

ALAMO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

7901 North 6th Street □ Kalamazoo, MI 49009

9:00 a.m. – noon

The Township Supervisor, Clerk and/or Deputy Supervisor are available during the published hours and by appointment. Please feel welcome to stop in.

OFFICE HOURS - ASSESSOR

Thursday

7901 North 6th Street □ Kalamazoo, MI 49009

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For your convenience, many Township forms are available on the Township website. Completed forms may be mailed, faxed or dropped off. A drop slot is located to the south of the office door handle.

Meeting schedules for the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission and Park Board are on the back cover. The public is welcome at all meetings.

OUTDOOR FURNACES

In 2010, the Board of Trustees adopted a municipal ordinance governing the **installation and use of outdoor furnaces**. **Furnaces existing on the effective date of the Ordinance** (October 11, 2010) **must be registered no later than April 11, 2011** in order to be exempt from several of the requirements applicable to outdoor furnaces installed after October 11. **Existing furnaces not registered will be treated as new installations**. Registration forms may be downloaded from the Building page of the Township website or obtained at the Township Hall. There is no fee or permit required to register an existing furnace.

All new installations require a mechanical permit and must meet all requirements contained in the Ordinance.

The Planning Commission has been asked to review the Ordinance and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for possible modification to the Ordinance. In the interim, the Ordinance **IS** in effect.

The Planning Commission will have an air quality expert from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment at their April 5 meeting. Citizen comment (both in support and in opposition to the Ordinance) is welcome. Comments may be offered at the April 5 meeting or submitted in writing in advance of the meeting (addressed to Chair, Planning Commission at the Township Hall).



BULLETIN BOARD

NO WORK GROUP MEETINGS IN APRIL OR MAY

The Board of Trustees is evaluating its monthly work group meeting and will NOT hold their April 4 or May 2 work group. The June 6 work group meeting will be held as scheduled.

PROPERTY TAXES

Summer 2010 and Winter 2010 taxes are now considered delinquent and must be paid to the County of Kalamazoo. The Township is not able to compute applicable penalties and interest; please contact the County Treasurer's Office for these amounts (384-8124).

PARK LAND - WEST C AVENUE

In 2010, Alamo Township received a donation of 28 acres of park land on the south side of West C Avenue (west of 6th Street). This donation, from Aggregate Industries, was part of the settlement (Consent Judgment) crafted for the permitting of the gravel mine on West G Avenue.

The Township is interested in gathering information from residents concerning the best future use for this land. The planning process is commencing and is not anticipated to be completed in the immediate future. Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas. Please feel welcome to share your suggestions at any upcoming Park Board meeting or submit written comments (addressed to Chair, Park Board at the Township Hall). The Park Board meets the last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

April 1: Cemetery Maintenance

All winter decorations must be removed.

April 9: Regular Recycling (Free to Residents)

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue.
This is not a junk day. A “Clip & Save” list of acceptable items is located on the back cover.

May 3: School Elections (Plainwell and Otsego)

May 14: Regular Recycling and Junk Day.

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue.
The semi-annual clean-up is free to Township residents; identification is required on junk day. In addition to regular recyclables (see April 9), “junk” is accepted. “Junk” **excludes** cement, oil-based paint, tires, oil, hazardous materials (including old TVs and computers) and appliances containing Freon. (See article on Household Hazardous Waste). Metal is collected separately from trash; please keep this in mind when loading trucks/trailers. Latex paint is accepted if dried or mixed with a drying agent (such as cat litter).

June 11: Regular Recycling (Free to Residents)

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Township Park on DE Avenue.
This is not a junk day. A “Clip & Save” list of acceptable items is located on the back cover.


June 25: Classics in the Park (Save the Date!)


Details to follow in the June Newsletter.




TOWNSHIP SPRING CLEAN UP


Resident surveys listed blight/trash/junk as the #2 negative in the Township in 1998 and it was the top negative listed in 2009. The Township enacted a litter ordinance (41-M) in 2003 covering such things as debris/junk, dilapidated structures and excess mechanical equipment not contained in a structure. Following are some available resources to assist us in cleaning up the Township.


 **BURN PERMITS** are required for all burning done outside of burn barrels. Only brush, leaves, paper and cardboard may be burned in a burn barrel and then only when someone is present. To obtain a permit to burn outside of a burning barrel, send an e-mail to firedept@alamotownship.org and provide your name, address and when you plan to burn. Burn permits cover the burning of brush, trees, stumps and leaves. Persons applying will receive an automatic permit good for 48 hours. Persons without internet access may contact Chief Kizer at 217-3993 to request a permit; however, delays in permit issuance may be encountered.

 Many residents have been watching the progress of a new law proposing to ban **BURN BARRELS**. As of this writing, burn barrels WILL NOT be banned. Please note Alamo Township permits only the burning of paper or cardboard in burn barrels.

 Please be on the lookout for **METH LAB TRASH** in ditches, along roadways and on land off the beaten path. Meth lab trash may consist of the following sorts of items and is considered poisonous and can be explosive. DO NOT remove trash if you see it; instead, contact the non-emergency dispatch line (Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office) 383-8821 – Option #6.

- Suspicious bags of trash.
- Empty plastic bottles containing solid materials.
- Plastic bottles with duct tape and plastic tubing.
- Packs of pills for over the counter cold/allergy pills.
- Empty containers of Coleman Fuel, acetone, starting fluid, paint thinner or alcohol.
- Containers of lye or drain cleaners.
- Salt boxes, coffee filters, paper towels, funnels, rubber hoses, latex gloves.
- Tree spike fertilizer boxes.
- Cold packs used for injuries.
- Portable propane tanks.
- Needles and syringes.

 Bring us your **TRASH/JUNK** and prevent a visit from the Ordinance Enforcer for blight/trash/junk on your property. The Township operates two junk days per year (May and October) accepting both trash and metal. Load up your car, truck or trailers. (See May 14 under the Bulletin Board for details).

 **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. A partial list of acceptable items appears below and on the opposite page. For a recorded message listing items accepted and hours of operation, call 373-5211 or visit www.kalcounty.com/hhw/accepted.htm.

- Paint products (oil-based, paint thinner, etc.)
- Automotive (used motor oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid, gas, waxes)
- Fuels (kerosene, home heating oil, lighter fluid)
- Pesticides/Herbicides (all kinds)
- Aerosols (all kinds)
- Cleaners (bath/kitchen, oven & drain cleaners)
- Acids and Bases (muriatic and battery acids)
- Electronics (all kinds)
- Mercury (thermometers, thermostats, liquid)

- Household batteries (alkaline, lithium, button cell)
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Beauty aids (hair spray, perfume, nail polish remover, soaps, shampoo)
- Fluorescent lights
- Propane cylinders (one pound only)
- Fire extinguishers (all kinds)
- Photography chemicals
- Adhesives (caulks and glues)
- Miscellaneous (cooking oil, crack filler, driveway sealer, inkjet printer cartridges, roof coating)

NOT ACCEPTED: latex paint, microwaves, asbestos, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, air conditioners, smoke detectors and tires.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: OLD PRESCRIPTION AND OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS

Rid your home of unwanted prescription and over the counter drugs on Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Hazardous Waste Center at 1301 Lamont (off Lake Street near the Sheriff’s Department). A variety of medications, including antibiotics, mood stabilizers and hormones have been found in the drinking water of 41 million Americans. Leave all medications in their original containers; scratch out or use a permanent marker to make personal information unreadable. Medical sharps (such as syringes), IV bags and infectious waste cannot be accepted.



SPEEDWAY YOUTH TRACK

Quarter midget race cars are coming to the Kalamazoo Speedway in May. Midgets will race on a one-tenth mile track constructed adjacent to the existing track on the Speedway grounds. The track, sanctioned by the United States Auto Club, joins two other similar tracks in Michigan. The track is designed for youth aged 4-16, divided into divisions, with the season running from May to September.



DEPARTMENT/BOARD NEWS

Building Department. Zoning, building, electrical and mechanical **permit applications** must be obtained prior to the start of work. Applications (including **forms to register existing outdoor furnaces**) are available on the Township website and at the Township Hall.

Fire and Rescue. Every second counts during a fire or medical emergency. During the recent snow storm, numerous reflective signs were covered by snow. With

warmer weather soon to be upon us, please give consideration to the placement of your home’s **reflective address sign**. Signs mounted on the lower part of the mailbox post or on a short post next to a drive are not visible following heavy snowfalls and may be obscured by plantings during the growing season. If you don’t have a sign and would like to order one, a form may be printed from the Fire Department page on the Township website, obtained from the Fire Station or picked up at the Township Hall.

Museum. The Museum will be open May through October on the 2nd Saturday (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) and Sunday (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) A special event will be offered each weekend the Museum is open. A schedule of events will be published in the next newsletter and posted on the website once complete. Access to the Museum during other times may be arranged by contacting the curator.

Ordinance Enforcement. Ordinance issues, except building code or zoning violations, should be referred directly to the Ordinance Enforcer (217-0291). Building code or zoning violations should be referred to the Building Department (382-3366).

Planning Commission. The Commission continues its work to complete the required Land Use Plan review slated for completion in 2013. The 2009 survey responses are being factored into this review.

The Commission is completing its review and rewrite of the Township’s sign ordinance. A public hearing on the proposed sign ordinance amendment will be held once a draft has been approved by the Commission; the draft will be available for review on the Township website.







VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer Firefighters. An application is located on the Fire & Rescue page of the Township website.

Volunteers. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed for various projects. Become involved! Meet your neighbors! Earn community service hours! Lend a hand!

Contacts:

-  **Cemeteries.** Garilyn Sportel-Bogard (382-3366)
-  **Museum.** Brian Smith (217-3247)
-  **Park.** Jack Landon (382-0765)
-  **Recycling.** Ron Feniger (381-8478)