

Spring 2011

# Sumpter Country Times

 Sumpter Township

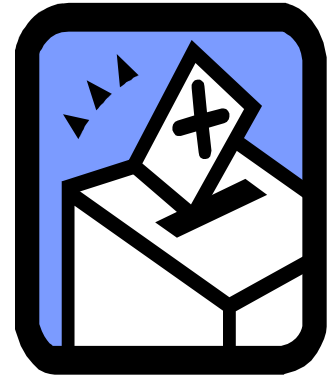


## FROM JOHNNY VAWTERS, SUPERVISOR

Dear Friends,  
 On May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2011 we are asking the Citizens of Sumpter Township to go to the Polls to decide on whether to okay a 1 mil increase to the Police millage. We would not be asking for an increase from our citizens if it wasn't necessary to keep the Police Dept. held to the high standard of service that you and I have come to expect. Do to the unforeseen drop of revenue from the landfill royalties. The royalties from the landfill have dropped almost 60% this year alone. This 1 mil increase would be about \$75.00

a year for an average homeowner, about the cost of Dinner and a Movie for two. **Please Remember to Vote on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.** and help us keep **Your Sumpter Police**  
 Now for some good news. I would hope you would join me in Welcoming 3 new businesses, **Zino's Pizza** (Sumpter & Bemis rds.), **Sumpter Pet Care & Scarred MMA Martial Arts**, (both are across from ACE Hardware) to Sumpter Township. While I'm glad to hear that Sumpter Township Residents **Joe & Vicki Prieur** have purchased & are renovat-

ing the(now closed) old **"Hall's Market"** at Bemis & Savage Rds, I was saddened to learn that **Sam** from **"Play it again Sam's"** is retiring. All of us at the Supervisor's Office & I'm sure the residents of Sumpter Township wish her the best and Congratulate her on being given the 2011 Country Fest. Please Frequent the Business's in Sumpter, they cannot survive without you. As always, May God Bless Sumpter Township & It's Citizens Johnny Vawters



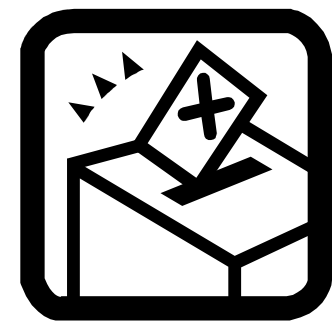
**36<sup>th</sup>. Annual Country Fest**  
 Memorial Day Weekend  
 May 26<sup>th</sup>. Thru May 30<sup>th</sup>.  
 2011  
 Carnival – Free Children's  
 Entertainment – Arts & Crafts  
 Booths – Bingo  
 Music – Beer Tent – Food  
 Vendors  
 Thurs. 5/26 – Princess Pageant 7:00pm. -----  
 Friday 5/27 – Live Music /

## Parks & Rec. News Craig Moody Chairman – Peggy Morgan Board Liaison

Dancing  
 Sat. 5/28 – Parade at 12:00 noon  
 "Honored Citizen" Leota Ann Engerson ("Sam" from Play it again Sam's)  
 Saturday - Impersonators/  
 Tribute Artists 2:00 to Close  
 Hosted by "Dean Martin"  
 Featuring: Elvis-Neil Dia-

mond-Aretha Franklin-Buddy Holly-The Beatles & Others  
 Sunday 5/29 – Fireworks at Dusk Sponsored by Republic Services/Carleton Farms  
 Monday 5/30 – U.S.A. Demolition Derby / Enduro Racing @ 5:00pm.  
**Free Family Fun Day July**

**16<sup>th</sup>.**  
 1:00pm. at Graham Park (corner of Sumpter & Wear Rds.)  
 Games-Hot Dogs-chips-cold treats  
 Softball Game  
 Sumpter Police & Fire – VS - Belleville Police & Fire



## FROM CLARENCE J. HOFFMAN, JR., CLERK

The regular township board meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm. The planning commission is working on updating the zoning section of the township ordinances meetings are open to the public held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 pm.

The following dates are the holidays that the township offices will be closed for the 2011 year: January 1, 3 and 17, February 21, April 22<sup>nd</sup> & 25, May 30, July 4, September 5, October 10, November 11, 24 & 25, December 23 thru Jan 2, 2011. If you have any questions feel free to call the clerks office at 734-461-6201.

There will be a special election May 3, 2011. The last day to register is April 4, 2011. Our ancestors fought hard to have the right to vote. Make your vote count.

If you are interested in being on the list to work at an election stop by the Clerks Office and fill out an application.

Township hours are Monday thru Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Emergency numbers 24 hours for police, water & sewer are 911 or (734) 461-6898.

Spring is here and summer is not far behind. Garage and Yard Sales will be happening. Don't forget that you need a permit to have a sale. On August 27 & 28, 2011 is the Township wide Yard Sales and no permit is necessary. Cost is \$2.00 for 4 days in a row. Any questions call the Clerks office 734-461-6201

You can take your rubbish to the landfill located at Clark & Oakville Waltz (2) times a month on Wednesdays 2pm to 4:30pm or on Saturdays 7am to 1pm. If you have any questions you can call 734-654-0001.

WIC Program  
Wayne county health Dept. has a WIC Office located at 23483 Sumpter Rd. (across from the Township Hall). If you are pregnant woman,

breastfeeding woman, have had a baby in the last six months or have a child up to the age of five. You could be eligible to receive a list of healthy foods to help your money go further. Call 1-800-26-BIRTH or 734-461-6419 and make an appointment to see if you are eligible for services WIC has to offer. No walk ins.

Nourishing Gardens Food Bank

If you are in need of food, please do not hesitate to come down. We will be able to provide you with food. We are able to service small families as well as large families. If you have any questions or are in need of help at times other than those listed below, please give us a call at 734-713-7715 or visit our web site at

[www.nourishinggardens.org](http://www.nourishinggardens.org).  
Our hours: Sunday 11am to 12:30pm. Location; 24831 Sumpter Rd., Belleville (between Wear & Willow).

Call 734 461 1186

Sumpter Senior Center is located in the Community Center Building at 23501 Sumpter Road. Hours are Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. -4:00p.m. 734 461-9373

Transportation is available thru a partnership with SMART.  
The Sumpter Senior Center is funded in part by The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging through the Office of Services to Aging Smile and see you at the center!

## From The Senior Center

Spring! **Finally!** It's a time for enjoying the great outdoors and what better place to do that than in Sumpter!! Why not join us for stretch & tone class every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 to limber up after all those "outdoors" activities!  
Senior Olympics takes place August 15-19. Don't let the title scare you, there is a variety of events, including non-physical ones. New this year:

Wii Bowling! Let's represent Sumpter Township, meet fellow active seniors and have fun doing it! Registration forms are available in the office. ?'s call 743 461-9373. We love our dedicated volunteers! Come on in and get involved, opportunities are always available.  
The grass-cutting program is managed through the Supervisors office. This grant funded program is for income and

age qualifying residents with paid property taxes. Please contact Supervisors Office to qualify or re-qualify for this program.

Got a favorite old piece of furniture that just needs a little "lift"? Upholstery class will be repeated this fall. Computer classes are ongoing every 8 weeks.

Wayne County Nutrition lunch Mon-Fri 11:45. 24 hour registration requested. \$2.25 donation expected.

## FROM JOHN W. MORGAN, TREASURER

Any 2010 Summer (yellow) or Winter (blue) tax bills not paid by now must be paid at Wayne County Treasurer's office. Payments can be made by mail to: Wayne County Treasurer, 400 Monroe Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Detroit, MI 48226 or payments can be made online @ [www.treasurer.waynecounty.com](http://www.treasurer.waynecounty.com). Wayne County **does** accept par-

tial payments. If sending a check by mail, make sure to put property number on check.



Just a reminder the Treasurer's office is open 8:30-4:30 pm Monday thru Friday and open late on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month 8:30-7:00 pm.

The Township Hall will be closed April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup> for the Easter holiday and May 30<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.

Have a Blessed Easter Holiday.

John W. Morgan  
Treasurer

## Tire Recycling

Saturday

May 7, 2011

9 am to 1 pm.

Township

residents can

bring up to 7

tires.

## Tire Recycling



Well it's finally springtime again. Time to do a little spring clean-up. Sumpter Township and Wayne County are going to try and help you out. We are again going to have a tire recycling day Saturday, May 7,

2011. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Township residents can bring up to seven tires to the drop off behind the Township Hall at the recycling area. Tractor tires, large truck tires and industrial equipment tires **will not** be ac-

cepted. It will be necessary to provide I.D. as proof of residency. Last year over 400 tires were collected.

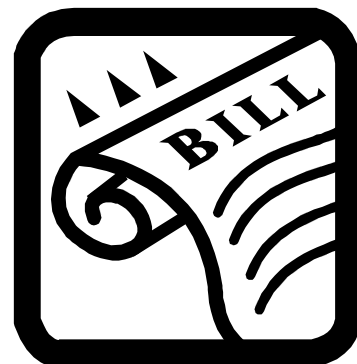
Marvin Drews,  
Superintendent

## Water Billing

On a side note, please be advised that it will be necessary for you to bring your water bill in when you come in to the

Township hall to make payment. If it is necessary for staff to look up the amount owed and to write out a bill for you, there will

be a \$1.00 charge to your account. We need your assistance in this matter and greatly appreciate your cooperation.



## From Your Police Department

Dear Citizen,

As most are probably aware by now, Sumpter Township will have a 1 mil police millage proposal on the May 3, 2011, ballot. I would like to take this opportunity to answer a few frequently asked questions about the millage proposal and why it is desperately needed.

### **Q: Why is the Police Millage needed?**

A: The Township of Sumpter has faced a significant decline in its revenue stream over the last several years, primarily due to market conditions lowering property assessments and State Shared Revenue cuts. The township is facing even more decline in the next couple of years due partially to the aforementioned cuts but primarily due to a drastic decrease in royalty payments from the Carleton Farms Landfill.

### **Q: Didn't voters just renew the 2 mil Police Millage last August?**

A: Yes, Sumpter Township residents overwhelmingly (By a 3:1 margin) supported the police department and passed the millage renewal last August bringing in an estimated \$700,000 for the operation of the police department, and keeping services at a level able to meet the community's needs. We truly appreciate the huge show of support from the community.

### **Q: Why is Sumpter Township now asking for another 1 mil for police?**

A: The continued decline of revenue from property taxes and State Shared revenue, coupled with the drastic decline of Royalty Payments from the Carleton Farms Landfill experienced so far this year, means less money to fund basic police services.

### **Q: Why didn't the township just ask for the total 3 mil last August?**

A: Cost-cutting measures undertaken in 2009 had the township on solid fiscal ground in 2010 and was projected to continue into 2011 and beyond, meaning that the 2 mil renewal was all that was needed at the time. However, had the township been made aware that landfill royalties would be cut so drasti-

cally the township would have asked the residents to approve the increased of 1 mil at that time, bringing the total to 3 mils for police.

### **Q: How do landfill royalty payments effect the township budget?**

A: Landfill royalty payments have been a huge benefit to Sumpter Township over the past couple of decades, allowing for an increase in vital services without requiring residents to shoulder the entire burden through increased taxes. Everything changed recently when the township learned there would be another estimated decrease of more than \$750,000 from the royalty payments. That means in less than a year the royalty payments have decreased by \$1,380,250, or almost 60%.

### **Q: What efforts have been put in place to lessen the impact of the reduced revenue stream?**

A: Since March 2009, the Sumpter Township Police Department has eliminated the entire three-position ordinance enforcement department (handling blight, dog pound, etc), and is down four full-time Police Officer positions. While our current staffing levels are at a stressed level, we have been able to take over the duties of the Ordinance Department using sworn Police Officers. During the past two years, the police department, through the aforementioned losses and ongoing cuts, has decreased its budget by approximately 25%.

The overall loss of employees has placed strain on the police department and its mission to provide quality service to Sumpter Township Residents, although to this point we have been able to cover shortages with little to no decrease in the level of service residents have become accustomed. However, any further cuts to Police Officer staffing levels would have a devastating effect on the department's ability to provide quality basic services.

In an effort to stay on fiscally stable ground, the overall township budget has also seen drastic cuts since 2009. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2010/11 is a decrease of approximately \$1.4 million from the 2008/2009 budget. The township will continue to look for area

to cut back going forward.

### **Q: What have the employees done to help?**

A: Sumpter Township Police Officers and township employees in general, have recently began negotiations to accept a pay cut in addition to a steep increase of out-of-pocket cost for health care coverage. These cuts are on top of long-standing common sense agreements regarding employee retirement that have kept Sumpter Township out of the "Legacy Cost" quicksand that most municipalities find themselves in these days. Unlike those other municipalities, Sumpter Township Police Officers pay more towards their retirement than does the township. Furthermore, Sumpter Township Police Officers do not receive any medical benefits from the township after retirement. These two areas are a tremendous savings for Sumpter Township over those of other area communities.

### **Q: What will another 1 mil mean to my property taxes?**

A: The 1 mil increase would be \$75.00 a year for a home with a taxable value of \$75,000. That translates to .20 cents per day. Most homeowners in Sumpter Township and across the state have seen a sharp decrease in property taxes the past couple of years. While a nice benefit to homeowners' wallets, the decrease in tax revenue it causing chaos to local communities trying to provide basic services in regards to the safety and security of the citizens. With that sharp decrease in mind, it appears that most homeowners will still see a reduction in their overall property tax bill; even with the increase of 1 mil for police services. Remember, out of the total 35 mil that Sumpter Township homeowners' pay, only 4.7 mil (13%) actually comes back to the township for local services.

*Please help*

**KEEP SUMPTER SAFE**

*and help your police help you.*

**PLEASE VOTE on May**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>**

# Swimming Pools

Those hot summer days are ahead of us. So to be able to cool off on those days we install a swimming pool. Did you know that permits are required for the installation of a pool over 24" high? Why you ask?, mainly for safety reasons. Would you want someone to get hurt

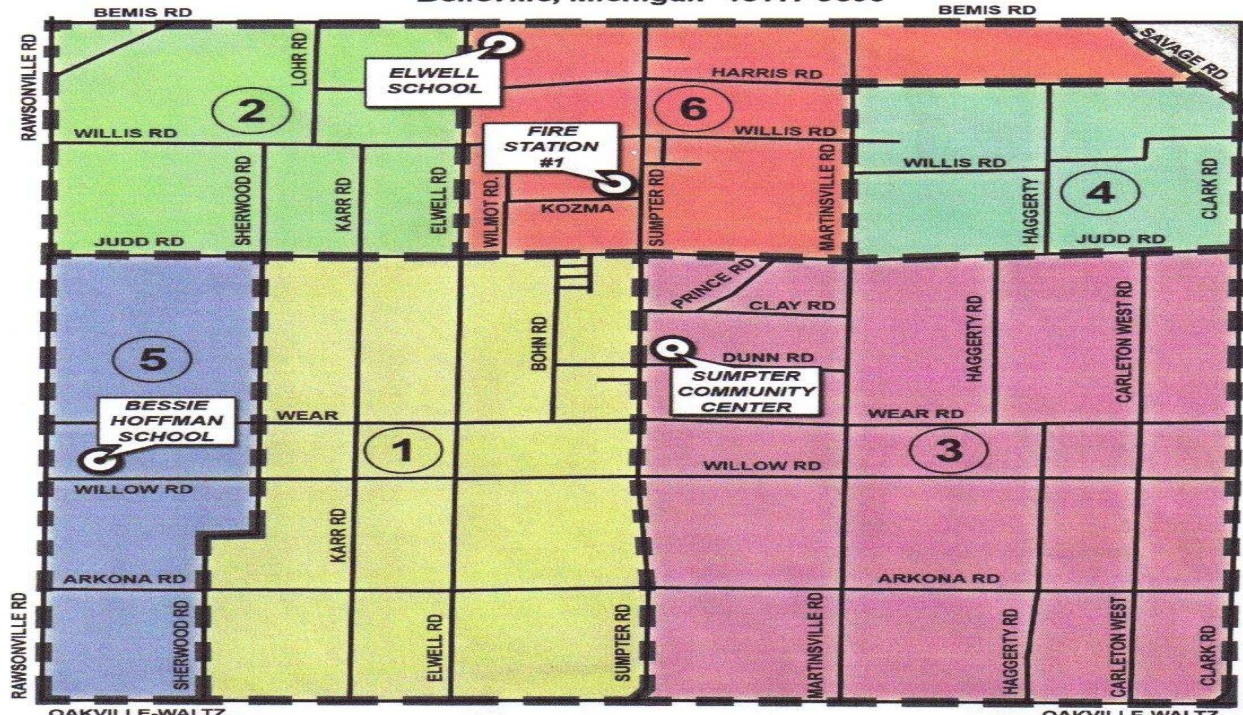
while enjoying a cool dip on a hot summer day? The State Building Code and Township ordinances require that building, electrical, and heating (if needed) permits be obtained so that the installation of your pool can be **inspected**. Improperly installed pools could be dangerous to you, your family, or unfortunately a trespasser while you are away. So lets keep eve-

ryone safe and have the installation of your pool inspected. If you have already installed your pool, you still need to go to the township and obtain your permits. After a 2 year "grace" period, the Building Department will issue violations if your pool has been installed without a permit. This year the township pool ordinance will be enforced. If an accident were to happen and your

insurance company finds that your pool was improperly installed and without permits they could deny your claim and/or benefits. This could end up being a costly outcome.



## Precinct Voting Locations SUMPTER TOWNSHIP 23480 Sumpter Road Belleville, Michigan 48111-9600



Precinct No.
1
2
3
4
5
6

Location
SUMPTER COMMUNITY CENTER
ELWELL SCHOOL
SUMPTER COMMUNITY CENTER
FIRE STATION #1
BESSIE HOFFMAN SCHOOL
FIRE STATION #1

Address
23501 SUMPTER RD.
17601 ELWELL RD.
23501 SUMPTER RD.
20550 SUMPTER RD.
50700 WILLOW RD.
20550 SUMPTER RD.

Clarence Hoffman, Jr. - Clerk

## Sumpter Township

23480 Sumpter Road  
Belleville, MI 48111

Phone: 734-461-6201  
Fax: 734-461-6441

Country Living At Its Finest

# Sumpter Township Postal Customer

## Sumpter Township Board of Trustees

- \* Johnny Vawters, Supervisor
- \* Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Clerk
- \* John W. Morgan, Treasurer
- \* Alan D. Bates, Trustee
- \* Bill Hamm, Trustee
- \* Linda L. Kennedy, Trustee
- \* Peggy Morgan, Trustee

For Your Information the parks are finished and the township is charging for the use of the pavilions at Graham Park (corner of Sumpter and Wear) and Banotai Park (corner of Sherwood and Wear). You must sign up at the Sumpter Township Clerks Office and pay \$50.00 for the use of the pavilions. If you have any questions feel free to call 734-461-6201.

