

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Township Hall will be closed from December 21 through January 1, reopening on January 4. Persons needing assistance may contact the Supervisor, Clerk and the Deputy Supervisor by leaving a message on the Township phone line: 382-3366. Messages will be checked regularly throughout the period the Township Offices are closed; appointments will be scheduled as needed. The Supervisor may be contacted on his cell phone (501-2288) and the Sexton may be contacted at 349-2638. Messages for the Building Department may be left at 382-3366.

REGULAR 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 and at other times by appointment. Please feel welcome to stop in.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16: Winter Taxes Due. Winter taxes are due on February 16 without penalty. Taxes paid after this date are subject to a 3% late fee and are paid to the Township Treasurer. Taxes paid after February 28 are subject to additional late fees and must be paid to the County Treasurer.

March 13: FIRST Regular Recycling for 2010.
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. March 13 is not a junk day.

May 1: Museum Reopens.

May 4: Election. Voters will be asked to vote on renewing the law enforcement millage (1.4491 mills). The Spring Newsletter will contain information on this countywide request as well as any other ballot issue.

June 26: 4th Annual Classics in the Park.
Mark your calendars now for this community event. Details will appear in the Spring Newsletter.

SNOW REMOVAL/MAINTENANCE

Have you checked your mailbox to ensure it's ready to handle the force of snow being pushed by snow plows? The Kalamazoo County Road Commission observes that, more often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against hardware and posts that have weakened with age or because of improper installation. Making needed repairs to a mailbox will increase the likelihood that it is strong enough to survive the winter.

Damage that can be demonstrated was caused by direct contact by Road Commission equipment will be considered for reimbursement. Mailbox damage caused by flying snow being plowed from the roadway is not reimbursed by the Road Commission.

The Road Commission reminds us that flying snow makes it look like plows are moving much faster than the average speed of 25 miles per hour and that even at that speed damage to roadside mailboxes is possible.

The winter season is off to an intense start and already causing issues regarding suitable locations for the ever accumulating snow. Reminder: Michigan law prohibits snow, ice or slush from being deposited on any roadway or highway. **This includes pushing snow across a roadway or placing it on the shoulder of a road.** Additionally, let's keep in mind that much of Alamo Township is low-lying. Placing snow in ditches eventually interferes with water flow and has the potential to flood neighbors' property and deteriorate our roads. Thank you for helping keep our roadways and ditches clear.

The Road Commission website contains a wealth of helpful information: www.kcrc-roads.com. The phone number is (269) 381-3171.

REMINDERS

A limited number of smoke detectors are available from the Fire Department for low income families.

In case of emergency, the Fire Department cannot help you if they cannot find you. The Alamo Firefighters' Association sells reflective address signs for \$10.00 per sign. Order forms are available on the Township website and at the Township Hall.

Building, electrical, mechanical and zoning permit applications must be obtained prior to work commencing. Applications are available on the website and at the Township Hall.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste may be dropped off at 1301 Lamont (off Lake Street near the Sheriff's Department). The Township funds this service for Alamo residents. For a list of acceptable materials, visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm or for a recorded message listing accepted items and hours of operation, please call 373-5211.



2010 CENSUS

Township officials urge each resident to complete and return census forms when they are received. Census data affects how more than \$300 billion in federal funds is distributed to state and local governments each year. By mailing back your census response, the overall cost to all of us is reduced plus Michigan, Kalamazoo County and Alamo Township will receive the funds that are due. In these times of economic decline, it is critical that everyone residing in the Township is counted. Thank you.



CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

If you did not have the opportunity to remove all gravesite figurines, flowers and all other forms of decoration and adornment by November 15, please take the time to do so. Only wreaths are permitted during the winter season.

TOWNSHIP SURVEY (Part II)

Last month several charts were published in the newsletter in what will be a series of articles publishing the results of the community survey distributed with the Summer Newsletter.

The survey was distributed as part of the Planning Commission's work in updating the Township's Land Use Plan. The last Land Use Plan was published in 1998 with an update completed in 2003. Survey questions were designed to seek opinions; a number of the questions were similar to the questions posed and published in 1998 to allow for comparisons. The 2009 survey results were remarkably similar to those published in 1998.

Single family homes in residentially zoned areas (excluding plats and multi-family residential) require a lot size of 2.5 acres with a minimum of 250 feet of road frontage. Should the lot size increase, stay the same or decrease?

LEVEL OF CHANGE	NUMBER
Increase	18
Stay the Same	130
Decrease	50

Would you like to see the rate of growth in the Township accelerate, stay the same or slow down?

LEVEL OF GROWTH	NUMBER	%	1998 %
Accelerate	27	14.1	14
Stay the Same	97	50.5	49
Slow Down	68	35.4	37

Should the Township actively seek commercial and/or industrial development along the D Avenue corridor?

YES	NO
111	87

Are there other areas within the Township suitable for commercial and/or industrial development?

YES	NO
38	132

Note: "Yes" responses predominantly listed suitable areas as 6th Street & D Avenue and Ravine & and D Avenue.

ALAMO IN THE NEWS

Esper Electric and Van Dam & Kruisinga recently received recognition for donating their time and resources to the Open Door and Next Door creating expanded capacity for low-income housing in Kalamazoo County.

Thank you to several members of the Parks Board for volunteering their time with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy during a work day to rehabilitate the 116 acre preserve on Sand Creek near 2nd Street.

Thank you also to Parks Board members and Park Rangers for assisting the Deputy Supervisor in adding gardens to the grounds at the Township Hall.



ENERGY BLOCK GRANT

Alamo, Cooper and Kalamazoo Township along with the County of Kalamazoo have applied for a grant to improve energy efficiencies while providing jobs for local contractors. Block grant funding is through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Preliminary energy savings analyses and environmental impact data have been generated with additional engineering to take place if funds are awarded. If funded, this will provide the Township with the means to make energy upgrades without tapping the Township's general funds.



TOWNSHIP PHOTO CONTEST

The Parks Board is sponsoring a photo contest from December 15 – February 15. The contest is open to all area residents though photos must be taken in Alamo Township. Photos must be printed and submitted with a data form. The form is posted on the Parks page of the Township website and is available at the Township Hall. All submitted photos will be given to the Township Museum. Professional photographers are welcome to submit photos; however, professionals are ineligible for prizes. Prizes will be awarded in each of the three categories in each of the 4 age groups. One prize per individual.

Photo Categories: Flora/Fauna
Building/Structures
People/Events

Age groups: 18 and under
19 – 40
41 – 60
61 and over

Winners will be contacted the week of February 22 and will be listed in the Spring (March) Newsletter.



WANTED

Volunteer Firefighters. Contact Chief Moore (345-3010) or e-mail alamochief@sbcglobal.net. Information is also on the Township website.

Museum Committee. There are vacancies on the Museum Committee. Contact the Township Hall if you are interested in serving.

Cross Country Skiers. The DE Avenue Township Park has groomed ski trails. Proceed directly north to trails from the west parking lot.

Volunteers.

-  **Parks.** Contact Lou Conti (226-9321)
-  **Museum.** Contact Brian Smith (217-3247)
-  **Recycling.** Contact Ron Feniger (381-8478)

Volunteering is a great way for students to earn community service hours and for residents to become involved in the community.



WATER TESTING

Water testing bottles and collection instructions are now available at the Township Hall. Samples must be delivered to Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services. Payable to the County, the bacteriological well analysis is \$14.25 and the partial chemistry analysis is \$20.00.

