

Wright Township News

Wrighttownship.com

Winter 2011

From the Supervisor

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP BOARD

SUPERVISOR: JOANN BECKER
CLERK: LINDA WAY
TREASURER: TRACY WORRELL
TRUSTEE: RICK SCHOENBORN
TRUSTEE: JOSH WESTGATE

CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: 677-3048
FAX: 677-3046
EMAIL: WRIGHTTOWNSHIP@
OCWRIGHTTWP.ORG

MAILING ADDRESS

PO BOX 255
MARNE, MI 49435

STREET ADDRESS

1565 JACKSON ST.
MARNE, MI 49435

ON THE WEB

WRIGHTTOWNSHIP.COM
MIOTTAWA.ORG

POSTED OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY, THURSDAY
9AM-1PM
ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT

ASSESSOR: MONDAY 5:30PM-7PM

STEVE HANSEN

MEETING CALENDAR

BOARD MEETINGS:

MONTHLY/2ND WEDNESDAY

PLANNING MEETINGS:

MONTHLY/3RD MONDAY

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

UPON REQUEST/4TH MONDAY

Greetings,

Some are aware that I am resigning as Supervisor effective December 31. This difficult decision comes after my husband suffered two heart attacks, underwent quadruple by-pass surgery - all within 10 months of serious back surgery. The new Supervisor will be appointed by the remaining Board Members. This will be quite a change for me after serving the people of Wright for over 27 years.

I was born and raised just outside Coopersville. My dad's family roots go back to the early settlement of Coopersville and my mom's roots, the Berlin (Marne) area. I attended Coopersville Schools for 13 years, graduated and secured a job in a Grand Rapids office and attended classes at GRJC and Davenport.

After discovering Hawaii first hand on vacation, I decided to move to the Islands where I worked for the Hawaii Insurance Rating Bureau and Hawaii Visitors Bureau while attending classes at the University of Hawaii. I volunteered for the GSO, an organization that involved organizing and participating in activities supporting all branches of the military as well as visits with the Viet Nam War wounded. I met my future husband on the USS Cochrane, a guided missile destroyer stationed at Pearl Harbor. We married and our first daughter was born at Tripler Army Hospital dubbed "The Big Pink Elephant" because of its color and size.

After Jim's tour of duty was completed, we settled in Wright, had a second daughter and remain in the same home as this is a great neighborhood. My township involvement began as I was invited to serve on various committees and then to run for position of Trustee. So it began. I served as Trustee for 12 years, Treasurer for 4 years, and 11 years as Supervisor. I also have served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Wright - Tallmadge Fire Board, and in many other positions involving the wider community. (I was the last Treasurer to collect taxes from my home - we have experienced much equipment updating at the office with more coming along.)

The Township continues to partner with Marne Lions, Marne American Legion, Berlin Fair Assn., W-T Fire Dept, Boy Scouts, Sand Creek Group, individuals and area business to make improvements to the Marne area such as the Veteran's Memorial Park, Cole Park, and celebrations such as Memorial Day Parade and the great Halloween Party hosted by the Fire Dept. I want to again express thanks and appreciation for the continued dedication of all involved including the Township Board Members, Deputies and Assistants.

One memory which will always be a high point is our trip to our Friendship City, Marne, Germany, made possible by our Goodwill Ambassador, Gerhard Theophile and his hometown friends.

Again, it has been a pleasure serving you. The friendships forged on many levels are what I will miss the most. I urge you to become involved in your local grass-roots government in some capacity.

Have a Blessed Christmas & a Very Good New Year,

JoAnn Becker

From the Clerk

2012 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY FEBRUARY 28, 2012

On February 28, 2012, Michigan will hold its Presidential Primary. You may wonder why you have to vote for President more than once. Why can't we just go to the polls in November and be done with it. What is so important about the Presidential Primaries?

First: Primary election campaigns are the main way voters get to know about all the candidates. During the primaries, voters get to hear from several Republican and Democratic candidates, plus the candidates of other parties.

Second: The primaries play a key role in shaping the final platforms of the major candidates in the November 6, 2012 election. If a weaker candidate drops out of the race but succeeded in winning a substantial number of votes, there is a good chance that some aspects of his or her platform will be formally adopted by their party.

Third: Primary elections are another avenue through which we can take part in the process of choosing our leaders. While this is a costly process, the primaries continue to be a vital and important part of our American democratic process.

If you vote either by Absentee Ballot or go to the polls, you will be required to choose a ballot for Republican or Democrat or possibly a third party and then go into the privacy of the polling booth and vote your candidate.

You can vote in the privacy of your own home by requesting an Absentee Ballot application from the Clerk.

Linda Way, Wright Township Clerk

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2012

Please keep this handy for future reference.



February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary (Michigan, Arizona, South Carolina)

May 8, 2012 School Election

August 7, 2012 State of Michigan Primary

November 6, 2012 State of Michigan General Election



January 30, 2012 Last date to register for presidential primary.

April 7, 2012 Last day to register for school Election

May 15, 2012 By 4:00 p.m., partisan and nonpartisan candidates (other than judicial candidates) file nominating petitions and Affidavit of Identity for the August Primary

July 9, 2012 Last day to register for August primary

From the Treasurer

Winter Tax Collection Dates:

The winter tax bill is sent out December 1, 2011 and is payable, starting December 1, 2011 through February 14, 2012 without penalty or interest at the Wright Township Office. Beginning February 15, 2012, a 2% penalty will be added. On March 1, 2011 and after, all Winter real taxes must be paid at the County Treasurer. A 4% administrative fee and 1% interest per month will be applied to the delinquent taxes when paid at the county.

Important notice to homeowners with a mortgage:

Each property owner is ultimately responsible for their property tax. Please check to see if you are coded for a mortgage company on your tax bill. If you have an escrow account and this tax bill includes a bank code and name, we have billed your mortgage company. If there is no mortgage number on your bill, your bill has not been sent to your mortgage company. Therefore, enclose one copy of this tax bill with your next mortgage payment. Verification of paid taxes can be made by contacting your mortgage company or the township.

My new office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm. I will also be available from 9am to 5pm on Tuesday December 27, 2011, Tuesday February 14, 2012 and Wednesday February 29, 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer.

Should you have any questions regarding your taxes, please call me at 677-3048, email me at treasurer@ocwrighttp.org or stop by the Township office on

Tuesdays or Thursdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Check out our updated website at www.wrighttownship.com

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION CREATED

Thanks to David Despres and Mary Alt, Wright now has an official Historical Commission! The newly appointed Members are: Mary Alt, David Despres, Linda Triick, Betty Brown, Connie DeLeeuw, Gary Karr and Barbara Saunier. It is so important to preserve and compile historical information. If you have photos, items or stories you would like to submit, or if you could help with this endeavor, please call Mary Alt – 677-5404 or the Township.

GRAND RAPIDS SEWER USERS

You may qualify for some financial assistance – Call ACSET at 336-4180 to set up an appointment for qualifying screening. ACSET is located at 215 Straight Ave NW, G.R.



**Annual
Wright Township
Halloween Party
Held
Monday October
31, 2011**



Costume Contest Judges

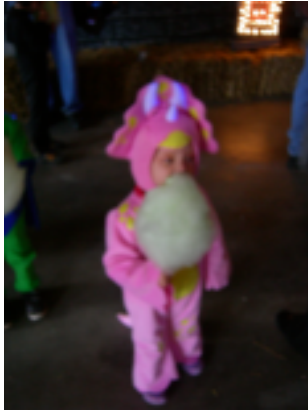


**Big Thanks to the
Marne Lions Club,
Wright-Tallmadge
Fire Department
and all the volun-
teers who made
this event possible!**



More pictures on the following page

More Pictures from 2011 Halloween Party



Check out our updated website at www.wrighttownship.com

HOME SECURITY

If you will be out of town for a period of time, you may fill out a form and submit to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Dept. asking for a regular property check when you are away. Call or come to Office for the form which is submitted to the Sheriff's Dept.

BURN PERMITS

Just a reminder – if you are planning to burn large piles of brush, etc., - Call the Fire Dept for a permit at **677-1610**

NEED A REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN SO FIRE, EMERGENCY CAN IDENTIFY YOU?

100% reflective aluminum (size 6" x 18") for \$15.00. Call or stop by the Township Office for an order form.

ROAD COMMITTEE

Without any current voted millage, and with very limited funds for Ottawa County Road Commission, it would be good to again reassemble a ROAD COMMITTEE to consider if a road millage for improvements is warranted and desired by Wright residents. If interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Supervisor at 677-3048.



Pillars of Honor

The Veterans Headstone Dedication Service for Union Soldiers of the Civil War was held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Marne Cemetery on Hayes Street.

This ceremony works with the John A. Logan Camp 1 Sons of Union Veterans of Grand Rapids to hold a very solemn and dignified service to honor, specifically **unmarked graves** of Union veterans of the Civil War.

More pictures and information on www.wrighttownship.com



We extend a special thank you to the Marne American Legion Post #376, whose benevolence saw to the payment for time and materials, in placing the new headstones, and to Ben Looks, Sexton of the Wright Township who oversaw their placement.

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PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATING ZONING ORDINANCE

Wright Planning Commissioners are currently looking at the zoning ordinance to see if there are areas which may need to be updated or changed. If you have some ideas for changes, your insights will be welcomed by submitting in writing, or verbally at a meeting for consideration.

DONATE YOUR OLD CELL PHONE AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Your cell phone can be programmed to only dial 911 to help the Sheriff's Dept. provide emergency communication to seniors or victims of abuse in our community.

REMINDER: If you plan to do any diggings or earth change **call 811** – to come out to mark any utilities for free.

EVER WANTED TO SERVE ON A BOARD OR A COMMISSION? If you are interested, you may complete an application to submit to the Township for consideration.. Call Office for any further information.

Check out our updated website at www.wrighttownship.com