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www.gainestownship.org

**Working Together to
Preserve Family Values.**

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Supervisor's News

Don R. Hilton Sr., Supervisor

Being "GREEN" before being "GREEN" was cool.

Nearly every day we hear and read a considerable amount of information related to **GREEN technology**. There are many aspects related to energy conservation and protecting the environment that many of us take for granted. If you would allow me to walk you down memory lane for a few moments I would like to take you back in to recent history, let's see, how about 65 or 75 years ago, let's let our minds wander back to our childhood home or maybe to our Grandparents house.

If you grew up on a farm or had the opportunity to visit a farm you may remember conservation practices that were a way of life. Electricity was just becoming prevalent in that era but prior to that time many customs mirror **GREEN** ideas being advocated today. During that era an example of water conservation would have been a cistern. A cistern is an underground holding tank that normally was situated in a location to capture and store rainwater from the roof of a building generally from the house. Occasionally this tank was connected to a toilet but normally it was only used to provide the captured rainwater, which was then pumped with a small hand pump referred to as a pitcher-pump, for household use. Every farm had a windmill, a few still dot the countryside as a reminder of the past. The main function of the farm windmill was to harness the wind to pump water for the farm livestock and the farm family. Monday mornings meant laundry day, after the clothes were washed they were hung outside on a line to dry. In the winter came the smell of burning wood used to heat the home, many homes had a wood cook stove that also contained a water reservoir. When the stove was in use to cook the family meals it was also providing hot water. Typically, many families maintained a vegetable garden that provided enough products for summer eating with the remainder often preserved by placing the product, after it was properly prepared, in sealed jars to be used later. On my parents farm we had a few dairy cows, pigs and chickens, consequently my Father raised much of the meat that was needed by our family. They also raised several acres of apples, pears and peaches. Needless to say we also enjoyed plenty of homegrown fruit; it was not unusual for my Mother to can as many as two hundred jars of peaches each fall, what a treat during the winter months.

By now I am sure you are seeing the picture. Much of what I just described was based on renewable resources. When electricity became more prevalent many of these types of practices changed. Within less than a century we have found that we need to find ways to conserve energy and look for **ways to protect the environment**. Some of the ways being advocated include harnessing the wind to

generate electricity, purchasing home appliances that reduce the amount of electric to operate them. My wife and I recently purchased a washing machine that actually determines the amount of water needed to wash a load of clothes and also spins more water out thus reducing the amount of time they have to be in the dryer, no clothesline anymore.

Planting rain gardens and trees is another way to beautify your home while protecting the environment. Many people are planting vegetable gardens, many times cooperating with other neighbors making it a fun summer project. We have many farm markets in the Township, what better way to purchase fresh home grown products if you are unable to grow them yourself?

Recently I toured an Ethanol manufacturing plant. In this operation Ethanol is being produced from shelled corn, the technology they are using requires less energy to produce a gallon of Ethanol than is required to produce a gallon of gasoline. After the Ethanol is extracted from the corn the corn is then ground and formulated into balanced feed product and sold back to livestock farmers for animal feed, another renewable resource. *(continued on page 3)*

Clerk's Corner

Crystal Osterink, Clerk

In a recent issue of a publication we receive here at the Township offices, a little statement caught

my eye: **"Standing anywhere in the state of Michigan a person is within 85 miles of one of the Great Lakes"**. How often do we realize what an amazing state we live in? Of course, we cannot ignore the economic situation that surrounds us but let's not forget the beauty as well. How many of those who have left our state for employment elsewhere would be back as soon as possible if they could? Where else could you stand on the shores of one of the Great Lakes within an hour and a half or less of driving in your car? In what other state do you see the diverse natural beauty that we have within our two peninsulas?



Need proof? All you have to do is drive through our own Gaines Charter Township and really look around to appreciate some of that beauty. I don't know about you but I'm **"Smitten with the Mitten"**-
www.michiganawesome.org.

Election News: Earlier this year I had the privilege of being on a committee that was called together by the Secretary of State to look at ways the election process in Michigan could be improved (modernized). I'm happy to say that we, as your municipal clerks, are doing a great job of holding elections. A couple of the hot topic items were "military and overseas voting" and "maintaining the most accurate voting registration lists possible". Many good suggestions were made to improve on these as well as other areas to make our election process even more streamlined without losing any of its security.

Treasurer's Notes

Laurie Lemke, Treasurer

The summer tax due date was September 14th. If you haven't yet paid your taxes they still can be paid at the Town-

ship Offices. There is a 1% interest charge each month they are overdue, just give myself or my deputy Diane Randall a call to get the final amount due. We will be happy to assist you in any way we can including setting up a payment plan if needed. Your winter tax bills will be in the mail the first week of December.

A question I am often asked is "When will Gaines be going to one annual tax bill"? At this time we will continue to bill your taxes in two increments, summer and winter. We collect 1/2 of the school debt, Jail, Senior Citizen, Library and Township millages in the winter. This bill should be approximately 1/4 of your summer bill.

There are many websites that are great to help assist in answering financial questions. Some of my favorites are creditkarma.com where you can quickly and easily get your credit score. At dinkytown.net you will have access to a complete set of financial calculations for income taxes, mortgage loans, credit cards and more. But my favorite helpful website is gainestownship.org. Here you can look up your tax bill and the history of your property values. You can pay your tax bill online and find a host of other township news and agendas!

We at Gaines Township are delighted with the [Hoke butterfly exhibit](#) that is now open in our lower level. This exhibit includes over 164 framed cases of butterflies from around the globe. They are available for viewing during regular business hours Monday – Friday 8:30 to 5:00 PM. Come and see this beautiful and fascinating display of nature!



Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. It brings us football, the changing colors, apple picking in [Prairie Wolf Park](#), visiting area farmers markets and one of my favorite fall activities cooking. I would like to close by sharing one of my favorite fall recipes that is quick and easy and one that your family is sure to love!



Crock Pot Pork Loin

4 pound Pork Loin Roast
1 Can of Apple Pie Filling
Barbecue Sauce (any kind)

Place roast into a crock pot, season with salt & Pepper. Pour the pie filling and sauce over the top. Bake on low for 8 hours. [Enjoy!](#)

Water and Sewer Department

If you are looking for information about your utility bill look it up online. Through the Township Website, www.gainestownship.org,

you can find information regarding utility bill information and bill payment services, but there is additional information from other Township departments available as well. You can also find additional information about your property: assessing information, building permit records, historical utility bills, property tax information, and property tax payment services can all be found online.

If you make a payment for utilities (or taxes) with your credit card online please be aware that some additional charges will apply. You will also want to make sure that you enter the proper payment amount so that you do not incur any late charges or penalties.

We hope that you will also make use of the website to look at the Township's Water and Sewer Ordinance and the Schedule of Rates & Charges for the Utility system.

If you have questions or want further information about you Water and Sewer System please contact Jan Boone, Water & Sewer Administrator or Jeff Gritter, Township Engineer.

Planner's Corner

Brian Tingley, Planning Director

Since the last newsletter came out in April, the Planning Department has continued its work on the preparation of a new [Parks and Recreation Plan](#), which will allow the Township to continue to be eligible

to seek grant money through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The MNRTF requires the Township to have an adopted 5-year Plan on file in order to be eligible for grants. As one part of the public input process, the Township prepared and distributed a survey in the May 5, 2009 edition of the *Southeast* and *Southwest Advance Newspapers*, as well as at various community events. The Township received approximately 80 surveys in return and the information contained in those surveys will be used to help shape the new Plan. **The Township also plans on hosting a series of Community Open Houses during the fall where the public will be able to view a draft version of the new Plan and offer additional comments.** Thanks to all those who returned a survey and watch for announcements related to the Community Open Houses.

The Planning Department provides staff support to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. We are always willing to discuss with residents the roles that these two public bodies play in the Township. In addition, we would love to talk with any resident who may be interested in serving on these bodies in the future.

Lastly, as a reminder, the Planning Department is now linking its Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Site Plan Review Committee staff reports to the agendas that are found on the Township website. With a simple click, residents will now be able to read the staff reports approximately one week before the meeting date. We feel that making the staff reports available on the website would allow for yet another opportunity for the public to become educated about the items prior to the meeting date. Although full agenda packets are not yet available for viewing on the website, we hope this is the first step towards that process.

If you have any questions about any of these items please contact the Planning Department at brian.tingley@gainestownship.org or megan.sharp@gainestownship.org.

Fire Department

Chief Russ Jansen, Cutlerville and Dutton Fire Departments

The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) will be promoting [Fire Prevention](#)

Week 2009 October 4th-10th. The NFPA has chosen "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" as this year's theme.



Testing the water before putting a child in the bath, wearing short sleeves when cooking, and other simple actions may be all it takes to prevent devastating burns. Fire Prevention Week 2009 focuses on burn awareness and prevention, as well as keeping homes safe from fire. There are many useful tips and a wealth of safeguarding information on their website, www.nfpa.org or at www.firepreventionweek.org.

The Dutton and Cutlerville Firefighters would like to thank everyone that donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association "Fill the Boot Campaign" on August 29th. The firefighters volunteered their time and were able to collect around \$6,000 in donations!

Reminder: if you want to burn any brush you will need a burn permit. If conditions are right for burning I will happily issue a verbal permit. Cutlerville residents can call 616-455-7670, for Dutton and evenings/weekends please call 616-299-6055.



Got a question? Give us a call at 616-698-6640.

Gaines Library News

Michelle Boisvenue-Fox, Branch Manager

This Fall @ the Library

The Gaines Public Library offers many wonderful opportunities for fun and learning. Below you will find a complete listing of what is being offered for [this Fall](#):

FOR KIDS

- Laptime/Storytime: Wednesdays, Sept. 9th — Oct. 28th at 10 am
- Come and see What's in the Sea: Wednesday, Nov. 4th at 10 am
- Fire Truck visit: Oct. 21st at 10 am
- Pumpkin carving: Monday, Oct. 26th at 6:30 pm ([Bring your own pumpkin](#))
- Toys Swap: Saturday, Nov. 7th from 2 — 4 pm ([See library for details](#))
- Gingerbread houses: Saturday, Dec. 19th at 2 pm
- Books and Play: Nov. 11th, 18th, and 25th at 10 am

FOR TEENS

- Anime club (for grades 6 — 12): Thursdays from 4 — 5 pm. (Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3)

FOR ALL AGES

- Chess Club: Tuesdays from 4 — 6 pm

FOR ADULTS

- Knitting Club: Saturdays from 10 — 12 pm (Sept. 12, Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17, Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Nov. 21)
- Book Group: Wednesdays at 1 pm ([Contact the library for a copy](#))
- Sept. 9th: Nineteen Minutes / Jodi Picoult
- Oct. 14th: Maisie Dobbs / Jacqueline Winspear
- Nov. 11th: Glass Castle / Jeanette Walls
- Dec. 9th: Read a book by Bill Bryson
- Book Club Mixer: Saturday, Nov. 14th from 1 — 3 p m
- Beginner Computer Classes: Sept. — Nov. on Mondays & Tuesdays from 1 — 3 pm ([Registration Required at 647-3870](#))



Don't Forget: The Library has a great selection of audio books (online and in stock), DVDs, videos, and computer games for all ages and interests.



Upcoming Community Events at Township Offices:

- **Spectrum Health Visiting Nurses Association:** Will be holding a flu/pneumonia immunization clinic on Oct. 13, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$30.00. For more details see the Gaines Township website or call VNA @ 616-486-3050.
- **Leaf Collection:** Leaf drop-off dates for this year will be Oct. 23rd, 24th, 30th, & 31st and Nov. 6th, & 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residents only please!
- **CPR Training:** Heartbeat, LLC. will be offering free CPR & First Aid Instruction for Township residents on Saturday, Nov. 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please call Jenni at 616-698-6640 to register.

October

5th	Parks and Recreation	11:30 am
12th	Township Board	7:00 pm
14th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm
22nd	Planning Commission	7:00 pm

November

9th	Township Board	7:00 pm
11th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm
22nd	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
26th & 27th	Closed for the Holiday	All Day

December

9th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm
14th	Township Board	7:00 pm
17th	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
24th	Closed 1/2 Day for the Holiday	12:00 –5:00 pm
25th	Closed for the Holiday	All Day
31st	Closed for the Holiday	All Day

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	1-800-477-5050
Gaines Public Library		(616) 647-3870
Township Offices	Phone (616) 698-6640	Fax (616) 698-2490
Byron/Gaines Utility Authority		(616) 971-0002