



Ira Township ~ Established 1837

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

*7085 Meldrum Road
Fair Haven, MI 48023*

SUPERVISOR

My Dear Fellow Township Residents,

I hope you've all had as good a winter as possible. **WELCOME SPRING!**

Last year the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners hired the engineering firm of Wade Trim to conduct a corridor study on Marine City Highway from County Line to King roads encompassing all the communities that abut this major east-west route. This study will be looking at the transportation needs, infrastructure needs in relation to water and sanitary sewer capacities and land zoning in all the townships with the major goal being the expansion and improvement of that route from the west to east.

Our first meeting was held here in Ira Township in January and was well attended by all the local communities as well as by neighbors from Macomb County too. Monies received at the county level from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act are funding this engineering study. There will be a public meeting late this fall to review the proposed plan from Wade Trim. This is an excellent opportunity to see this corridor expand and grow for all the townships involved.

Also, in January the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) came out with new flood hazard determinations for our Township. The new determinations will become effective on July 19, 2022. FEMA will be posting a new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). There are currently 167 addresses in Ira Township with Letters of Map Amendments on file with FEMA, there will be 20 addresses that will be

superseded by the new FIRM. These properties will be notified by FEMA as to why their status has changed from the previous determination.

A lot of exciting things are happening in our Township and I am very proud to be involved and just want to say thank you for your support. I wish you all a warm, healthy and fun-filled summer here in Ira Township.

Sincerely,
Jim Endres, Jr.



CLERK

Welcome Spring and Summer 2022!

The Township will be holding three elections this year. On May 3, 2022, the East China School District is requesting a millage renewal. This election is for residents residing within the boundaries of the East China School District only. Please see our website for more information.

The State's Primary and General Elections will be held on August 2, 2022 and November 8, 2022, respectively. Absent Voter Ballot Applications will be mailed to all permanent absent voters and those who request an application.

All eligible registered voters in Michigan may request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. You can also request to be placed on the permanent absentee voter list to save a step in the future. Please visit the Clerk's page at www.iratownship.org and complete the link to sign up as a permanent absent voter or visit or call the Clerk's office at 586-725-0263 x 107

to request an application prior to any election.

Redistricting within the State of Michigan is now complete. New Voter Information Cards with the updated information will be mailed to each registered voter within the Township. Mailing of these cards should be completed by mid-summer.

Jean Corbat

TREASURER

Just a reminder that any utility or tax bills can be paid by depositing the payment in the drop box located in the Township parking lot. This box is checked daily. Please do not pay with cash. If you would like a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope or an email address and a paid receipt will be provided.

Tom Lauer

TRUSTEE

I am Stella Ruhlman, the newly appointed Trustee. I am a longtime resident and excited to serve in this capacity. I am the Board Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission and have served on this committee in the past. Our Township is growing and this is an exciting time to be a part of this organization. I am currently working with the Supervisor to extend broadband coverage to areas of the Township where none is currently available. We are working closely with Duke Broadband to provide fast and reliable fiber optic service at affordable rates. Duke Broadband is a local company that has been in business for 20 years and have been instrumental in assisting with grants and offering their expertise in helping to accelerate this project. We are in the middle of the process and hope to provide more information about this service soon. I am looking forward to

participating in other Township projects and am happy to be part of the team.

Stella Ruhlman

PARKS & RECREATION

Welcome to Ira Township Parks and Recreation! If you are new to our area, I hope you have the time to get to know us through Programs, Events and Classes! We are updating our Recreation Plan and welcome your input regarding our parks, trails, and programs! We will be hosting a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall. Please join us and share your thoughts and dreams for recreational activities, preservation and expansion of our beautiful Parks!

Some big news this year is the expansion of the **Disc Golf Course!** With help from our knowledgeable Disc Golf Volunteer Donny Van Houtte, we are working on adding three “holes” to the existing course. “Hole” Sponsors are welcome for any of the 12 holes! Sponsor Fee is \$300. At press time, we have two holes taken: Thompson Phelan Group, Inc. and James/Ann Alexie have sponsored. Thank you!

The Disc Golf Course is in the Ira Township Municipal Park. Our course is available year-round and is very popular! Hole 1 starts behind the Township offices and ends near the basketball court. Parking is available in the southeast end of the Township parking lot. Grab some friends and family and come and enjoy the beautiful landscape throughout the trails. Please remember to clean up after yourselves and preserve our course! We prefer no glass bottles and containers on our course and in our trails. We are hoping to add recycling containers to our properties to help keep our environment clean!

Sign Language returns for beginners or those wishing to refresh their skills! Class will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 26th at the Township Hall. Fee is \$5.00 per person or \$10 per family. Our instructor is experienced and makes this class fun and fascinating! Evelyn McCoy has taught Sign Language around the world! Join

us for an interesting evening. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages!



More exciting news! We are working on a schedule for **USA Explore Archery Classes** with Certified Instructor Amber Trombley! We have received a grant that provides the equipment to offer classes. We are excited about this new program and will publicize details as soon as a schedule is confirmed. We hope to offer classes to all ages and eventually expand our program year-round.

Mahjong Players meet on Mondays at 1:15 pm – 4:00 pm at Township Hall. Newcomers are welcome! Mahjong or mah-jong is a tile-based game that was developed in 19th century China and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It is commonly played by four players.

Jane Weis will be back on Saturday, May 21st at 10:30 am for **Yellow Brush Paint In: Spring**. This is 2nd in the Seasons Series and features a beautiful landscape with lilac bushes. Cost is \$35 per person. Jane is the owner of Yellow Brush Art Studio in Yale. She is a talented instructor and knows how to make art fun! Jane has been available for painting classes in house and on the road for over 15 years! Save future dates for Yellow Brush Paint In **Summer**, July 16th and **Fall**, September 17th.



Our Parks and Recreation Commission is very committed to upgrades and improvements for our **Veterans Memorial** in the Municipal Park. Tim Howard completed his Eagle Scout

Project with upgrades to the Memorial last year. New edging was installed, monument and bricks were cleaned and reset! Thank you for your thoughtful contribution, Tim! We are seeking records and information from our local Veterans Posts and Commanders in Algonac and New Baltimore. We are also reviewing special events and programs to honor Veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Resident suggestions are welcome!

MUSIC

As the temperatures warm, we will open **Music in the Park with Gypsy and the Rockers** on Friday, June 10th, 7:00 pm. This performance is sponsored by PTM Corporation. Music in the Park continues monthly with **UC3 Trio** sponsored by Grosso Trucking on Friday, July 8th, 7:00 pm; **The Dynasty** on Friday, August 5th, 7:00 pm (sponsorship open); and **Ten Beach Drive** on Friday, September 2nd 6:30 pm (sponsorship open). Please note our September performance starts at an earlier time! Please watch our website, our Facebook page and local listings for updates and additional information about the Music in the Park Series. A Big Thank You to Ira Township Fire Department for allowing us to use the Fire Hall for a rain location. The decision to move indoors is made by 5:30 pm the day of the event according to the weather radar.



Certified Safety Instructor Al Lauand is back with our **2nd Annual Bike Safety Day and Helmet Giveaway!** Thanks to the generous donations from Nickel and Saph Insurance, Mallards Pond Bill Johns, Custom Michigan Builders and Anchor Bay Community Foundation, we will provide Safe Kids recommended helmets to all children that attend on June 11th at 10:30 am. We will have an Obstacle Course, Braking Lanes, Safety Information and Pamphlets from the League of Michigan Cyclists. We will

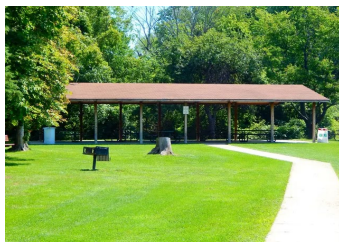
also distribute lights for cyclists and walkers from SEMCOG. Volunteers are always welcome! For more information, please contact cindy@iratowship.org



Save the date for the popular **Trick and Treat in the Trails**: Sunday, October 30th, 2022 at 1:00 pm! We have started preregistration with our Holiday Events with purchase of \$1.00 wristbands for each child. This helps us plan and purchase the correct number of treats and giveaways for each event.



Last year we transitioned the Christmas Tree Lighting to Ira Township Park! It was a huge success and we received tremendous response and feedback. Decorations looked great all over the Compound thanks to Ira Township DPS. Their help, extra efforts and creativity are greatly appreciated! We will continue to expand **Christmas Tree Lighting and Festivities in the Park** on Saturday, December 3rd, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome! Volunteers are encouraged to join our event. We hope to have Reindeer stories from Santa, Hot Cocoa, Cookies and more!



I would like to remind you that the Large Pavilion in the Municipal Park is available for rental. This is a great option to consider for family reunions, picnics, birthday parties, etc. Interested persons should complete a **Pavilion Rental Application and Agreement** and submit to Ira Township offices. There is

a \$50 fee for residents and a \$100 fee for non-residents. All monies go back into park improvements! When not rented, the pavilion is available on a first come basis.

Last fall we hosted a visit with the new St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Winzer. It was wonderful to tour the parks, trails and Township property and get input from her perspective! We are in conversation about Kayak Launch options, Playground Grants, and a Splash Pad. We are also working with the Regional Trail Committee on Trail Improvements, Expansion and Way Finding Signs and Kiosks. Safety is always a priority! We are also looking at improved parking and access to our lovely Waterworks Park.

Last year we also partnered with 4H and offered Stem Camp. I am happy to report that Mrs. Val Fusee will return with Stem Camp and many other 4H components. We love to partner with other community resources and organizations to bring programs to our local area! Your input is always welcome!

Deborah Green will also be back with Front Porch Signs and many other Craft Projects for all ages! More information to follow.

Nutrition Specialist Carol Bublitz from MSU Cooperative Extension is coordinating new programs too!

We like to think out of the box! Tell us what you would like to see for yourself and your children! We are here to provide recreation, leisure activities, programs, and events for you! I encourage you to communicate and take ownership of your Recreation Department! We would love to set up a forum with local teens and young adults about programs and activities for your age and address your interests! You may also have a talent or skill that you could share as a new program. Email cindy@iratowship.org or call 586-339-3962 and I will explain how easy this can be!

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to all our sponsors and volunteers that generously contribute towards our efforts. Some of our sponsors can attend the programs and see the delight and joy expressed on the faces of the children (and parents!) but

other sponsors are unable to attend. We post pictures with hope that they will see the positive impact of their donations. We couldn't do so much without you! Please share our appreciation as you meet them in our community or at our programs and events. They are the heart and soul of our Parks and Recreation in Ira Township!

Thank you!
Cindy Babisz

ASSESSOR

Annually the Assessor determines values for every parcel located in Ira Township. These values include assessed, state equalized and taxable values and are determined as of Tax Day, which is December 31st.

Part of the process of determining these values is using the sales approach. The State mandates the use of a two-year sales study. For 2022 values, the sales study dates are April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2021. As we have all witnessed the sales market, especially for single family homes, has been skyrocketing. After the passage of Proposal A in 1994, the amount taxes can increase is capped by the inflation rate or 5%, whichever is lower. However, in most cases when there is a Transfer of Ownership, the taxable value becomes the state equalized value. Most new home buyers are aware of this "uncapping" but there are still some that are surprised when their tax bill increases for the first year after this uncapping. The taxable value can fluctuate with additions and losses to the property. It is always best to check with the Assessing Department if you have questions on future tax estimates. Assessment Change Notices are sent out at the end of February. This notice shows prior values or 2021 values and the new 2022 values. It will also show Homestead Status. If you believe this status is incorrect, please call the office immediately. The March Board of Review is the only time you can protest value.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor at 586-725-0263 x104, or email assessor@iratowship.org. My office hours are Wednesdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Roxanne Reeder

BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Springtime prompts many new projects and we look forward to meeting with builders, contractors and residents. All are welcome to contact us with any questions and/or concerns regarding their project. Our Building Official, Mike Bommarito has over 35 years in the building industry and serving as a building official. His expertise and knowledge will help to ensure that whatever your projects 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, payments and scheduling inspections or call 586-725-0207 for questions and scheduling inspections.

Kurt Sengstock is our Code Enforcement Officer. With spring and summer upon us, please make sure that your business, home and grounds are in order, vehicles currently tagged, grass trimmed, debris removed. Let's take pride in where we live and or work. Please call 586-339-3967 with any questions or concerns.

DPS/WATER

Think Spring!

Storm water drains need to be cleared of all gravel, sticks and debris to improve storm water drainage and prevent stagnant water buildup which encourages mosquito breeding. Storm water drains and ditches are designed to draw off rainwater from road surface areas. Drains are not designed to accept chemicals, pet and yard waste, kitchen grease, gray water run off or septic water from private or commercial sites. Following these simple steps will improve the water quality in the lakes, rivers, and streams.

Sanitary Sewer Infiltration

This system is designed to carry sanitary sewer to the treatment plant for treatment, it is not designed to handle

water from rain events or high-water levels. As a reminder it is illegal to:

- Connect sump pumps or any other pumps to the sanitary sewer system.
- Connect downspouts and yard drains to the sanitary sewer system.
- Remove cleanouts or manhole covers to drain yards or flooded areas.

These types of activities can compromise the entire system leading to sewer back-ups flooding homes and sewer overflows into the Lake.



Our annual tire collection will take place June 11th and 12th, 2022. Tires must be removed from rims and must be from passenger cars, light trucks, SUV's lawn mowers, and motorcycles only. We will also have dumpsters available this same weekend for general debris clean-up. Collection takes place at the Ira DPS between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Water/Sewer Payment Plans

Payment Plans are available prior to bill due date. Please contact Renee in the Ira Township Water Department for information to make payment plan arrangements. If making a payment via your bank online, please ensure your payment is in our office by the due date.

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 Road.

With the recent spring forward time change have you checked 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.

Reminder that a burn permit is 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 Township's Open and Outdoor Burning Ordinance is available on the Township's website.

Jason P. Keller
Fire Chief

IRA LIBRARY



New Library Hours: Beginning April 4th

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Mon, Wed, Fri
9:00 am – 8:00 pm Tue & Thurs.
9:00 am – 2:00 pm Saturday

Expanded hours are here, and programming is back! Please check back throughout the spring and summer as we continue to add events to our calendar.

Storytime – Beginning in June, dates to be determined.

Summer Reading - Friday, June 17- Saturday, August 13 - Join us for 2022 Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities" and the library will offer activities and prizes for readers of all ages throughout the summer to encourage and celebrate summer reading.

Book Sale - The Friends of the Ira Library book sale continues, with proceeds returning directly to the library! Please come and check out our wide selection of materials for adults and children. Items are .25 cents each or \$2.00 per bag.

Curbside pick-up still available, no appointment necessary!

For more event listings and information check out our event calendar at <https://stclaircountylibrary.org> or call us at (586) 725-9081.

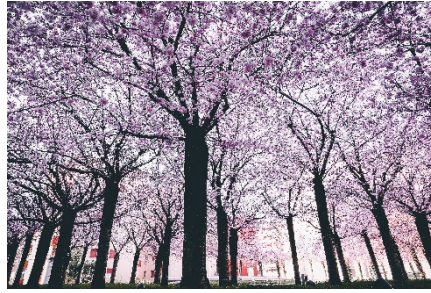
Elissa Vaughan
Ira Branch Lead

IRA HISTORY

Excerpt from The Heritage of Ira
a Sesquicentennial History

Ira Township is located at the southernmost tip of St. Clair County and is situated on Anchor Bay at the north end of Lake St. Clair. The land grants in 1807 provided for the division of counties into townships, but it wasn't until 1837 that townships were given charters, a follow-through formality. During the first half of the 1800's township boundaries changed often enough to create some confusion in doing research on early families through township records. A prime example is Ira Marks, after whom this township was named. He owned land as early as 1812 in which is now Ira, Clay and Cottrellville townships, and although his farm did not move, the boundaries did shift so he can be found on records in these various townships in different years.

On January 26, 1837, President Jackson signed the bill making Michigan the 26th state in the Union. A few months later, Ira Township was established on March 11, 1837 as a township governing unit. The first town meeting was ordered to be held at the house of Chester Kimball, who was the first supervisor of Ira Township. The population in 1837 was 202 residents. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Ira Township copies of *Sesquicentennial History* and *Images of Ira* are available at the township offices.



COMMUNITY CORNER

The Ira Township Firefighters Association has been active in our community and supports the Ira Township Fire Department. The Association represents current and past members of the Ira Township Fire Department and provides community support through a variety of avenues. In the past, the Association has helped local families after tragic events, with Secret Santa gifts and Little League donations just to name a few. They also support the fire department by donating equipment to keep our firefighters safe.

In addition, the Association offers a reflective sign to ensure a quick response. These are highly visible day or night, reflective numbers on both sides, fade resistant, vertical or horizontal styles and can be mounted on mailbox or house with room for three to five numbers. The cost is \$10.00. Please visit iratownship.org/fire for more information.

The Association also sponsors different fundraisers to benefit continued community support and firefighting equipment. Contact any Fire Department member on fundraisers currently being sponsored.

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

We are always seeking Township residents who want to serve our community. If you are interested in serving on a commission, please submit a letter of interest to supervisor@iratownship.org



IRA TOWNSHIP PARKS & REC AT A GLANCE!

Office Location: 7085 Meldrum Road

Visit www.IraTownship.org

Email Cindy@IraTownship.org

Or Call Anna @ 586-339-3969

Feel free to post this as a handy reference!

Program	Age	Starts	Ends	Time	Fee
Sign Language Begin or Refresh	Any	Tues. April 26	Tues. April 26	7:00-8:00 pm	\$5
Yellow Brush Paint in Spring	12+	Sat. May 21	Sat. May 21	10:30-12:30	\$35
MIP* - Gypsy & the Rockers	Any	Fri. June 10	Fri. June 10	7-9:00pm	Free
Bicycle Safety Free Helmets	Any	Sat. June 11	Sat. June 11	10:30 am	Free
MIP* - UC3 Trio	Any	Fri. July 8	Fri. July 8	7-9:00pm	Free
Yellow Brush Paint in Summer	12+	Sat. July 26	Sat. July 16	10:30-12:30	\$35
MIP* - The Dynasty	Any	Fri. August 5	Fri. August 5	7-9:00pm	Free
MIP* - Ten Beach Drive	Any	Fri. Sept. 2	Fri. Sept. 2	6:30-8:30pm	Free
Yellow Brush Paint in Fall	12+	Sat. Sept. 17	Sat. Sept. 17	10:30-12:30	\$35
Christmas Journals	12+	Sat. Oct 21	Sat. Oct 21	1:00-3:00pm	\$20
Trick and Treat in the Trails****	Any	Sun. Oct 30	Sun. Oct 30	1:00 pm	\$1 ea
Christmas in Park Tree Lighting	Any	Sat. Dec 3	Sat. Dec 3	5:30 pm	\$1 ea

*MIP = Music in the Park! 🎵

*** New! Wristbands will be required

Do you have a hobby or talent you can share through Ira Township Parks and Recreation? Let us show you how easy it is to offer a class and share your skills with other people! We do all the promotion, registration, etc. for you!

Volunteers are always welcome! Whether you are acquiring credit for school, scouts or just have free time, your contribution benefits our programs, events, and our community! Please call 586-339-3962 or email Cindy@IraTownship.org

See You in the Parks!

4-2-22



Office Hours
MONDAY - THURSDAY
7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Closed 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
586-725-0263
iratownship.org

LIBRARY 586-725-9081
EMTERRA 877-609-6753

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BOARD – 1ST Monday
PLANNING – 2ND Monday
PARKS/ REC -2ND Tuesday
ZBA – 3RD Tuesday

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.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911

**CLAY TOWNSHIP POLICE
NON-EMERGENCY
810-794-9381**

FIRE 586-725-7771

**BURNING PERMITS
586-725-1415**

2022 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

**STANDARD MAILING
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #20
FAIR HAVEN, MI**

**CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
FAIR HAVEN, MI 48023**