

Check out our website:
www.gainestownship.org

**Working Together to
Preserve Family Values.**

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Supervisor's News

Don R. Hilton Sr., Supervisor

"Open For Business"

No, I am not referring to the times when you can conduct business at the Township offices; I am referring to the variety of businesses throughout the Township that offer each of us the opportunity to shop, enjoy entertainment or dine at our favorite restaurant.

The amenities offered in Gaines Charter Township are numerous. Take an evening walk along a tree lined street in the Cutlerville area or along the recently completed Division Avenue corridor and enjoy the beautifully lighted walkway. A host of opportunities exist around the M-6 interchange at Kalamazoo Avenue all within walking distance from that location. The Dutton area provides a very unique characteristic to the Township. All of these distinct locations create a sense of community providing us with businesses that cater to our needs. During that evening walk we have ample opportunities to purchase an ice cream cone, a hot dog or a hamburger and a soda.



Our business community deserves our business.

I respect the fact these entrepreneurs chose to open their business to gain a profit; that is a given but let's look at it a bit differently. They are also providing jobs for our community. I realize that some of our businesses do not sell their goods locally. They may be manufacturing a product that is marketed across the country, however, they all have one thing in common: they pay taxes that help support our community, schools, public safety, parks/trails, road infrastructure, just to name a few. Unfortunately, if we do not support our businesses they have no choice but to hang out a closed sign and the amenities that vibrant businesses create will disappear. Let's do all we can to prevent that from happening.



Thanks to our business leaders most of our needs can be met within walking distance or at a minimum a short drive from our respective homes allowing us to conserve energy and protect the environment. Unfortunately, the downturn in the economy has not only taken a toll on each of us but on many of our businesses as well. Each time we leave our homes and head out to do our shopping, enjoy a meal at one of our many restaurants, to enjoy an evening of entertainment,



pause for a moment: let's think locally first. If we enjoy the advantage of making our purchases close to home then it is up to each of us to support our local business owners by demonstrating our appreciation for their commitment to the Gaines community that they are "open for our business".

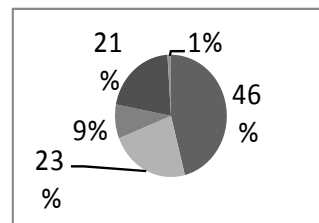


Treasurer's Notes

Laurie Lemke, Treasurer

Do you know where your tax dollars are being spent? In Gaines Charter Township we have three school districts,

Kentwood, Caledonia and Byron Center, My responsibility as Treasurer is to collect your property taxes and then in turn pay the taxing authorities for our township. Your summer tax dollars are spent this way: Your School District – approximately 46%, Kent Intermediate School District 23%, Grand Rapids Community College 9%, Kent County 21%, and Gaines Township 1%.



You may qualify to defer these summer taxes until February 14, 2010 and pay them with your winter tax bill if you meet these requirements. Your household income from the previous year was less than \$40,000 and you qualify under one of the following classifications: Blind Person, Eligible Service Person, Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower, Paraplegic or Quadriplegic, Senior Citizen (age 62 or older) or totally and permanently disabled. If you qualify and would like to defer your taxes please stop by or call my office for a form.

I have been appointed to serve on three committees. One is **Parks and Recreation**, if you haven't yet please come and enjoy our Prairie Wolf Park, this is a lovely natural area surrounding by trees and rolling hills along with a historical barn and paved as well as natural walking trails. **South Metro Fire Council**, this involves three area fire departments including Dutton, Caledonia and Thornapple Townships. These departments work with each other to deliver to you cost-effective and efficient emergency services involving equipment, training and coordinated response to emergency incidents. **Building & Grounds**, we at Gaines Township have been loaned a beautiful collection of framed and mounted butterflies from around the globe. They are the collection of the late Earl Hoke and will be on display soon in our lower level.

Foreclosures can be set in motion with just one missed mortgage payment. There is **FREE help** for you! Go to www.holdontoyourhome.org or just call 211. You'll get free, confidential, certified help in a private meeting with certified counselors. This service will help you hold on to your home today and protect your financial standing for tomorrow.

Clerk's Corner

Crystal Osterink, Clerk

Elections update:

By the time you are reading this article, the only 2009

scheduled election for Gaines Township will have come and gone. It is quite a change from 2008 when we conducted 4 elections, one having the largest turnout ever in the history of the Township. On the election front, the Kent County Clerk's organization is very actively promoting several initiatives that we believe will make voting "easier" for you. Chief among them is "No reason Absentee Voting". Basically, if the legislature agrees, **any** qualified voter would be able to request an absentee ballot from their local clerk's office. We believe this would be a benefit for all voters, especially during elections in which you would anticipate waiting times. In addition, it also gives everyone the advantage of being able to take as much time voting as they like in the privacy of their own home. **Stay tuned** for news about this as well as other election initiatives on the state level.



Fire Department

Chief Russ Jansen, Cutlerville and Dutton Fire Departments



Greetings from all of us at the Cutlerville and Dutton Fire Departments. As we transition into warmer weather there are several important reminders we would like to share with you:

- **Smoke and CO Detectors.** Check the batteries and test them on a regular basis. Please call the fire department if you need help with either device or if you have any questions.
- **Street Numbers.** Make sure that they are easy to read, reflective, and so they are identifiable from either direction on both sides of your mail box. If you live on a **private drive** your address number should be located at the street entrance, driveway entrance, and on the house. Leave no room for confusion!
- **Burning.** Please call if you want to burn any brush. Cutlerville residents can call **616-455-7670**. Dutton residents please call **616-299-6055**. Dutton and Cutlerville residents for evenings/weekends please call **616-299-6055**. If conditions are safe I am happy to issue a verbal burning permit.



The Dutton Fire Department would like to say "Thank You" to all who attended the Annual Pancake Breakfast on April 18th. With the help of their supporters the Department raised almost **\$1,100** after expenses and a great time was had by all who attended.

The Fire Departments will also be participating in several upcoming events throughout the summer and fall, such as: Cutlerville Days, Dutton Days, Spectrum Health Safety Day, and the Annual Fire Prevention Week. During Fire Prevention Week, in early October, the Departments visit area schools with the "Smoke House" to teach children about fire safety.

Also, Chief Jansen is always looking for input on how the Departments can better serve the community. If you have some thoughts, stop by one of the Departments, email Russ at duttonfire@yahoo.com, or call one of the Departments.

Assessor's Office

Kelley Ziesemer, Township Assessor

Here are a few statistics from the Assessor's office:

Total properties in Gaines:

2009	8194
1 year ago	8146
5 years ago	6959
10 years ago	5681



Average Value (based on 2x AV) of a home in Gaines:

2009	\$176,904	(88,452 AV	85,383 TV	97% ratio AV-TV)
1 year ago	\$185,634	(92,817 AV	87,489 TV	94% ratio AV-TV)
5 years ago	\$182,228	(91,114 AV	80,125 TV	88% ratio AV-TV)

Breakdown of Property Types:

- 85% Residential
- 1% Agricultural
- 11% Commercial, industrial, and personal
- 3% Exempt

School Districts:

- Kentwood: 51% of the properties, 49% of the value
- Caledonia: 29% of the properties, 35% of the value
- Byron Center: 20% of the properties, 16% of the value

Total 2009 State Equalized Value:

\$851,403,700

Upcoming Community Events:

Annual Cutlerville Community Days:

The Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its Annual Cutlerville Community Days Event beginning on **June 13th**. Come out and join in the fun. The Diemer 5K Race and 5K Fun Walk will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. All-day events include a craft



show, a classic & custom car show, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, rides and games for all ages to enjoy, lots of live entertainment, and to wrap-up the day a fantastic fireworks display. This year's parade will begin at approximately 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. and will run westward on

68th St. starting at Eastern Ave. and finishing in the South Christian High School Parking lot and Cutler Park. Check out the Chamber of Commerce website for more details and entry forms:

www.cutlervillechamber.org.



Dutton Days:

The Dutton community and some of the local businesses will once again be sponsoring the Annual Dutton Days Event to be held on Saturday, June 27th from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm in the heart of beautiful downtown Dutton. This year there will also be a community wide church service held on Sunday, June 28th at 10:00 am. There is a **long list of fun and festivities** to enjoy at this year's event. Bring the whole family for a great time!

For more information, if you are interested in volunteering, or are willing to help with sponsorship of the event please contact Mike or Vicki Schmidt at vschmidt@kentland.com or call 616-698-8610.



Working Together to Preserve our Family Values

Gaines Library News

Michelle Boisvenue-Fox, Branch Manager

There are many summer events being offered at the Library and they include:
Family Storytime: every Tuesday from June 23-August 11 at 10:30 am

Ruff Readers: every Monday from July 6-July 27 at 6:30 pm. Read to a dog to increase your reading confidence! For ages 6 and up. Registration Required.

SRC starts on Monday June 8 and ends Saturday August 15: The Library will be at Cutlerville Days on Saturday, June 13 to sign up kids for the Summer Reading Club. Stop by our booth for fun, prizes and your summer reading logs. All **programs for kids** are on Wed. are at 1:30 pm.

- Wed. June 17 KDL Puppet Show
- Wed. June 24 Art Attack
- Wed. July 8 John Ball Zoo
- Wed. July 15 Make and Take (Early Literacy)
- Wed. July 22 Basketweaving
- Wed. July 29 Tom Plunked Magician
- Wed. Aug. 5 Musical Instrument Making
- Wed. Aug. 12 Comedian Joel Tacey

Chess Club: meets weekly from 4-6 pm. For all ages. Learn to play or come to play.

Lego Extravaganza: August 1-26. Young architects of all ages are invited to submit an original Lego creation for display at the Library. Reception is Aug 26 at 1:30 pm.

Teen programs:

- Tues. June 16 Trash to treasure 3 pm
- Thurs. June 25 Ice Coffee making 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, June 30 Guitar Hero 3 pm
- Tuesday, July 7 Henna 3 pm
- Tues. July 14 Empty Bowls Pottery 6 pm
- Tues July 21 Creative Cooking 3 pm
- Tues July 28 Liz Langenberg Crafts 3 pm
- Tues Aug. 4 Ice cream Social 3 pm
- Tues. Aug. 11 Nintendo Wii 3 pm

Anime Club: the first Thursday of every month from 4-5 pm. Check our website for activities..

Knitting Club: meets on Fridays and Saturdays (see dates below). A volunteer is available on Saturdays to help people learn to knit. Supplies included. For all ages.

June: Friday, June 5 | Saturday, June 13 | Friday, June 19 | Saturday, June 27

July: Friday, July 3 | Saturday, July 11 | Friday, July 17 | Saturday, July 25 | Friday, July 31

August: Saturday, Aug 8 | Friday, Aug 14 | Saturday, Aug 22 | Friday, Aug 28

Book Discussion Group: See the library for copies. Meets at 1 pm.

- June 10: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver
- July 8: *Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- August 12: *Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis

Parks and Recreation Committee

(Continued) so at times he looked like the Pied Piper (Thank you, Gary!). The Parks & Rec Committee also thanks the following groups for participating in the

event and sharing information about opportunities with their organizations: West Michigan Trails and Greenways, the Master Naturalist Program, the Kentwood Women's Club. We also thank **US Golf Cars** for partnering with Gaines Charter Township in the use of golf cars for this special event. This annual event continues to **grow community interest**, perhaps because of the "one of a kind" uniqueness offered in this beautiful park.



June

8th	Township Board	7:00 pm
10th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm
22nd	Township Board - <i>Workshop Meeting</i>	7:00 pm
25th	Planning Commission	7:00 pm

July

3rd	Offices Closed for July 4th	All day
6th	Parks and Recreation	11:30 am
8th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm
13th	Township Board	7:00 pm
23rd	Planning Commission	7:00 pm

August

10th	Township Board	7:00 pm
12th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm
27th	Planning Commission	7:00 pm

Important Phone Numbers

Dutton Fire	911	(616) 541-0019
Cutlerville Fire	911	(616) 455-7670
Sheriff Substation	911	(616) 632-6490
Kent County Road Commission	Road Repairs/ Dead Animals/ Snow plowing	(616) 242-6900
Consumers Energy	Street lighting	(800) 477-5050
Gaines Library		(616) 647-3870
Township Offices	Phone (616) 698-6640	Fax (616) 698-2490
Byron-Gaines Utility Authority		(616) 971-0002