

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

News for Alamo Township Residents

SPRING 2008

www.alamotownship.org

OFFICE HOURS

BOB VLIETSTRA, Township Supervisor

GARILYN SPORTEL-BOGARD, Township Clerk

TUESDAYS: 9:00 a.m. – noon

SAFE, SOUND & SECURE: A Free Mini-Conference for Seniors

Alamo Township, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department and the Kalamazoo County Consortium invite and encourage area seniors to attend the 6th annual **Safe, Sound and Secure Conference**. This free half-day event will be held at the Third Reformed Church (2345 North 10th Street) on Thursday, May 15. The conference provides education to assist seniors in protecting their health, safety, property and rights. Registration, a continental breakfast and free blood pressure screening begin the day at 8:00 a.m. The formal program begins at 9:00 a.m. when the Michigan Attorney General, Mike Cox, delivers the keynote address. Following the keynote, each participant will be able to attend two of the six workshops offered; all workshops are taught by experts in their respective fields.

- Protecting Your Identify
- Avoiding Schemes, Scams and Fraud
- Estate Planning
- Personal Safety
- Internet Safety
- Protecting Your Health through Eating Right

Over 20 exhibitors plus representatives from the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program will be on-site beginning at 8:00 a.m. A raffle and lunch complete the day at noon. This event is free; however, registration is required to ensure adequate seating, materials and food. Call 383-8933 to register by telephone or send an e-mail to safesoundsecure@netzero.com.

ALAMO TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

The Alamo Township website has a new look, a new address and expanded information. Meeting schedules, approved minutes for the Trustee, Zoning and Parks Boards, tax information, department news and recycling information is readily available at www.alamotownship.org. A Bulletin Board page has been added for posting special meetings or other non-routine information. New features are being added weekly; please check back often for new additions. In the coming months, all Township ordinances will be published on the website.

"G" AVENUE GRAVEL PIT

On March 6, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Alamo Township, Aggregate Industries and G Avenue Properties, finding that the "motion to affirm (the Circuit Court's denial of the Intervenor's [C-COATS] motion to set aside the settlement reached between the Township, Aggregate Industries and G Avenue Properties) is granted for the reason that the question to be reviewed is so unsubstantial as to need no argumant or formal submission." At this time it is unknown what, if any, further action C-COATS is considering. The haul route through Oshtemo remains a point of contention. Aggregate Industries and G Avenue Properties will be pursuing resolution to this remaining issue. On a positive note, property owners specifically mentioned in the court approved consent judgment were invited to meet with representatives from the Township and Aggregate Industries. The meeting was both positive and constructive.

The consent judgment may be reviewed on the Bulletin Board page on the Township website.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Residents in the Otsego and Plainwell school districts will have the opportunity to vote for school board members (both districts) plus a bond issue in the Plainwell district on May 6th. These elections will be held at the Township Hall with precincts 1 and 2 combined. Please remember to bring picture identification.

Mark your calendars for August 5th (primaries) and November 4th (general election). As of this writing, a second presidential primary will NOT be held.

It appears as though there will be a ballot proposal to renew a transportation millage on the November ballot. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Help Wanted: Election Inspectors for August 5th and November 4th. Inspectors must be 18 years old and attend certification training classes. Interested persons must be able to commit to working 6:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. It is strongly preferred that individuals be able to work both the August and November elections.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Board recently applauded Department leadership for working with neighboring communities in responding to emergencies plus promoting and participating in joint training efforts. Recently Alamo firefighters joined colleagues from Cooper and Parchment to perform ice water rescue drills.

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 any time the station is staffed.

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 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. After a long winter, lift your spirits by taking a walk on the various trails throughout the park or watching Sand Creek flow while taking a break on the bridge. Trout Unlimited will continue its work rehabilitating Sand Creek later this spring. Not into nature? The Little League opener is April 26th. The 2nd annual car show is June 28th and promises to be bigger and better than last year. The Farmer's Market is slated to begin in July with the possibility of adding a flea market. Watch the Bulletin Board on the website for updates as the season progresses.

Access to the park (and parking) when the gates are closed is available at the west gate.

Volunteers for numerous park projects are always welcome. If you'd like to help, please contact any Parks Board member.

RECYCLING

Recycling is available the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (except January and February). This service is offered free of charge to residents. Mixed paper, newspaper, plastic, glass and cans are accepted. Please separate mixed paper from newspaper. The Boy Scouts collect the newspaper as a fund raiser.

In addition to regular recycling, the Township will accept your "junk" in May and October. Cement, tires, oil and appliances containing Freon cannot be accepted. Hours for May are 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and for October 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This free service for Township residents can be offered because of the generosity of your neighbors in volunteering an hour or two. Please contact Ron Feniger 381-8478 if you are able to provide assistance. It's a great way to meet some great people. Thank you for your generosity.



MUSEUM

The museum is open May through October on Tuesdays (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) and Saturdays and Sundays (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Thank you to the volunteers who staff the museum and preserve the Township's history.

TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

The Board's top discretionary budget priority for 2008 is cemetery maintenance and upgrades. A number of dead and dying trees are in need of removal and the previously started expansion of the Alamo Cemetery needs to be completed. Significant maintenance work is required at the Liberty and Alamo Cemeteries.

Minimal increases to lot prices and services will go into effect on April 1 to help cover the costs of maintaining the cemeteries.

This year's unusual amount of snowfall periodically made driving into the cemeteries difficult, if not impossible. To save on maintenance costs, the cemeteries are not plowed unless there is a funeral.

Thank you for remembering to remove all winter decorations from gravesites by April 1.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

It's no secret that numerous roads within the Township are in need of maintenance. The Board looked at roads that needed the most attention and has recommended repaving both C and E Avenue between 12th Street and U.S. 131 plus repairing a failing culvert on B Avenue.

CENSUS PREPARATION

Township officials are hard at work on the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) project. This Federal initiative permits participating municipalities the opportunity to correct the Federal data base of addresses. An accurate database is critical to ensuring that everyone in the Township is counted in 2010 so that Alamo Township receives its fair share of population-based revenues.

UPDATES FROM THE TREASURER

The final day to pay winter property taxes to the Township Treasurer was February 29. Property taxes must now be paid to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer's Office. Personal taxes (if applicable) should be paid to the Township Treasurer.

Summer tax notices will be mailed July 1.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department will be sending out notices to follow up on outstanding inspections or if properties have been improved without benefit of a permit. Reminder: Building permits are required for improvements over \$500.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

Every spring brings a rash of complaints on dogs running loose and/or barking. Dog owners whose dogs persistently bark and disturb surrounding property owners can be cited under the Township's noise ordinance. Please be considerate to your neighbors. Also, the Township uses the County of Kalamazoo to cite dog owners whose dogs are running loose. Thank you for your cooperation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

If you have household hazardous waste, take it to the Hazardous Waste Center at 1301 Lamont off Lake Street near the Sheriff's Department. They take oil-based paints, used motor oil, solvents, pesticides, mercury, insecticides, car batteries, old cell phone batteries and other items that cannot go into your regular trash. 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. If you have questions, please call them at 373-5211. This service is FREE to Alamo Township residents and no appointment is needed.

