



## Township News and Updates



### Your Township Officials

#### Supervisor

*William Frey*

#### Clerk

*Jolene Upchurch*

#### Treasurer

*Cynthia Wisbon*

**Trustee- Michael Grodi**

**Trustee- Shawn Cousino**

### Your Township Office

Sue Smith

Diane LaPlante

Stephanie Renius,  
Assessors

Michael Demski- Building /  
Zoning Official

Dean Ansel-  
Chief of Police

### Newsletter Coordinators

Diane LaPlante

Michael Demski

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Hopefully everyone is enjoying the newly improved roads in Erie Township. Erie Township does not receive any tax dollars to designate towards the improvement or maintenance of roads. The Monroe County Road Commission received a special bid price on asphalt this year which made it possible for the township to agree to repave four (4) roads in Erie Township even though we have no responsibility over roads. The contract with Monroe County Road Commission for the repaving plan included approximately 5.91 miles of roads at a cost of \$784,763.00 dollars. The roads that were in the repaving plan are:

- Strasburg Rd. from Erie Rd. to Rauch 2.09 miles
- Substation Rd from US-24 to Minx 0.50 miles
- Dean Rd. from US-24 to Minx 0.28 miles
- Erie Rd. from Summit to E. Twp Line 1.90 miles
- Erie Rd. from Telegraph to Minx 1.14 miles

The Township Board approved \$467,000.00 in the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget to repave Erie Rd. from Summit to I-75 for approximately 1.7 miles of pavement. Due to the extremely affordable paving contract for this year only from Cadillac Asphalt, we were able to work with the Monroe County Road Commission with assistance from the Mannik & Smith Engineering Group to put this repaving plan together.

This new road plan proposal allowed us to repave 5.91 miles of roads for an additional \$317,763.00 over the current budgeted road dollars but resulted in an additional 4.21 miles of roads being improved. This price on asphalt has been the best price in years so Erie Township took advantage of it and paved the worst roads in our township. In addition to the repaving plan the township also approved for the millings from the roads to be placed on Minx Rd. We have found out since the placement of the contract that it is not recommended to place the millings on a gravel road. Now in talking to the Road Commission we will be placing stone on Minx Rd. to help keep the road maintained.

Cadillac Asphalt was willing to extend the financing terms over a three (3) year term with an annual interest rate of 2.75 % to be paid off by November 30, 2016. Because of the additional cost to our budgets over the next three (3) fiscal years Erie Township will limit our road improvement to only road maintenance.

Enjoy the new repaving of the roads and remember to drive safe!!!

## FROM THE TREASURER

**Cindy Wisbon:**

Hello Erie Residents,

Happy fall to everyone. I hope you have 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, 2014 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, 2014 –Feb. 16, 2015 without penalty or interest. After March 2, 2015 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. 734-848-5915.

You may pay your tax bills at the township hall, township drop box, through the mail, or on line at Erie Township.com. Additionally, bills may be paid at Monroe Bank & Trust in Erie and First Merit Bank in Temperance.

Hopefully winter will not be as rough as last year, especially on our newly repaired roads. Yea!!

### **Reminder:**

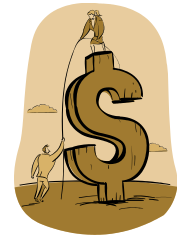
As a reminder Erie Township holds its monthly board meetings the second Tuesday of every month @ 7:00 pm.



## 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 had a Great Spring and Summer and are ready to enjoy the beautiful fall colors along with the Apple and Pumpkin Festivals before the snow starts flying.

With the August Primary completed we are now looking at the November 4, 2014 General Election. Remember if you are an Absentee voter you have already received your dual application for the August Election and the November Election. If anyone would like to vote absentee please contact the Clerk's office and we will get the application out to you. Hope to see you at the polls and exercise your right to vote.

I hope everyone is enjoying the new road improvements Erie Township has made to the most deteriorating roads in the township. The Township Board made the decision to fix the roads with a three (3) year commitment to pay for them with a very low interest rate. Please remember now that the roads are nice to drive on, to slow down because our children are in school now and they are standing by the roads waiting for buses.

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 Clerk's 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 Story time**

Has once again resumed this fall. 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. Toddlers: 18 -36 months. Registration is required. Log on to <http://bit.ly/storytimesMCLS> to register.

**"Decorating on a Dime"**

Will be presented on Monday, October 20 at 6:30 PM. Get some tips on sprucing up your home for the holidays. Registration is required. Log on to [www.mymcls.com](http://www.mymcls.com) or call the branch for more information or to register.



**Cemeteries News**



Both Union Cemetery and Brigham Cemetery have had major clean up and tree and over grown bushes removed. As stated in our previous newsletters our cemeteries have gotten out of control with tress, bushes and ornaments. As of April 2014 Erie Township will no longer allow any benches, statues, trees, planted plants or ornaments on the grave plots unless they can be mounted on the footer. If any of the items mentioned were on a grave at either cemetery and you didn't get there to get them, we have placed some of the items by the fence for your convince. We will keep them there until November 15, 2014 to give you time to come and get them if you want them. After that date everything will be put into the dumpster and taken away. If you would like a copy of the cemetery rules you can stop at the Township or go on Erie Township's website at [erietownship.com](http://erietownship.com) and print a copy or I have placed boxes up at each cemetery that has the Cemetery Rules in them for you to take.

Jolene Upchurch, CMC



**ERIE POLICE**

**Reminders from your Police Department:**

Once again autumn is upon us. Please be extra careful when driving this time of year as school children are once again out and about. Remember, it is mandatory to stop for school buses displaying red flashing lights (both directions) even on major roadways such as Telegraph Rd. Please be extra cautious around all school buses regardless of whether lights are activated. Erie PD officers will be aggressively enforcing speed limits, especially near schools and bus stops.



This is the time of year where deer become more active especially near dawn & dusk. Remember, your best course of action is not to swerve to avoid a deer, rather maintain your lane, brake evenly, and maintain a straight path even if this means hitting the deer. Most injuries and fatalities to motorists are from trying to avoid a deer collision by abruptly swerving or changing lanes. If you see a deer in the distance slow down!



Following autumn, naturally comes winter. With last year's record snow falls and temperatures, we handled way too many accidents. A lot of the accidents we handled could have been avoided, by just slowing down. For all who travel the roadways, please remember to leave earlier for your destination, and drive slower during these unpredictable winter months.

**Halloween / Free Bracelets:**

Speaking of driving safe, Halloween is right around the corner. Friday October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Please be extra mindful during Halloween due to all the extra little people that will be on the streets. Remember in their frenzy of looking for goodies, they're not looking for you, so you have to look for them.



To help try and keep you and your children safe this Halloween, the Police Department will be giving out glow stick wrist bracelets. You can pick up the bracelets at the Erie Township Police Department, or at the Township Hall. The bracelets will be available on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We only have 200 bracelets, so they will be given out on a first come first serve basis, and limited to the total number of people in your immediate family. If we have any extra we will be giving them out on Halloween night.



**New Police Vehicle:**

Soon you will be seeing a new Erie PD police vehicle patrolling the streets. We will soon have an all-wheel drive Ford Explorer.

This new vehicle will allow us to get through heavier snow, and rougher terrain, that a rural department such as ours often encounters, much better than the traditional patrol cars. During last year's snow fall there were areas in the township that we could not get to in our standard patrol units. The Police Department along with your Township Board, decided that in order to combat the winter conditions, an SUV was a must. The cost is a bit-more than a traditional patrol car, but the safety of our residents must come first.

**Community Input:**

Citizens of Erie, I would like to take this time to properly introduce myself. My name is Dean Ansel. I have been employed by the township for approximately 8 years and have been the Police Chief for about a year and a half. You may have heard through the rumor mill that this department has gone through some turbulent times. While there may have been some truth in what you many have heard, I want to assure you that Sgt. Tom Mohrbach and myself are 100% dedicated to do whatever it takes to change the old image of this police department; in the last year and a half we have made great progress in this challenge. I would also like to let you know that we have an open door policy and if there are any thoughts, comments or concerns that you would like to share with us, please don't hesitate to do so; my door is always open. I am a firm believer in treating people like I would like to be treated with dignity and respect, and I pride myself on being open minded and a good listener.

**Home Invasions:**

Home invasions were up earlier this spring & summer, but we have seen a decline in them during the months of August and September. With the holidays approaching we anticipate an increase in home invasions, "it's just the nature of the beast". Once again a reminder to be extra-vigilant for suspicious people and/or vehicles in your neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to report any suspicious activity when it occurs. Program this number into your phone, 734-243-7070 to reach central dispatch and maybe label it POLICE, and don't hesitate to use it. Too often people call us after the incident has passed, we need you to call as the incident is occurring. A perfect example of this was when a vigilant neighbor on Substation Rd. called about 2 suspicious people going into her neighbors house. Due to that phone call, we were able to apprehend two suspects breaking into a house. Much too often we hear of homes and businesses being broke into, where someone has witnessed the incident but didn't call us about it till it was too late. I'm pleading with you as citizens of our GREAT community, please be more vigilant in your day to day routine, not only for you, but for your fellow citizens. Unfortunately we live in different times. In the old mind set we would say our neighbor was being "nosey", but we need to change that mind set and start thinking of it as, "the concerned neighbor". It has been quoted many times, "Together we can make a difference. Separate we will fall". I believe there is truth to this.

I will close by wishing all of you a blessed Holiday Season. Be safe, and try and stay warm. Remember if there is anything we here at the Police Department can do for you, don't hesitate to give us a call, (734)848-4082

On behalf of your Police Department,  
Your Chief of Police, Dean Ansel

**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.

**MORIN POINT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Hope everyone had a safe summer, sorry to say it will be over soon and we all know what is ahead of us.

October is Fire Prevention Month. The Morin Point Fire Department will be having an Open House on Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 1-5 p.m. We will have the Kids Fire Prevention trailer for the children to tour; the trailer is a good exercise on how to react in the case of a fire. We will also have on display the fire trucks and other rescue vehicles. Fire personnel will answer any questions you may have. We will be having hot dogs and drinks and educational handouts for the children.

During the month of October we should be practicing Fire safety/ Prevention. Check your smoke and CO2 detectors make sure that the batteries are checked and changes. Smoke alarms save lives. Have an escape route (2 ways out) have a meeting place so we have accountability. Once out, stay out no matter what.

Have your heating systems checked out to make sure they are in proper working order. If you have a professional licensed contractor or technician inspect your system.

With cold weather coming be prepared for the ice and snow on the roads. Have a survival kit in your trunk. Slow down. Take your time, you will get there. PLEASE move over for emergency vehicles, it is the law.

Be careful shoveling snow, take frequent breaks and hydrate. If you need help don't be afraid to ask or hire someone to shovel it. Slips and falls cause most injuries during the winter they could prove deadly.

Morin Point has ice rescue capabilities that we practice throughout the year. Please remember that NO ice is safe ice.

Our roster is 22 personnel. We are all volunteers. If you are interested in joining a unique brotherhood of men and women stop down any Wednesday evening at 7 pm or call the station at 734-848-8942.

With holidays close at hand please, if you have too much to drink remember your designated driver, your family and friends are counting on you.

From all the men and women of Morin Point Fire we wish you a safe Happy and Blessed Holiday season.

Chief Patrick Zaleski, Morin Point Volunteer Fire Department



### ERIE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fall weather is upon us. Everyone needs to change their batteries in their smoke alarms. Test them after you replace the batteries. If it does not work you will have to replace it.

Burn permits can be picked up at the Township Hall. Do not leave your fires unattended. Fire safety Month is October. The second week Erie Fire along with Morin Point, Luna Pier, and LaSalle Fire Departments will be at the Erie Mason Elementary Schools to educate Fire Safety to the students.

The Winter months could be as rough as last year. Be safe , Check your wood burners, chimneys, and use seasoned wood. The Erie Fire Department wishes everyone Happy Holidays. If you need us ,we will be there in your time of need.

Erie Fire Department, Chief Duvall

### LIFE SKILLS CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



To: Monroe County Michigan residents that reside in Erie Township

RE: Lake Erie Transit public bus transportation possibly expanding to your area.

Dear Residents,

We have received calls from local residents regarding the absence of bus transportation in your area. We would like to hear from residents that would benefit from expanding the bus transportation in and out of Erie Township to places in Monroe and Toledo. If you or someone you know would like to see the transportation services expand into your area please call Bill Frey the Erie Township supervisor at 734-848-5915. We cannot consider this unless we get enough responses regarding this issue.

Thank You, Monroe CIL

### 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.

### NEW FLOOD MAPS



# FEMA

The Department of Homeland Security, FEMA division, has issued NEW flood maps (FIRM's) for all of Monroe County. A Flood Insurance Study (FIS) was performed and new digital maps generated for the entire area. The new data used resulted in changes to the maps which may have cause some areas to now be included in a flood zone that were not previously. The FIS and the FIRMs provide base flood information; delineate areas subject to significant flood hazards within the county and those where flood insurance might be needed, and offer information public officials might use when permitting development in the floodplain.

These maps are used by floodplain permit officials, builders and developers, lenders, real estate agents, insurance agents and the general public to determine flood risk, develop mitigation measures and encourage wise and responsible risk management decision-making. Please remember to look at the flood maps when planning any construction project as special considerations will need to be taken for construction in a flood zone and additional state permits may be required.

The new FIRM maps become effective October 2, 2014. The maps may be reviewed on the FEMA website or the Erie Township office.

## **P.A. 161 of 2013**

### **DISABLED VETERANS EXEMPTION**

**Stephanie Renius, Erie Township Assessor**

P.A. 161 of 2013 amended The General Property Tax Act regarding real property tax exemptions available for disabled veterans. The act was amended to allow disabled veterans or their unremarried surviving spouse who meet specific criteria to be exempt from the collection of real property taxes. The disabled veteran must have been discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions, must be a Michigan resident and the property claimed must be the applicants Primary Residence, and must qualify under at least one of the following conditions:

1. Has been determined by the United States department of veterans' affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
2. Has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
3. Has been rated by the United States department of veterans' affairs as individually unemployable.

The Veterans' Administration defines a service connected disability as a disability related to an injury or disease that developed during or was aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training. The Veterans Administration Schedule for Rating Disabilities is used to assess the medical conditions and illnesses incurred or aggravated during the veteran's military service and a percentage rating from 0% to 100% is assigned based on the severity of the disability. Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria 1 listed above must provide a copy of the letter from the Veterans' Administration indicating they have a 100% service connected disability and are entitled to receive benefits.

The Veterans' Administration provides veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities financial assistance to purchase or construct an adapted home or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. There are two grant programs: specially adapted housing grant (SAH) and the special housing adaptation grant (SHA). The State Tax

Commission has determined that receipt of either grant would qualify an individual for the exemption under criteria 2 listed above. Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria 3 listed above must provide a copy of the certificate from the Veterans' Administration indicating they are receiving or have received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.

Individual unemployability is part of the Veterans' Administration disability compensation program. Under this program, veterans may receive compensation at the 100% rate even though their service connected disability is not rated at 100%. The Veterans Administration determines eligibility and in order to be eligible a veteran must prove they are unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of their service connected disability. In addition they must have one service connected disability rated at 60% or more or two or more service connected disabilities with at least one rated at 40% or more with a combined rating of 70% or more. Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria 3 listed above must provide a copy of the letter from the Veterans' Administration indicating they are individually unemployable.

To obtain the exemption, an affidavit, (available at the Township Hall or The Michigan Department of Treasury Website), showing the facts required by this section and a description of the real property shall be filed by the property owner or his or her legal designee with the assessing department during the period beginning with the tax day for each year and ending at the time of the final adjournment of the local board of review. The affidavit when filed shall be open to inspection. An affidavit must be filed ANNUALLY with the assessing department to receive the exemption from year to year. The exemption does not stay on the property from year to year.

If you believe that you qualify to receive this exemption, please contact the Township at 734-848-5915 for further details or to receive an affidavit for completion. To receive the exemption for the 2014 year, we must have a completed affidavit with the supporting documentation in the office no later than December 1, 2014 so we can have the affidavit presented to the December Board of Review. Approval by the December Board of Review will cancel ALL taxes (summer and winter) for eligible property. The exemption does not exempt special assessments.

## MASON HIGH SCHOOL OPEN SWIMMING

Mason High School Natatorium \* 2400 Eagle Drive, Erie  
Open to the public every Wednesday night that School is in session  
7:00pm - 8:30pm - ALL AGES WELCOME!

ONLY \$1.00 PER HOUR, \$.50 FOR AN ADDITIONAL ½ HOUR (prices per person)

- Affordable Fun for the Entire Family
- Great Exercise
- No Membership Required, All Are Welcome
- Certified Lifeguard on Duty at All Times
- Changing Facilities Available
- Partitioned Lanes Available

Questions? Call 734-848-9301



### Erie Station, Inc.

9771 S. Dixie Hwy.  
Erie, MI 48133  
(734) 848-4900

4th Generation - 30 Years in Business

**CE** CURTIS  
ONSTRUCTION  
OMPANY LLC

INSURED & LICENSED

**734-848-4618**



JORDAN GORDY  
OWNER

CURTIS GORDY  
SALES



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

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**We're on the web!**  
**Visit us at:**  
**[www.erietownship.com](http://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](http://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](http://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  
US Postage PAID  
Permit #8  
Erie, Michigan

**CURRENT RESIDENT**

ERIE, MICHIGAN 48133