open May through October on Saturdays and Sundays (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The deadline for submission of ballot issues for the February election passed on December 16th. There will no election for Alamo Township residents in February.

LOCAL RESIDENT FEATURED

Alamo Township resident, David Curl, was featured on the front cover of the Kalamazoo Gazette's *Ticket* insert on October 2. The cover featured a photo capturing a "mirror image" of a Japanese maple tree in his front yard. The photograph was part of a series called "My Backyard" shown at the Carver Gallery. Mr. Curl recently retired as a photography professor at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

CONTACT US

E-mail addresses for Township officials or staff working out of the Township Hall are as follows:

supervisor@alamotownship.org

clerk@alamotownship.org

deputysupervisor@alamotownship.org

Questions or comments may also be directed to
info@alamotownship.org.

Phone calls are always welcome: 382-3366

**ALAMO TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS
MEETING SCHEDULES**

Alamo Township Hall	7901 North 6 th Street	382-3366	Township Website: www.alamotownship.org Board of Trustees Regular Meeting 2 nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Zoning Board Regular Meeting 1 st Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Parks Board Regular Meeting Last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Township Hall.
	Fax	552-4733	
Supervisor	Bob Vlietstra	382-3366	
	Cell	501-2288	
Clerk	Garilyn Sportel-Bogard	382-3366	
Treasurer	Mary Stoneburner	345-3822	
Trustee	Ron Feniger	381-8478	
Trustee	Dawn Potter-Williams	375-4820	
Fire Chief	Larry Moore	615-4987	
Assessor	Renee Laws	382-4182	
Building Inspector	Kevin Cardiff	330-6292	
Deputy Supervisor	Barbara Fisher	382-3366	
Ordinance Enforcer	Laura Hoffman	217-0291	
Parks Board Chair	Jon Little	381-8387	
Recycling Coordinator	Ron Feniger	381-8478	
Sexton	Garilyn Sportel-Bogard	382-3366	
Township Hall Rental	Mary Stoneburner	345-3822	
Zoning Board Chair	Belden Smith	344-8511	
	alamozoning@mac.com		



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