



## FROM SUPERVISOR BILL FREY

### Your Township Officials

Supervisor-  
William Frey  
Clerk-

Jolene Upchurch  
Treasurer-  
Cindy Baum

Trustee- Denise Gordy  
Trustee- Tad Cousino

### Your Township Office

Sue Smith  
Sarah Kennedy  
Dan Smith- Assessor  
Michael Demski- Building /  
Zoning Official

Bill Hines – Chief of Police

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## ALCATRAZ

On Friday, June 1st Judge Michael LaBeau, Monroe County Circuit Court ruled in the Township's favor in the Law suit by "Alcatraz" adult entertainment who wished to establish an adult topless bar on victory Road in Erie Township. The Township's zoning prohibited such establishment because the Township requires 1200 feet isolation distance from the property line, which the applicant couldn't meet. The Plaintiff has a thirty day appeal period after the written order is entered with the Court. I will suggest further changes to the zoning ordinance to strengthen the Townships position in the coming years.

## LAND FILL

The Township receives approximately \$65,000 per month in tipping fees from the Landfill. Senate Bill No. 81 introduced by Michigan State Senators Brater, Gleason, Scott, Schauer, Whitmer, Jacobs, Prusi and Basham on January 25, 2007 if passed will seriously affect the tipping fees. The bill in an attempt to curtail Canadian Trash being deposited in Michigan Landfills raises the tipping fee to \$7.50 per ton. The Erie Landfill does not deposit any Canadian trash at the present time but still would have to raise the tipping fee to the State mandate of \$7.50 per Ton. The Landfill would be impacted, and in my opinion, the revenue produced to the Landfill and subsequently the Township would be reduced because the haulers would be able to deposit their loads at the Hagman road Land fill or other landfills in Ohio at a much reduced rate.

The landfill has placed a container at the Landfill for yard waste and grass clippings. We currently are negotiating the free pick-up of White goods such as washing machines, stoves and refrigerator from the curb side only for Erie residents.

On Tuesday June 5 the Township held a public hearing concerning the Landfill request for a vertical expansion. Approximately 60 new houses are proposed to be included in the Property Buy out protection agreement. If you wish to be included for notification of county meetings regarding the proposed expansion please contact:

Jamie Dean, B.S., M.S.Ed.  
Monroe County Solid Waste Coordinator  
Telephone: 734-240-7909  
E-mail: [Jamie\\_dean@monroemi.org](mailto:Jamie_dean@monroemi.org)

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## More News From Your Township Officials

### FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK - Continued

#### Property Maintenance

In response to numerous complaints, the Township Board has adopted a new property maintenance code. This should help in dealing with the increasing number of unsightly, deteriorated and dilapidated properties. Please be aware this code requires lawns to be regularly cut and maintained at less than 6 inches in height. Lawns that are not cut will receive a notice to cut them. If not cut within 5 days, the Township shall cut them and bill the property owners.

#### OTTAWA SHORES WATER EXTENSION

The city of Toledo still refuses to let the Township update a water line on Edgewater Drive of approximately 1800 feet to furnish sufficient water pressure so water lines could be extended into the Ottawa Shore Subdivision and the adjacent marina. The master contract with the city of Toledo, which I negotiated approximately 35 years ago, is about to expire. If the negotiations fail the only alternative would be to file suit in Federal Court. An option, which is currently being considered.

#### FIREWORKS

We recently required the fireworks establishments to furnish a Insurance policy naming the Township as a loss payee on the Policy. In addition we now require a hold harmless agreement in the Township favor to be executed by each and every establishment that is permitted. We now have a revised inspection form and limit the amount of fireworks that the dealers can store on site to the amount mandated by the State statute.



#### Allied Waste (BFI) Services

A reminder that bags, at a cost of \$2.00 each, are available at the Township Hall for individual bag pick-up service. Also available are tags, for use with your bags, at a cost of \$1.50 each. This year at the township we are introducing yard waste bags for yard clippings. The bags will be \$.40 each or \$2.00 for a bundle.

### CLERKS CORNER - Jolene Upchurch

The Clerks office has been very busy with two elections. The Township has purchased a new voting machine so when we add a new precinct we will have the voting machine for the third precinct. It is very confusing the way the precincts are divided now with 1-A and 1-B, 2-A and 2-B. With the third precinct it will be divided according to County Commissioners, and residents will be in precincts 1,2,or 3. When this is completed each registered voter that will be moved into the new precinct will receive a new voter card. I am hoping that this will be finished by the end of the year. Any one interested in working an upcoming election please notify me at 734-848-5915 ext 2 and I will get the information for a one day class to you.

As the Township Clerk, I will be attending classes as soon as they are available to become certified as Michigan Municipal Clerk. I have received great support from the Monroe County Clerks Association when I needed a question answered or an issue came up that I needed help with. As of March 2007 I have been unanimously voted in as the Secretary of The Monroe County Clerks Association for one year.

Have a Great Summer!

## Erie Township

### Summer Hours:

**Monday-Friday  
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

### Closings:

**Independence Day  
July 4, 2007**

**Labor Day  
September 3, 2007**

[erietownship.com](http://erietownship.com)

The township Board has recently decided to change the service provider for our web site. This change should allow us more control and allow for more timely updates. This change should occur around the beginning of July, so please be patient if you encounter problems with the site during this transition. As always, please give us your comments on how we can improve the web site.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK – Cindy Baum

It's summer tax time again, and you may notice that your summer 2007 bill is higher than last year's summer bill, but, please note that your winter 2007 bill will be less than last year's winter bill. If you remember, in 2005 the county began phasing in the County Operating millage into the summer tax billing -1/3 millage in 2005, 2/3 millage in 2006 and the entire County Operating millage to be billed on the 2007 summer bill. Subsequently, your winter bill has been lower proportionately over the same time period. Summer taxes are due and payable from July 1, 2007 – September 14, 2007 without penalty or interest. Summer deferments are available for qualifying agricultural properties, senior citizens, eligible veterans and servicepersons and persons with disabilities. Deferment applications are available at the township hall. If you have any questions regarding eligibility please call (734) 848-5915 ext. 3.

Taxes can be paid at the township hall, Monroe Bank & Trust Erie Branch, by mail (postmarks are accepted), or in the drop box in front of the township hall.

## ASSESSING DEPARTMENT – Dan Smith

### ERIE TOWNSHIP REAPPRAISAL CONTINUES

The reappraisal of Erie Township is continuing through this summer and fall mostly in the southern part and waterfront subdivisions. Field representatives are visiting each property to gather structural data including exterior measurements and interior features. All members of the field staff have Township logo signs on their vehicles and picture identification visible on their person.

The field staff are not appraisers, they are only gathering data that will be used to update and computerize the existing records and computer systems.

Taxable values will not be affected unless new construction has taken place since the last review. Taxable values are capped the year following a change in ownership and annual increases are based upon the consumers price index or 5% whichever is less, plus any new.

Assessments are based upon 50% of market value. Market trends are determined by neighborhood locations, by analyzing sales that have occurred during a two-year period commencing on April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2007 or sales from the most current year.

For more information or questions regarding the reappraisal, call Dan Smith at 734-848-5915 ext. 239.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **THE ERIE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Summer is arriving soon. People become more active and injuries can happen. Let's have a safe and fun summer. We are up to a little over 100 runs so far this year. We are still looking for members to join the department. We are 24 strong and could use 6 more people. This is your chance to help out your community.

May was CPR month. We taught 140 plus High School Seniors CPR. Our Fire Department and Police Department also renewed their CPR cards.

Our pancake breakfasts both were a success. We are feeding on an average 400-500 people each time. The Fire Department greatly appreciates the support from the Community and our Honorary Firemen.

The recent fire at Reliance Propane was a great example of how our Fire Departments all work together when a large scale incident comes up. The mutual aid agreement with the area townships allow more resources to respond to such incidents. I would like to thank the many institutions and people who stepped forward in helping the people that were evacuated to the fire hall that day.

Thank you for supporting your Erie Township Fire Department

Dave Duvall, Chief

### **BURNING PERMITS**

Just a reminder that a "no cost" burning permit is required for all open burning. Permits may be obtained for bonfires (up to one cubic yard in size), brush, leafs and bare wood. Any other open burning may require approval of the Fire Chief. You may obtain a copy of the Burning Ordinance at the Township Hall for more information.

Additionally, NO BURNING shall be done (even if you have a permit) on Ozone Action Days.

### **FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

As of June 1, 2007 the Erie Township Police Department has handled 1297 calls for service in Erie Township. We are pleased to say that due to increased traffic enforcement traffic crashes are down from this time last year, and year to date we have no fatal crashes on Township roads.

Please remember not to drink and drive. Although many people think that they can make it home because they have only a short drive, people die everyday due to drunk drivers that were "just trying to get home".

If you need to report a crime, or need a patrol vehicle sent to your location for a non-emergency situation please remember to call Central Dispatch at 734-243-7070. As always in an emergency situation "911" is the fastest way to get emergency help!

### **THE MORIN POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Zaleski**

This year the Morin Point Fire Department is celebrating 60 years of service to the community. Thank you to all the past and present firefighters.

At the present time we have 25 members on our roster. Three of our members have a combined service of 124 years, Bob Morin 45 yrs, Tom Morin 44 yrs and Gary Wiseman 35 yrs.

Kevin Walter & Steve Sepulveda are our newest firefighters, just completing a 240 hour class, congratulations. Firefighter Matt Cunningham has been deployed to Iraq. Let's pray for his safe return.

Mark your calendars for July 25, 2007 there will be a blood drive at our station 6333 Summit from 1 P.M. to 6 P.M. Also look for the Kid's fire prevention trailer this summer we will be out and about the community.

We are always looking for volunteers, anyone interested stop down at our station any Wednesday at 7 P.M. or call 848-8942 and leave a message.

**Schools out let's watch out for kids and  
have a safe summer**

### Sheds, Pools & Fences

As the warm weather is now here, questions on the requirements for sheds, pools and fences have begun to come in. Most of these projects require a Zoning and/or Building permit as outlined below. To obtain a permit, file a completed application and Plot plan including dimensions and location of the proposed project. The following will be a brief overview that should answer the most common questions.

**Pools** – On my recent travels around the township I have observed several illegally or improperly installed pools. This is most likely because pool owners are unaware of code requirements. If you have a pool, please review the following information and contact the building department within the next two weeks to avoid any enforcement issues.

Any structure intended for swimming, whether permanent or temporary, which can contain 24 inches of water. Swimming pools and spas are regulated by the building code and Township ordinance and require permits to ensure proper installation. Pools and spas are required to have barriers to guard unsupervised entry. A barrier may need to be a fence or may be the pool wall, if 4-feet or higher, depending on its construction. Soft-side, inflatable pools must be fenced. Township ordinance also regulates where a pool may be located. A fact sheet may be obtained at the Township Hall for more detailed information, which also includes bonding and electrical requirements.

**Fences** – Most fences constructed to serve as an obscuring screen, barrier and/or landscape element are regulated by the Township Zoning ordinance and require a Zoning permit. The following are general fence requirements:

1. Rear or side yard fences shall not exceed 6 feet in height.
2. Front yard fences shall not exceed 4 feet in height.
3. On waterfront maximum 4 feet high within 100 feet of water.
4. "Finished" side shall face out.
5. Fence shall be "agreed" by both owners on shared property line.

**Sheds and Storage Units** – Accessory structures up to 200 square feet require a zoning permit to ensure compliance with requirements for size, location and height. Any structure over 200 square feet also requires a building permit and shall meet all code requirements. The following is a brief overview of the requirements to permit accessory structures in the rear or side yards, based on the size of the unit:

**b) 200 square feet or less**

1. Minimum 4 feet from property lines (including overhangs).
2. 10 foot Setback from house and other structures.
3. Maximum 10 feet in height.
4. Zoning permit and Plot plan required.

**c) Larger than 200 square feet**

1. Minimum 8 feet from property lines (including overhangs).
2. 10 foot Setback from house and other structures.
3. Maximum 18 feet in height.
4. Zoning permit, Building permit and Plot plan required.

I hope you have found the above information helpful. Please consult the zoning ordinance and building code for complete requirements. Remember, most improvement projects require permits and inspections... **plan ahead and contact the Building Department before beginning your projects.** Permit applications may be obtained: at the Township hall, by fax on request, and printed from our web site.

**SMOKE ALARMS** - Legislation enacted into law in the spring of 2004 is **now in effect** and requires the installation of smoke alarms in residential buildings and structures constructed before November 6, 1974. Under this legislation, building owners had one year from the effective date of March 14, 2006 to have smoke alarms installed. Section 907.2.10.1.2 of the Michigan Building Code, and Section R313.1 of the Michigan Residential Code dictate where smoke alarms are required in the various occupancies. Generally, smoke alarms are required: on each story/level, in every sleeping room and the area outside of sleeping rooms. Please contact the building department for specific requirements.

## A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO STORM WATER & WETLANDS

### Public Information and Education

#### Landscape Maintenance

The key goal of lakeside landscape management is minimizing nutrients and chemicals entering the water. As with septic systems, the major nutrient of concern is phosphorus. It is contained in commercial fertilizer, compost and animal manure. To minimize the impact of nutrients and chemicals:

Use fertilizers containing no phosphorus-The numbers on a fertilizer bag show the percent nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potash) in the formulation. The middle number is always the percent of phosphorus, by weight, in the bag (e.g., 27-3-3) Zero phosphorus fertilizers are available from many local sources. When asked, many commercial lawn care companies will apply no-phosphorus fertilizers for their shoreline customers.

Be careful when applying fertilizers, regardless of the type. When using a broadcast spreader, take care that fertilizer is not applied too close to or directly into the water.

Keep compost piles and animals manure as far from the shore as possible. Place them in a location where runoff from the piles will not flow into the water. This greater distance will also help prevent nutrients from percolating into the soil, then into the lakes or streams.

Never burn yard waste along the shore. The ashes contain phosphorus and can easily make their way into the lake. Always rake leaves, sticks and grass clippings away from the shore.

When using pesticides, read the label carefully. Some pesticides can be harmful to aquatic life and contain warnings about application near lakes and streams. Even some commonly used household pesticides can be dangerous along the shore.

Information taken from HOME-A-SYST Home assessment System (Extension Bulletin WQ-51) is available from county MSU Extension Offices.

Watch for environmental tips on your South County Water bill. The latest tips –test your soil before you fertilize (\$9.00) call 734-240-3170. Never use fertilizer near surface water!

### WETLANDS NOTICE:

**THE STATE OF MICHIGAN HAS MANDATED THAT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BE PROVIDED TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING WETLANDS PROTECTION-**

A county wetland inventory has been completed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) pursuant to Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The inventory map is on file with the county extension office, register of deeds, and clerk and is also available at:

[www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands](http://www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands).

The inventory map provides potential and approximate locations of wetlands but cannot be used to identify wetlands for regulatory purposes. Property containing wetlands may be subject to regulation under Part 303. For more information, including how to obtain a wetland permit or a determination of whether property contains regulated wetland, please visit the MDEQ web site above.

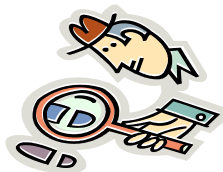
#### Join a Watershed Organization

Participate in clean-up activities in your neighborhood. Write or call your elected representatives to inform them about your concerns and encourage legislation to protect water resources. **For more information, contact the Monroe County Drain Commissioner, Dan Stefanski (734-240 3101), the Monroe Metro. Wastewater Dept. (732-241-5926), or the River Raisin Watershed Council at (517-263-5599).**



**Family Story Times** will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 for children of all ages for the months of June and July.

## The Summer Reading Program "Get a Clue at Your Library"



Monday, June 25, 2007, 6:30pm "**Play Clue at your Library**" Various mystery games will be played at the library!

Monday, July 9, 2007, 6:30pm "**Get a Clue about Senses**" Play a guessing game with your senses!

Monday, July 16, 2007, 6:30pm "**Mysterious Animals**" Mark Rosenthal will be here with his exotic animals!



Monday, July 23, 2007, 6:30pm "Movie Night" Enjoy a movie with a spy named "Harriet". We will also have our summer reading wrap-up! Did the children meet the challenge? Will Crystal and Dawn get Silly Stringed????

## Other fun things to do this summer!

"Hogwarts from the beginning" **Special Harry Potter program** to help celebrate the upcoming last book of the series. Friday, July 6, 2007 from 5:00-7:00pm.



**Scrap booking** with Sasha and Sarah. Come create wonderful scrapbooks with two local teens. Monday, August 6, 2007 @ 6:00pm

**Cooking Series for Pre-Teens and Teens**- Come learn to create delicious snacks without the heat. 5:00-6:00pm. (Registration is required)

August 9 Vegg'in' Out

August 16 Take a Dip

August 23 Down And Dirty

August 30 That's a Wrap



"**Back to School Bingo**" Come play bingo to win back to school supplies.

Monday, August 20, 2007, 6:30pm



## MASON HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL – SUMMER PROGRAM

Open to the Public – Monday thru Friday – 7 PM to 9 PM – June 11 thru July 27

Family Pass \$17.50 – Individual Pass \$5.00 – or \$1.00 per session

Certified Lifeguards on duty – Passes may be purchased at pool door when pool is open.

For more information call 734-848-4257

**ERIE TOWNSHIP**  
2065 ERIE ROAD  
PO BOX 187  
ERIE, MI 48133

**Phone**  
734-848-5915

**Fax**  
734-848-2548

**E-mail**  
[wfrey@erietownship.com](mailto:wfrey@erietownship.com)  
[jupchurch@erietownship.com](mailto:jupchurch@erietownship.com)  
[cbaum@erietownship.com](mailto:cbaum@erietownship.com)  
[dsmith@erietownship.com](mailto:dsmith@erietownship.com)  
[mdemski@erietownship.com](mailto:mdemski@erietownship.com)  
[ssmith@erietownship.com](mailto:ssmith@erietownship.com)



**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.erietownship.com](http://www.erietownship.com)

## Erie Township – At Your Service

**Summer hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.**

Phone System menu:

If you are calling about a current tax payment, property information, burn permit, park reservation, or general information - ext. 0

Township Supervisor, Bill Frey - ext. 1  
Clerk, Jolene Upchurch - cemetery, voter or election information - ext. 2  
Treasurer, Cindy Baum - special assessment or water info. - ext. 3  
Assessor, Dan Smith - ext. 4  
Building/Zoning Official, Michael Demski - ext. 5  
Office Coordinator, Sue Smith - payroll or payables info. - ext. 0  
Storm Water Management issues - ext. 7  
Secretary / Police Clerk, Sarah Kennedy

If you need the Erie Police Department for a non-emergency, please call 848-4082.

## The Erie News

**Please Look Inside For Important Information  
From Erie Township!**

**ERIE TOWNSHIP**  
2065 ERIE ROAD  
PO BOX 187  
ERIE, MI 48133

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Erie, Michigan

**CURRENT RESIDENT**

ERIE, MICHIGAN 48133