



Township News and Updates



Erie Township Parks News

Your Township Officials

Supervisor

William Frey

Clerk

Jolene Upchurch

Treasurer

Cynthia Wisbon

Trustee- Michael Grodi Jr

Trustee- Chad Yenor

Your Township Office

Sue Smith

Diane LaPlante

Stephanie Renius,

Chris Renius and

Brian Renius, Assessors

Michael Demski- Building /
Zoning Official

Dean Ansel-
Chief of Police

Newsletter Coordinators

Diane LaPlante

Michael Demski

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The Park Commission with the help of Randy Mielnik from Poggemeyer Design Group has applied for two different grants. The first grant is Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant, that is a fifty (50) percent match and we should hear any day now. The second grant we applied for is the Recreation Passport Grant that is a seventy-five (75) percent state and twenty-five (25) percent township match, which we should hear in December. If the Park Commission is awarded either one of these grants, our plan is to remove the pavilion and the storage shed at South Erie Park and replace them with a much safer structure and a more energy efficient shed. The electricity will be moved so hopefully all the issues with the power going out from roasters will be fixed. The other goal is to turn the front diamond at South Erie Park around. We feel this will be much safer for the children playing on the equipment so they won't have softballs coming in their direction.

If you have been to Maplewood Park this summer you might have noticed a new T-Ball field has been constructed between the softball field and the basketball courts. This field was put in because of the high demand for fields for our youth ball programs. The board felt we would do anything to help our youth program so it wouldn't have additional charges for practice fields.

The Park Commission has regretfully accepted Chelsea Cousino's resignation from the board. Chelsea has moved out of Erie Township. We also would like to WELCOME Jake Nehrig to the park board. Jake has been a great asset the Park Commission already.

A recommendation was made and the Erie Township Board approved dedicating South Erie Park in the name of Grace Connolly. Grace Connolly was very instrumental in receiving grants to establish the parks in Erie Township. Grace was one of the original park board members. The dedication will take place when the new sign will be complete. Please watch in the Monroe newspaper for further details.

The parks will be closed as of October 15, 2013 for the winter. Erie Residents wishing to reserve the parks for next year may call after January 1, 2014; any non-residents may call after March 1, 2014 to reserve the shelters.

FROM THE TREASURER

Cindy Wisbon:

Hello Erie Residents,

Happy fall to everyone. I hope you take time out of your busy schedule to enjoy the color changes that fall brings. Fall is a beautiful time of year. In Erie Township Trick or Treat hours are October 31, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:30.

We just finished our summer tax season and everything went well. Soon we will be in our winter tax season. As a reminder, when making out your checks to Erie Township for any type of payment, please be sure to correctly spell out the amount of your check. The bank records the amount on your check that you write out in words. In just a few months we will be sending out winter tax bills due and payable Dec 1, 2013 –Feb. 14, 2014 without penalty or interest. After Feb 28, 2014 delinquent tax bills are sent to the county. Winter deferments are thru Monroe County Treasurers office. You must file a MI1040 CR Homestead form and receive a refund to qualify for a winter deferment. For those of you with an escrow account your tax bill will be sent directly to your mortgage company. If you would like a duplicate copy of your tax bill mailed to you for your records please call the office.

Reminder:

As a reminder Erie Township holds its monthly board meetings the second Tuesday of every month @ 7:00 pm.



We would also like to congratulate the players and coaches of the Mason All Star Baseball Team –they won The Monroe County All Star Tournament.



AREA AGENCIES

For any of our senior residents or those who are having financial difficulties there are a number of programs and agencies available to assist you.



- MCOP - various senior programs (734) 241-2775
- Monroe County Senior Legal Serv (734) 241-7644
 - Filling out 1040CR Property Tax Credit
 - Home Heating Credit
 - Other Legal Services
- Commission on Aging (734) 240-7358
 - Help Seniors with taxes
- Area Agency on Aging 1-B (800) 852-7795
 - Reverse Equity Mortgages
- Michigan Veteran's Trust (734) 240-7359
- Department of Human Services (734) 243-7200
 - State Emergency Relief Form
 - Help with Property Forfeiture
- Salvation Army (734) 241-0440
 - Food Programs
 - Prescription Drug Assistance

CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED FOR TAX PAYMENTS ONLY



Erie Township has entered into an agreement with Point and Pay LLC which provides E-Payment Services. We will be accepting credit or debit card payments for **property taxes only**. You will have the options of paying online through a link on our website, calling an 800 number to pay by phone, or at the counter at the township hall. The cost for this service is as follows:

- Credit Cards/Non-Visa Debit = 3% of transaction amount with a minimum \$1.50 charge
- Visa Debit Card = \$3.95 flat fee
- With an eCheck = \$3.00 flat fee

Many residents have been asking for this service for some time and we hope you find this to be a convenient alternative. We are sorry that at this time we cannot offer this method of payment for other services.

FROM THE CLERKS DESK



Hi Everyone!! I hope you all enjoyed your Spring and Summer, it feels like Summer is gone before we want it to. We can always enjoy the beautiful fall colors and the Apple and Pumpkin Festivals before the snow starts flying.

The Michigan Bureau of Elections has implemented a great tool for all Clerks and Deputy Clerks it's called the e-learning center. Clerks will have quick excess to much needed information on ever changing election laws which many became effective this election cycle. The e-learning center will also keep track of any education we have received or any new training that will be available to us as Registered Clerks. The Bureau of Elections will be setting up Monroe County's own email group so communication between all the Clerks in Monroe County will improve a great deal.

The Clerk's office is always looking for new election workers. If anyone is interested please contact my office, 734-848-5915 ext. 2.

I am always open to any comments or suggestions you might have for the Clerks office and I hope everyone has the opportunity to get out and enjoy the fall colors and have a joyful holiday season with friends and family.

Jolene Upchurch, CMC,

Erie Township is participating in a Controlled Substance "Take-Back" Program.



This red box will be located in the lobby of the Township Hall, 2065 Erie Road, Erie, MI. The medication will be properly handled and turned over to the appropriate officials for disposal by the Erie Police Dept. according to standard policies and procedures for destruction of controlled substances.

Only pharmaceutical drugs will be collected and stored in this box. Residents can drop off medications during regular business hours Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1-800-462-2050

MONROE, MI 48101

MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

ERIE BRANCH LIBRARY
2065 Erie Rd. 848-4420



Toddler Storytimes are held on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. These lively programs are designed to advance pre-reading skills including listening and comprehension. Creativity is encouraged with fun and simple art experiences that help develop fine motor skills. Registration is required. Phone the branch or go online at <http://bit.ly/MCLStorytimes>.

Nail Art for 16 & up: will be held at the Erie Branch on Monday, November 18 at 6:30 PM. This Nail Art program and polish swap is for those 16 & up that want to "dip their toes" into the nail art craze. We'll be bringing nail polishes from home to swap for other colors, so if you'd like to participate bring a few of the colors you'd like to exchange with you.



Computer Forum Help: These sessions are designed to help you whether you are a new computer user, working on a project and need help, or want to learn more about computer concepts to improve your skills: office software, internet skills, email, shopping online, social networking, security issues and more. We do not repair computers. Register and bring your own laptop or use our computers to get answers to your questions. Registered participants will have priority over drop-ins. Held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM.



Windows 8 Training:

This is a comprehensive 3-week series. You will have hands-on training on a variety of topics on the Start Screen that include Tile Management, Charms, Personalization, Apps, Email and Internet. On the Desktop you will learn about Task bar Options, Internet, Folders, and Side-by-Side Windows. Click, drag and swipe features will also be learned on both Start Screen and Desktop. This is a 3week course held on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM beginning October 15. Registration is required.



ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

It was a busy summer for the police department, and a transitional one as well. We hired two additional part-time officers, Jon Lasotta and Randy Sehl. The current part-time officer, Tom Mohrbach, was promoted to sergeant. The previous chief, Anthony Konopka, has returned to full time road- patrol duties, and I was recently promoted to chief.

Officer LaSotta is originally from the Grand Rapids MI area and had moved to Montana with his wife, where he worked for 3 years, on the East Helena Police Department. They returned to the Michigan area to be closer to family and friends. Officer LaSotta impressed us from the start and continues to do so.

Randy Sehl recently left the Monroe County Sheriff Department where he was a deputy for over sixteen years. He now works for the Washington Township Schools in Toledo but will work occasionally in Erie to fill in vacation gaps and special events. Randy was an officer in Erie in the mid 1990's and served us well then.

Together, we have been working hard to keep the community safe through proactive patrols and traffic enforcement throughout the community. There has been several drugged and drunk driving arrest made this summer. These dangerous drivers if not apprehended could have resulted in additional statistic that we do not need more of---fatalities! Please, do your part in not letting a drugged or impaired driver operate a vehicle. Remember, we are only a phone call away.

We have noticed a reduction in breaking & entering of homes this year but they are still occurring. Please do your part to reduce the chance of being a victim by locking your residence when you leave, utilizing exterior lighting at night and also watching out for your neighbor. Also, take advantage of our property check program when you plan on being away from your residence for a weekend or extended vacation. We will make checking your property a priority while you're away.

School is back in session so please drive extra carefully, especially near the schools, and bus stops. Remember, all traffic must stop for red

flashers on school busses, regardless of direction of travel. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor with heavy duty points & fines.

It is almost the prime time of year for car/deer accidents. The majority of these accidents occur near dawn and dusk so be extra vigilant during these times. Slow down when you see deer near a road. Their behavior is unpredictable.

There seems to be an increase in frauds and scams this year. Scams are being perpetrated over the phone, internet, via mail and in person. Remember if a deal seems too good to be true it probably is. Never give out your bank account numbers to anyone. Beware of internet sweepstakes, especially those from another country.

Halloween is almost upon us. It will be celebrated in our community on October 31st from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Please be extra careful when driving that evening. Also, be vigilant with checking your children's bounty of snacks to assure none were tampered with. If in doubt throw it out.

The township has recently adopted a new blight ordinance. Blight concerns are a frequent complaint we receive and we now have adequate tools to address these concerns. Common blight issues are: un-registered vehicles, inoperable vehicles, dilapidated structures, unsightly debris on properties, etc. Please work cooperatively as a community to assure you do not have a visit from us concerning these issues as we plan to aggressively enforce our new blight ordinance. Violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$500.00 fine and up to 90 days in jail.

As I mentioned previously we are in a transitional period at Erie P.D. I plan on attending, or having one of my officers attends, every board meeting on the second Tuesday of every month. During that time there will be an opportunity to ask us any questions or concerns you have. If that is not convenient please call us at 848-4082. Remember if you have an emergency, call "911", if you have non-emergency, but need to see an officer, call Central Dispatch at 734-243-7070 One of my goals is to make Erie PD a professional, well respected department that is responsive to the needs of the community. We can only achieve this with your input.

I hope everyone has a great Autumn and I hesitate to say the word--Winter.

Your Chief of Police, Dean Ansel

**MORIN POINT
VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT**



Fire Prevention week is October 6-12, 2013. Every family should practice what we do in the case we have the misfortune of having a fire in the home. Every year you should practice fire drills at home we all do them at work and at schools, so why not at our homes. Also have a meeting place, somewhere safe, so we have accountability and always remember once outside stay outside. The fire safety trailer will be visiting area schools. The safety trailer was made possible through a grant our Fire Department obtained.

Soon the seasons will be changing, it is very important to make sure to keep your batteries changed in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These alarms save lives only if they are in proper working order. Drive safely, slow down in inclement weather, it may take a little longer to get there but you will get there safely. Please if there is an emergency on the roads, give the emergency responders the room they need to work on the situation, and do not put their lives in danger.

We are always looking for people whom would like to be part of our Fire Department. If you are interested, stop by the station any Wednesday at 7 p.m. If you have any questions/ concerns call us at 734-848-8942.

Thank you for your support

Respectfully,
Chief Patrick Zaleski-Morin Point Fire Department

BURNING LAW CHANGES

On October 16, 2012 new state regulations took effect that that prohibits open burning of household trash items that pose a danger to public health. Prohibited items include: plastic, rubber, foam, treated wood and hazardous materials. Please visit the Erie Township website for more information.



ERIE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fall and Winter will soon be upon us. Be sure your furnaces and wood burners are cleaned and inspected. Check your smoke alarms to see if they are working. By checking these items you will have a safe Fall and Winter.

Mason Elementary Schools will be involved with Fire Prevention week. The children learn about Fire prevention and safety in case of a emergency comes about. Fire Trucks, rescue vehicles, and Firemen are there to educate the students. Luna Pier, Morin Point and Erie Fire Departments participate in the exercise.

We are currently looking for volunteers to join the Fire Department. Applications can be obtained at the Township Hall. Burn permits can be obtained at the Township Hall.

We at the Erie Fire Department thank the People in the Township for the support you have given us. The personnel on the department are dedicated to help, protect, and serve the people of Erie Township. Have a safe Fall and Winter

Chief Dave Duvall

NEWSLETTER NEWS



Erie Township will be making a change to the printing of the newsletters that go out twice a year. The Township will be printing and sending out one newsletter and the second newsletter will be posted on our web site at erietownship.com. Due to the increasing cost to print and mail the newsletters the township will be trying this process for the future. If anyone would like to continue to receive both the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter newsletters by mail, we are asking you to call Erie Township @ 734-848-5915 or stop in to the Township and we will put you on a mailing list for the newsletters that will be put on the website. The newsletter can also be e-mailed to you if you provide the Township with your e-mail address. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at the above phone number.

Building Department News

From Michael Demski, Building/Zoning Official



WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

The best way to find out is to call the building department before starting your project. Permits are usually required for all projects including building, electrical, plumbing, and heating/AC work. Most of these types of work require specific items for code compliance and therefore a permit and inspections are required for code compliance. Some projects such as sheds and fences do not require a building permit, but it still may be necessary to obtain a permit for zoning compliance. Please contact the Building Department before beginning your project.

Septic Systems

Did you know that one-quarter of all U.S. homes have septic systems and most of the homes in Erie Township use a septic system. If you're not properly maintaining your septic system, you're not only hurting the environment, you're putting your family's health at risk—and may be flushing thousands of dollars down the drain!



Septic systems are common in rural areas without centralized sewer systems. Septic systems are underground wastewater treatment structures that use a combination of nature and time-tested technology to treat wastewater from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains, and laundry. A typical system consists of a septic tank and a drainfield, or soil absorption field.

The benefits of maintaining your septic system include:

- **Saves You Money**
Regular maintenance fees of \$250 to \$300 every three to four years is a bargain compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a malfunctioning system, which can cost between \$3,000 and \$7,000 for a conventional system.

- **Protects Your Property Value**
An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value, not to mention pose a potentially costly legal liability.
- **Keeps You and Your Neighbors Healthy**
Household wastewater is loaded with disease-causing bacteria and viruses, as well as high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. If a septic system is well-maintained and working properly, it will remove most of these pollutants. Insufficiently treated sewage from septic systems can cause groundwater contamination, which can spread disease and poses the risk of contaminating nearby surface waters.
- **Protects the Environment**
Groundwater contaminated by poorly or untreated household wastewater doesn't just pose dangers to drinking water—it poses dangers to the environment. [Malfunctioning septic systems](#) release bacteria, viruses, and chemicals toxic to local waterways. When these pollutants are released into the ground, they eventually enter streams, rivers, lakes, and more, harming local ecosystems by killing native plants, fish, and shellfish.

Things you can do to help maintain your septic system:

- **Inspect and Pump Frequently**
The average household septic system should be inspected at least every three years by a septic service professional. Household septic tanks are typically pumped every three to five years. Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components need to be inspected more often, generally once a year. Four major factors influence the frequency of septic pumping: 1. Household size, 2. Total wastewater generated, 3. Volume of solids in wastewater, 4. Septic tank size. When you call a septic service provider, they will inspect for leaks and examine the scum and sludge layers. If the bottom of the scum layer is within six inches of the bottom of the outlet, or if the top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the outlet, your tank will need to be pumped.



- **Use Water Efficiently**

Did you know that average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is nearly 70 gallons per individual, per day? And just a single leaky toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day? All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. This means that the more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use can not only improve the operation of a septic system, but it can reduce the risk of failure as well.

- **Proper Waste Disposal**

Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic system. And what goes down the drain can have a major impact on how well your septic system works. Your septic system is not a trash can. An easy rule of thumb, Don't flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper.

- **Maintain Your Drainfield**

Your drainfield—a component of your septic system that removes contaminants from the liquid that emerges from your septic tank—is an important part of your septic system. Here are a few things you should do to maintain it:
Parking: Never park or drive on your drainfield. **Planting:** Plant trees the appropriate distance from your drainfield to keep roots from growing into your septic system. **Placing:** Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drainfield area, as excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.

Hopefully the information above has made you think of ways to keep your septic system better maintained. This article was written from information obtained on the EPA's web site for a new initiative on septic systems. The EPA's SepticSmart initiative is a nation-wide public education effort that aims to inform homeowners living on properties serviced by septic systems on the importance of properly maintaining their septic system and provide valuable resources to help homeowners make important decisions regarding their wastewater management needs. You can visit the EPA's SepticSmart web site for more great information, illustrations and resources:

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/septicmart.cfm>

ERIE ZONING ORDINANCE



The new Master Plan has been adopted and is available for review on the township web site. The Erie Township Planning Commission has continued to be very busy working to update the Zoning Ordinance to conform to the information in the Master Plan. The Planning Commission hopes to be able to adopt a new ordinance sometime this winter. For quite some time the Township Board and Planning Commission have been hearing concerns about the current regulations and zoning districts. This update will be a major "overhaul" of the ordinance that will include updating the permitted uses and changes to the Zoning Map. Your input would be very helpful and appreciated, if interested the Planning Commission normally meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the boardroom. Please also watch for future notices of public hearings that will be held before any updates are adopted.

SOUTH COUNTY WATER BILLS

For your convenience the Township accepts payments for South County Water bills. Many of you make your checks out to South County Water. In the future, **PLEASE** make your checks payable to **ERIE TOWNSHIP**.



Please remember to include your phone number on your check in the event we may need to contact you.

TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

October 14, 2013 Columbus Day

November 11, 2013 Veterans Day

November 28 & 29, 2013 Thanksgiving

December 24, 25, 2013 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

December 31, 2013 and January 1, 2014 New Years Eve & New Years Day

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

Phone
734-848-5915

Fax
734-848-2548

E-mail

wfrey@erietownship.com

jupchurch@erietownship.com

cwisbon@erietownship.com

assessing@erietownship.com

mdemski@erietownship.com

ssmith@erietownship.com

dlaplante@erietownship.com

mgrodi@erietownship.com



We're on the web!
Visit us at:
www.erietownship.com

***Erie Township –
At Your Service***

Office Hours:
Monday thru Friday
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

**Note: we no longer
have different summer
and winter hours**

Erie Township Is On The Internet

Erie Township has been working to add more content and information to our web site. When you have questions or need township information please check out erietownship.com where you may find answers to many of your questions.

- **It's fast and convenient...**Search for important data from the convenience of your office or home without having the hassle of stopping at the township hall.
- **Download forms and applications**
- **Review meeting minutes and agendas**
- **Get email addresses and contact information**
- **Review property information...**(register to view your property information for free, pay a small fee for others)
- **Simply go to erietownship.com**
Or scan the QR code with your Smartphone or tablet to visit our web site.



The Erie News

**Please look inside for Important Information
From Erie Township!**

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

Presorted Standard
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Permit #8
Erie, Michigan

CURRENT RESIDENT

ERIE, MICHIGAN 48133