



Ira Township ~ Established 1837

FALL/WINTER 2022

*7085 Meldrum Road
Fair Haven, MI 48023*

SUPERVISOR

My Dear Fellow Township Residents,

I hope this Fall Newsletter finds you all well!

This has been a very busy summer here in Ira, we here in the office have been very busy with the task of forming a wastewater / sewer authority to take over the jointly owned sewer plant that is owned by us along with Clay Township and the City of Algonac. The St. Clair County DPS has ran this plant for our three communities since its inception back in the early 1970's. Last February 15th, we received a letter stating the county DPS was disbanding and we as a group needed to form an authority to handle the plant and daily operations. We have been working very diligently to form this authority with our neighboring communities to get this done and are extremely confident we are progressing in the right direction to continue serving our current needs as well as looking into the future needs here in Ira Township.

Growth continues out at 26 Mile and County Line roads in our industrial park too. County Line Properties is building another 60,000 square feet of new buildings on that site, these buildings will be of the same style and aesthetics of the current buildings previously erected there. All the existing new buildings are currently occupied.

Speaking of industry in our Township, congratulations to the PTM Corporation for celebrating 50 years of being in business! PTM is one of our largest employers here in Ira and they are very deserving of this shout out! Keep up the great job that Mr. Charlie Russell started so many years ago.

We continue to improve on our infrastructure here in the Township. This year we saw an increase in cost for limestone on our gravel roads, but we still were able to stick to the plan with the County Road Commission to be able to do half the Township. We have been doing this each year by rotating the roads that we do each season.

In 2023, we will be replacing the large culvert and guardrail on Arnold Road between Meldrum and Church roads. This project is being done through the County Road Commission and with funds from the County Commissioners as well as some funding from us, this is a much-needed fix for safety of the motoring public. The large culvert at Broadbridge and Palms roads is being replaced this year as well, this intersection will have a larger, wider concrete pipe installed for safety and maneuvering on this corner.

Please support our small businesses in our Township whenever possible. They are the backbone of the community and offer great services as well.

If you reside in Ira Township and you'd like to sit on a Commission, please send a letter of interest to my office. We keep these on file for when a position does become available.

I wish you all a great fall and a happy upcoming Holiday season as well.

Jim Endres, Jr., Supervisor



CLERK

On November 8, 2022, the State General Election will be held. The polls will be open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm for all residents who would like to vote in-precinct. If you are voting in person at the precinct, please remember to remove any campaign buttons or cover up clothing which bears reference to a political party or interest group, campaign slogan or a candidate(s) name. Our experienced election inspectors will move you through the process as quickly as possible.

Absentee Ballots are available for all residents. To obtain an Absentee Ballot, a registered voter must first complete an Absent Voter Ballot Application which is available through the Clerk's office. After filling out the application, return it to the Township Clerk's office to be issued an absentee ballot.

State law does not allow one person to pick up a ballot for another person. If an individual returns an application for an absentee ballot on behalf of another, that ballot will be mailed to the voter.

The Township has a drop box for ballots located in the Township Hall parking lot and another drop box in the lobby of the Township Hall. When returning an absentee ballot by U.S. Mail, please use the pre-addressed inside envelope provided and place First Class Postage on that envelope.

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 5th from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm for in-person voter registration and absentee ballot requests. Voters registering to vote within 14 days of an election will be required to provide proof of residency. Sample ballots are available for review at the Township Hall and on our website. For more information on Voting Requirements, Absentee Ballots, Accessible Ballots and other election information, please go to our website at www.iratownship.org/clerk.

Jean Corbat, Clerk

TREASURER

To avoid getting out of your car in cold and slippery weather, all tax and/or utility bills and election materials can be deposited in the drop box in the parking lot. This box is checked daily and totally secure. For those who would like a receipt, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope or an email address and one will be sent. You are still welcome to bring your bills into the office.

Tom Lauer, Treasurer



TRUSTEE

Hello, as an Ira Twp Trustee and as mentioned in our last newsletter, I am working to assist in bringing broadband to areas of our township that do not have coverage. We did

receive a grant in the spring that will be utilized later this fall to bring coverage to some areas of Ira; along Arnold Road, 26 Mile & Palms and Hessen and Meldrum roads. Material and manpower shortages continue to affect and delay the start of the project; however, they're working diligently to initiate this plan.

There is also another grant which we are planning to apply for in order to continue extending coverage. Part of the success of the second grant relies on identifying areas of our township that do not have coverage and I'm asking for your help. If you currently do not have coverage, please call the Township Office @ 586.725.0263, and give them your name, address and phone number so we can create a map and plan for future broadband development. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to our continuing success in this endeavor.

Stella Ruhlman, Trustee

PARKS & RECREATION

I would like to start off with great appreciation for all our generous Sponsors and Contributors! Your generous support shows a strong commitment in community and quality of life for our residents!

Volunteers are a great asset to our events and programs! This is a wonderful opportunity for community service hours for Scouts and Honor Students! Thank you for your participation throughout the year!

Improvements continue at our Municipal Park. This 25-acre parcel adjacent to the municipal offices may be entered either from Short Cut Road or from the Ira Township municipal parking lot. The site includes large and small pavilion, playscapes, picnic tables, grill and picnic areas, nature trails, cornhole, gaga ball, Butterfly Memorial

Garden and a 12 hole disc golf course. The nature trail walking path is well maintained and attractively traversed by Swan Creek. The path is available year-round.



Please note, motorized vehicles such as golf carts and ORV's are not allowed on our walking paths and trails.

Both are natural areas that we are trying to preserve. We have added signage to that effect. There are several benches and options for residents to enjoy. We have added a new roof on the large pavilion. We are reviewing new flooring options. We are adding the black rubber pellets to our swing sets. Total Life Changes, LLC has donated two accessible swings to Ira Park. Please remember to use our new pet waste disposal products while in the park. We are applying for a DNR Spark Grant for a Splash Pad in the Park! We are requesting Letters of Support from our community to include with our Grant Application.



We are also improving our Water Works Park located at the end of Waterworks Drive. This can be entered from Silver Pointe off Dixie Highway and is accessible by car, foot or bike. There is a beautiful gazebo and paved walking path. Seven parking spots are available, two are handicapped accessible. Our goal is to increase parking and add an accessible kayak launch.

We are requesting updates of Veterans names for our Monument in the Municipal Park. If you or a family member are aware of any Ira Township Veteran name that needs to be added to our Memorial, please contact me directly by email, cindy@iratownship.org.



The Disc Golf Course has had the greatest improvements this year! We have added 3 “Holes” (baskets and tee pads.) The baskets are Tournament Grade. A big Thank You to Donny Van Houte, Jay Moran, and all Disc Golf Volunteers for all of their efforts and hours working on the course. We will be scheduling an Intro to Disc Golf. This is an excellent way to spend time with family in the outdoors and enjoy the seasons! This sport is popular year-round, including several Tournaments. Disc Golf Hole Sponsorships are available for \$300 per hole. Thompson Phelan Group and the Alexis family have sponsored the first two holes. All sponsorship monies go towards course improvements.

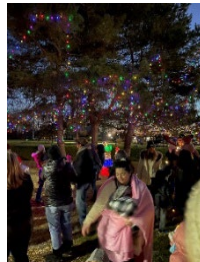
Painting and Craft classes are held year-round and offer an excellent form of recreation! Leisure Recreation includes Jane Weis Yellow Brush Paint Classes, Card Making with Nancy Sommers, Porch Signs, Beach Glass Jewelry and Sign Language. New classes are always welcome! Do you have a talent or hobby you can share with our residents? Let me show you how easy it is to set up a class!

Last October, we received a grant from USA Explore Archery for equipment for instruction. Classes started in May 2022. Come join our Outdoor Educator, USA Archery Level II Certified Archery Instructor, Amber Trombley for an Introduction to Competitive Archery. Learn beginner skills for shooting a traditional or compound

bow. Email cindy@iratownship.org for current class schedule or more details.



On Sunday, October 30th, we will host its annual Trick and Treat in the Trails from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm! We now have \$1 bracelet registration. This is an affordable way to provide us with a count for preparation and planning. Purchase your \$1 bracelet at the Ira Township Offices, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Besides the goodie trick and treat trail, we will offer Make and Take Scarecrows, light concessions, activities, and prizes. Volunteers are always welcome! This is the perfect event for Honor Society students and Scouts to earn extra credit for community service projects. Email cindy@iratownship.org for more details.



You are also invited to attend the Ira Township Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Municipal Park on Saturday, December 3rd, at 5:30 pm. Santa Claus will arrive by Fire Truck at 5:45 pm. We will assist Santa with goodie bag distribution and some fun activities. Hot Chocolate and Cookies will also be available. Community Service Groups and local businesses are welcome to join us and help “Light up the Park!” We would like to grow this event each year. Contact me with any suggestions and ideas at cindy@iratownship.org.

Looking ahead into 2023: Save the Date! Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, April 2, 2023!

See you in the Parks!
Cindy Babisz

BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Being that Wintertime prompts many new indoor projects, renovations, etc., we look forward to meeting with builders, contractors, and residents when they apply for permits. All are welcome to contact us with any questions and/or concerns regarding their project.

Reminder - Please make sure that all your outdoor water spickets are turned off. These should be turned off inside, to avoid any leaks that can turn into repairs (dripping and cold temperatures leading to water flooding or freezing), and/or increased water usage.

Mike Bommarito is our Building Official/Building Inspector. With over 35 years in the building industry and serving as the Building Official in other communities, his expertise and knowledge will help to ensure that whatever your project is - big or small - all will be completed properly.

Sue Howell is our Building Assistant. She is here to assist with all of your permit and inspection requirements. Please reach out to her, to inquire about permit applications, payment, and scheduling inspections at 586.725.0207.

Kurt Sengstock is our Code Enforcement Officer. Please make sure that your business, home, and grounds are in order, vehicles currently tagged, grass trimmed, and debris removed. Let's take pride in where we live. Please call 586.339.3967, with any questions or concerns.



DPS/WATER

As we leave summer boating and swimming behind, what can we be doing this fall to keep our rivers healthy and clean?



Everything that goes down a storm drain flows into our lakes and streams. Help keep our rivers, lakes clean.

What can I do to keep rainwater from carrying hazardous materials down a storm drain?

- **Sweep extra fertilizer, grass clippings, and dirt on your driveway back onto your lawn**
Hosing down your driveway sends these pollutants into storm drains that lead to lakes, streams, and beaches.
- **Only allow rain to go down the drain**
Never dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, leaves, dirty or soapy water, or anything else down the storm drain. All of these materials pollute our lakes and streams.
- **Label your storm drains**
Volunteer to label storm drains in your neighborhood to inform residents that storm drains flow directly to lakes and streams.

Contact your local community for more information on storm drain labeling programs.

Dirty water from car washing, leaky motor oil, and gasoline can wash from our driveways and roads into the storm drain or roadside ditch.

Which car care practices can be harmful?

- Washing your car in the driveway or on the street sends polluted wash water into waterways.
- Allowing continuous fluid leaks onto your driveway or street from your vehicle sends hazardous pollution into waterways.

How can I wash my car without harming our waterways?

- **Wash your car on the grass.** Washing your car and dumping wash water on the lawn allows the ground to filter wash water naturally.
- **Host car wash fundraisers at the car wash.** Commercial car washes are required to send wash water into the sanitary sewer where it can be properly treated.

How can I practice car care without harming our waterways?

- **Take your car to the shop for maintenance.**

Service centers have the ability to recycle used fluids and properly clean up accidental spills.
- **Safely dispose of used fluids if you change them yourself**

Take your used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids to your community's household hazardous waste collection day or to a business that accepts them. Never dump these fluids down the storm drain.

- **Stop drips**

Prevent fluid leaks from reaching paved surfaces. Check for leaks regularly and fix them promptly. Use ground cloths or drip pans to capture leaks until you can get them fixed.

Ira's DPS will continue the Sanitary Influent and Infiltration Program. The purpose of this program is to eliminate sources of rain and ground

water from entering the sanitary sewer system. This allows us to maintain an efficient and cost-effective sanitary sewer collection system.

Common sources of unacceptable infiltration are sump pumps, down spouts, and broken or damaged sanitary service lines and sewer clean out caps. Ira Township personnel will use dye testing, smoke testing and video monitoring equipment to locate trouble spots.

All Township personnel carry proper identification. If you have any questions regarding this program, call the DPS at 586.725.7231.

The Algonac/Clay/Ira Waste Water Treatment Plant is operated to provide a safe, efficient and cost effective sanitary disposal system to serve the local residents. Residents can assist in this endeavor by refraining from flushing certain items not meant for disposal into the sanitary system. Disinfecting cleaning wipes, dental floss, diapers, reinforced paper toweling, cloth and plastics do not break down when discarded into the sanitary system. These items will cause obstructions which are labor intensive to remove and can damage equipment, ultimately increasing the cost of wastewater treatment. Even items that are labeled "flushable" can be detrimental to the disposal system.

Avoid flushing items that cannot be easily torn with your bare hands; if



you cannot tear it, don't flush it.

Following this simple rule of thumb will greatly assist

in maintaining the local wastewater sanitary system efficiently and economically for yourself and your neighbors.

Chris Hiltunen Water
DPS Superintendent

FIRE DEPARTMENT

We are looking for dedicated individuals who are interested in serving their community in the fire & rescue service. If you are at least 18 years of age and want to serve your community, come in and talk to us. No training, no problem! We will provide paid training. Applications are available online at iratownship.org/fire or can be picked up at the fire station located at 7065 Meldrum Rd.

October 9-15 is Fire Prevention Week.



Make sure you check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Have you changed the batteries? Do you need smoke detectors or batteries? The fire department has a limited number of smoke detectors and batteries that are available to residents. If you need a smoke alarm, please contact the fire station at 586-725-7771.

October 23, 2022 will be the return of the Annual Pancake breakfast put on by the Ira Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary and Ira Firefighters Association. This will run from 8 am - 12 pm at the Fire Station.

Reminder that burn permits are required for all open burning in the township. Please contact the fire station prior to burning. Be mindful of wind, weather, and neighbors. A copy of the burning ordinance is available on the township website.

Jason Keller, Fire Chief

IRA LIBRARY

We have a New Look! We love hearing your comments about the front of the building! Thank you.



I am new Branch Lead at the Ira Library and thrilled to be working in the Ira Township Library serving the community.

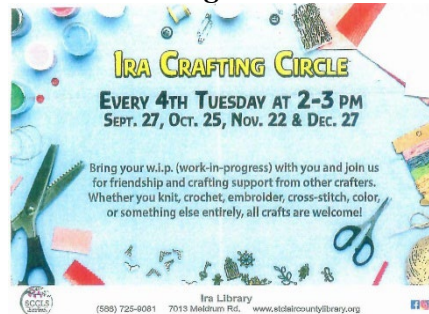
The Library Hours

9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday

Programs

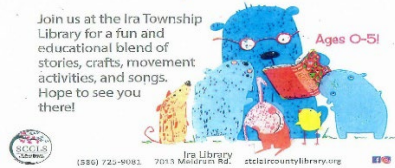


We have Story Time, Thursday from 10:30 am till 11:15 am. We also have many other Programs to register for. Please stop in for more information, or check our web page under "Events Ira Twp." We hope to see you!

Crafts for Children

STORYTIME

Thursday at 10:30AM



We have some "Fall Craft Series" starting in October, for children 5 and older. Please call us and we can get you registered.

Friends of the Ira Township Library

The Book Sale is continuous. All book proceeds go directly for items in the library. Please stop and shop for good book to keep! We have .25 cents each book or \$2.00 a bag.

Susan Morris, Branch Lead

COMMUNITY CORNER



G4Y has been serving the community for over 20 years operating in Ira Township. We offer custom Graphics, Embroidery, Sublimation, Rhinestones, Rhine studs, Vinyl, Promotional Products, Corporate Wear, Sport & School Apparel, Dance, Yoga, Fund Raisers and so much more.



G4Y

Our Production Facility provides all in-house machines & equipment to enable us to offer a 5 to 10 business day turn around. WE HAVE NO MINIMUMS! Our sizing ranges from XS-6XL as well as youth sizes. In addition, we offer a one-stop shop including but not limited to belts, purses, footwear, jewelry, seasonal merchandise, watches, and the largest LAKE ST. CLAIR APPAREL MERCHANDISER in the area.

We are open from 10 am to 6 pm, Mon thru Fri and 10 am to 3 pm. on Sat, preferably by appointment so that we can devote our undivided attention to your shopping needs. We can be reached at 8761 Arnold Road. Our phone number is 586.713.8996 and our website is www.graphix4you.com!

We will feature a local business or non-profit in our newsletters. If you would like to be a featured article, please submit your information by email to clerk@iratownship.org

DROP BOX

Please use the drop box located in the parking lot island when paying tax, utility bills and/or dropping off your election applications and ballots.

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED

NOV 24TH

DEC 20TH, 21ST 22ND

26TH, 28TH & 29TH

OPEN

DEC 27TH FOR TAXES

9 AM – 5 PM

**LIBRARY 586.725.9081
EMTERRA 877.609-6753**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BOARD – 1ST Monday

PLANNING – 2ND Monday

PARKS/ REC -2ND Tuesday

ZBA – 3RD Tuesday

ALL START @ 7 pm

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Closed 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

586.725.0263



iratownship.org

**IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY
CALL 911**

**CLAY TOWNSHIP
POLICE
NON-EMERGENCY
810.794.9381**

FIRE 586.725.7771

**BURNING PERMITS
586.725.1415**

2022 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

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