

Sumpter Township

# Sumpter Country Times

## From Your Supervisor, Johnny Vawters

### Supervisors Corner

Sumpter Township will be holding the next Board of Review on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. This Board of Review meeting is for the purpose of Clerical Errors/ Mutual Fact and Principal Residential Exemptions \*It is very important to evaluate your tax bill to ensure you are receiving the Principal Residential Exemption. For more information regarding the Board of Review or Principal Residential Exemption Please call 734-461-6201 ext 229.

### Senior Citizen Grass Cutting

The Sumpter Twp Supervisors Office has once again received a Grant from Wayne County for the Senior Citizen Grass Cutting. This service is free of charge to Seniors of Sumpter Twp . To qualify you must be 62 years of age or older and fit HUD Guidelines under low to moderate income. You must own and occupy your home. Homeowners only, (service not provided to mobile home owners), Taxes must be current and you must present proof of qualification with your application. For more information, call 734-461-6201 ext 229.

### Did you know?

Sumpter Township has a noxious weeds ordinance. Where grass or noxious weeds exceeding 10" in height around & within 50' in front of, behind or along the sides of any residential, commercial or industrial structures, or to the property line, whichever is less. This means your grass cannot be taller than 10" high. If it exceeds the 10", you will be notified, in writing to cut your grass or the Township will cut it and the charges will show up on your tax bill.



## Parks & Recreation Activities

### Free Family Day

Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 12:00 Noon  
 Located at Graham Park on the corner of Wear/Sumpter Rds.  
 Hot dogs, Chips, Pop, Cold Treats  
 Games: Kids tug of war over a pool of water.  
 Sac Races, Moon Walk  
 Hula hoop contest, Pie eating contest, Horseshoe Tournament.  
 Trophies awarded to the winners of each event

### The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Don Rochon Memorial Car Show

Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> 2008  
 Behind the Sumpter Township Community Center Registration begins at 10:00 am (free dash plaque with registration)  
 Trophies awarded at 3:00 pm

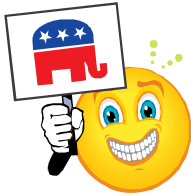
### U.S.A Demolition Derby

Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 5:00 pm.  
 Tickets go on sale immediately after car show.  
 \$12.00 Adult \$5.00 children under 12  
 Food-Beer-Wine Coolers- B.B-Q and Music. Come join the fun.

### Mark Your Calendars!

The last day to register to vote in the August 5<sup>th</sup> primary is **Monday, July 7**. Make sure your family & friends are registered! If they have moved since they last voted, they must re-register in their new community.





## From Your Clerk, Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.

If you are interested in voting absentee for the upcoming elections and fall under the requirements you may call the clerks office for a application to be sent to you. 734-461-6201 ext. 222 or 221

The Clerk's office is searching for election workers. The qualifications are as follows: You must be a resident and a registered voter for Wayne County. There are allowances for students who are 16

& 17 yrs old to be election workers. If you know of students who would like to learn the procedure for processing the ballots (and get **PAID**) have them fill out an application at the Sumpter Township Clerk's Office, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 734-461-6201 ext. 243. The future will be put in the hands of our children. We need to teach them the proper procedure. So encourage our young ones to take an

active role in the government process.



### Did you know?

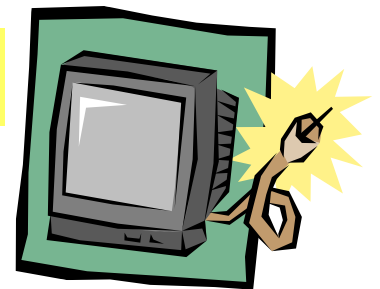
*Sumpter Township has started collecting used ink cartridges & we will have them sent to be recycled.*



## Un-resolved Cable Problems?

Did you know that if you have a complaint about your Comcast cable and are not able to resolve it with their customer service you have another source to help you. The MPSC (Michigan Public Service Commission. [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc). If you do not have access to the Internet then you can write, call or fax: Michigan Public

Service Commission, Attn: Video Franchising, 6545 Mercantile Way, Lansing, MI 48909. Phone: 866-552-7725 - Fax: 517-241-2400.



## Recycle for the future!



Sumpter Township's Recycling Center is open Saturday's from 9 am—1 pm. It is located behind the Township Hall at 23480 Sumpter Rd. There are large bins for the recycled material to be left. Accepted materials include, newspaper, cardboard, office paper, clean #1 & #2 plastic containers, tin cans (remove label & flatten), clear & brown glass (separate), & aluminum.

Tires are excepted for a fee. Also, there is now a compost drop-off. Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable Kraft paper bogs or loose in 30-gallon cans for ease in dumping into the compost container.

**Positively no plastic bags, tree trunks or stumps, construction debris or waste or garbage.** Branches & twigs smaller than

3" in diameter must be placed in bundles no larger than 2' by 4'.

Sumpter residents can still dump at Carleton Farms one Saturday a month (you pick the Saturday) without being charged a fee. For information on Carleton Farms call 734-654-0001.

For information on Recycling Center call 734-461-6201.

## From Treasurer John W. Morgan's Office

July 1, 2008 the Summer Tax Bill will be in the mail. The Summer Bill this year is canary yellow. The Treasurer's office is using canary yellow for summer bills, and blue

for winter bills. Residents can pay their tax bills at the Treasurer's office and at the National City Bank branch in New Boston. You have until September 17, 2008 to pay your taxes

without penalty. After that date 1% interest charge will be added monthly. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the Treasurer's office at 461-6201.



## A Familiar Face In The Treasurer's Office

The Treasurer's office has a new face working daily for the residents of this community. Karen Armatis has been appointed Deputy Treasurer to work with John W. Morgan on a daily basis. She may seem familiar to you. She had previously served on the Township Board of Trustees since 1996. She has always been a watchdog of the Township monies, now she will be even more involved in the daily business. She and John Morgan have long talked about offering evening hours. Therefore, we are going to start with the announcement below. We look forward to serving the residents of this community.

## ATTENTION SUMPTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

As the New Deputy Treasurer

The Treasurer's office is pleased to announce evening hours

starting July 8, 2008. We will be **OPEN** the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month from **8:30 AM-7:30 PM**.

at **NO** cost to the Taxpayers of Sumpter Township.

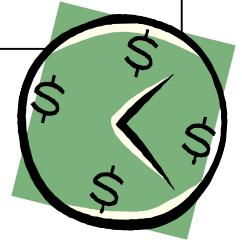
This service is on a trial basis initially, we will re-evaluate the need to offer evening hours based on usage.

If you have any questions, please contact:

(734) 461-6201 ext 239

Sincerely,

Karen Armatis, Deputy Treasurer, Sumpter Township



### Numbers You May Need

Sumpter Township Hall	734-461-6201
Police & Fire (Non-Emergency)	734-461-6898 or 99
Police General Information	734-461-4833
Sumpter Senior Citizen Center	734-461-9373
Sumpter Headstart	734-461-1648
PNA Hall Rental	734-697-4736
Public Service Credit Union	734-641-8400 ext# 2610
Belleville Post Office	734-697-0047
Belleville Chamber of Commerce	734-697-7151

Carleton Farms Landfill	734-654-0001
Comcast Cable	888-266-2278
Republic Waste	877-264-5544
Wayne County Road Comm.	734-753-4477
34th District Court	734-941-4462
Wayne County Treasurers Office	313-224-5990
Taxpayer Assistance Dept.	313-224-6105
Wayne County Clerks Office	313-224-6262
Poison Control	800-222-1222
Belleville Meijer	734-697-1500
Belleville Wal-Mart	734-697-2078
DTE Energy	800-477-4747

## From The Department of Public Services

By: Ron Caryl, Director of Public Service

Welcome to summer, boy am I glad you finally arrived. There is a lot of work that pops up in the summer that just replaces work that we shoveled away during the winter but there is also many tasks that are most productive during the warmer months.

We are glad that with the warmer temperatures we were able to complete painting of all of our fire hydrants. This is the first time they have all been painted in one year. We are proud of the fact that we got innovative and came up with a new method to paint our hydrants that allowed us to paint them in about 1/4 of the old time for about 1/4 of the cost. Our method is being considered for an award through The Michigan Section of The American Water Works Association. We'll let you know how this works out in the next newsletter.

As I write this column we have changed about 57% of our water meters and the new high tech reading equipment has been shipped, but not yet received from our supplier. When this equipment is received, installed and tested, we will begin to read our meters in a more modern way. We will no longer need to visit your home to read your meter. The other major advantage of this type of reading equipment is the amount of man hours and money we will be able to save. The time will be spent on our ever growing sewer system and in doing many things which were pushed to the back of the pile before. This time will also allow us to respond more timely when you need service



and that's what public service is all about.

As I indicated we have only changed 57% of the meters thus far and we need to finish the job to make the system work at its maximum level. **Please, when our contractor,**

**SLC Meter Service calls, writes, or stops by, work with them to get your meter changed. When the job is done all the Water & Sewer Department customers will realize the cost savings and service efficiency.** If you can't work out something with our contractor, you can still call us to arrange to have your new meter installed. We want to provide you the best, least costly and honest good

service.

The **other "big" news** is, by the time you read this we will have opened bids on six new pieces of watermain. I have heard numerous times from people that they would believe the fact that these mains were being put in when they see them. I know much of this work has been promised to too many people since 1978 and you haven't seen it yet.

Let me put it this way, the designs are complete, the bonds have been sold, the numerous permits are in hand, and, most importantly, the money is in our bank. The Township Board will most likely award the jobs in early July and construction should start fairly soon after that process. The following water mains will be going in soon:

1. Arkona Road from Sumpter Rd. west
2. Sherwood Road from Willow to Wear

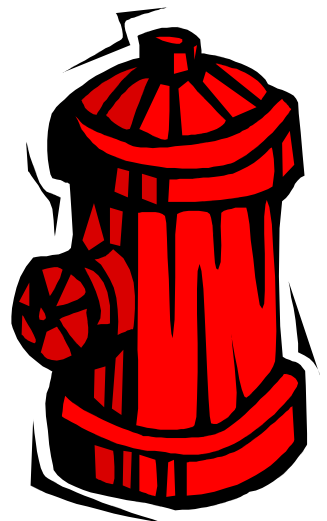
3. Rawsonville Road, Willow to Wear
4. Rawsonville Road at Willow, East to the front of Bessie Hoffman School
5. Elwell Road from Willow to Wear
6. Elwell Road from Harris Road south

We may also be doing one other private road as part of a different type funding project and we are doing the engineering for a main on Clay Road which may be added to the project.

The Phase III sewer project is going well and the main part of the pipe installation is nearing completion. Residents or customers who will be directly affected by these projects will be notified at the appropriate time.

I know many of these projects have been long overdue. I am glad to be part of the group to finally get these things done. I want you to know that change and construction are never easy. It is much easier to do nothing

that way there is nothing to do and life seems easier. The present Township Board should be congratulated for fulfilling promises



made for the last 30 years. They spent a lot of time in making the numerous decisions necessary to finally get the job done.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us. Thanks for letting us be of service.

# Most Frequently Asked Questions About Residential Building Projects

From: James C. Meyer, Sumpter Township, Building Code Official

## What do I have to pull a permit for?

### Building

Any new structures, such as a home, addition, garage, accessory buildings, deck, or any structural changes.

Any change of current use of area within a home would require permits (e.g. finishing a basement to provide habitable space, creating a bedroom from an existing space).  
Roof replacement

Siding

Window & exterior door replacement

Pools

Non-structural repairs and renovations within a home, or replacement of existing fixtures do not require a permit. (Replacement of cabinets, counters, flooring, painting, awnings\shutters attached to the home)

### Plumbing\Mechanical

Furnace replacement

Installing air conditioning

Water heater replacement

Gas piping

Irrigation systems

Repair water\sewer lines

Installation of new plumbing or fixtures

### Electrical

Permits are required for all electrical work with the exception of, replacement of fixtures, switches and outlets. Sumpter Township strongly recommends that, State of Michigan licensed electrical contractors perform electrical installation and repairs.

Permits are issued only to licensed Electrical Contractors, and Homeowners, for the dwelling in which they reside, or intend to reside (new home). Homeowner Permits, will not be issued to owners of rental properties.

## How deep do footings have to be?

42" for a house, deck, attached garage or detached garage\utility structure over 400 square feet.

## What are basic deck requirements?

1. Footings 42" deep (undisturbed soil), treated material or naturally weather resistant woods must be used (pressure treated lumber, cedar, or plastic composite are all acceptable materials). The deck is to support 60 lb. live load.

2. Railings are to be 3 ft. high min. and able to support 200 lbs. Of pressure in any direction. Spindles are required if the deck or stairs are 30" above the finish grade. Spindle spacing should be such that a 4-in. sphere cannot pass through openings.

3. Stairways are to be 3-ft. wide min. with a graspable handrail no more than 2 5/8 inches wide, located between 34" – 38" in height, measured plumb from the leading edge of each tread.

4. Stair tread height must be a maximum of 8 1/4" and 4" minimum. Stair tread depth must be 9" minimum. Steps cannot vary more than 3/8" in the "run" of the stairs.

Decks constructed on new homes where posts would be located in a "disturbed soil area" must be attached to the home. Typically, 30" or so around your foundation has been "over-dug"; obviously this area is "settling" fill material and in most cases, will not support your deck adequately. All foundations must be placed upon undisturbed load bearing soil.

## What is the maximum number of roof coverings that I can place on my house before completely tearing off the roof to the existing boards?

Only two roofs can be placed on a house before complete replacement.

## What is meant by a 'Change of Use'?

An example of this would be changing a residence into an office, daycare, or Assembly Use. In this example, some obvious differences in the possible dangers or liabilities might take place that would be different from a residential use. Zoning would have to allow for this new type of 'Use change'. A new Certificate of Occupancy is required for any change of Use. Inspectors of all trades must conduct inspections and compliance with current code for the new intended Use must be met before C of O could be issued.

## What do I have to turn in for a building permit?

Two sets of building plans  
Certified Survey

A plot plan (showing to scale the dimension of lot, location and accurate size of all existing structures, location and size of proposed structure)  
Copy of builder's license  
Copy of Signed Contract  
Insurance  
Homeowner's affidavit (if pulling own permit)  
Completed permit application

## What specific items should be included on

## a set of building plans?

Aside from an accurate site plan, all plans should include the following when applicable:

1. Footings or foundation type and size
2. Front, rear, and side elevations (views), of the proposed building, with accurate elevations.
3. A complete floor plan, which indicates accurate dimension of room sizes, use of space, deader, window, and door sizes.  
A wall sectional that identifies the stud spacing, insulation type, interior finish, joist spacing and type of flooring, all structural supports. Complete specifications for pre-engineered trusses, and all other engineered wood products (I-joist, LVL, and Glue Lam)

## Is it the building department's obligation to help design my plans?

No. It is the building department's job to check for zoning and code compliance. Any questions regarding design or any assistance needed in producing a drawing for review should be referred to an architect or registered design professional.

## What kinds of inspections are generally required on a typical new home in Sumpter Township?

Inspections are required for water\sewer installation, footings, backfill (before it is backfilled), underground plumbing, gas pressure test, electrical service release,

Continued on page 6.  
(Building)

**Building**

Continued from pg. 5.

rough plumbing, rough electric, rough heating, fireplace, rough frame and exterior rough (together or separate), insulation, drywall, Interior slabs and porches attached to the foundation, final plumbing, final electric, final heating, smoke detectors, and final building. Inspections for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical must be inspected and approved before inspection for rough/final building can be conducted.

**What construction code is being used in Sumpter Township?**

Currently the Township is enforcing The Michigan Building Code 2003, The Michigan Residential Code 2003, Michigan Plumbing Code, Michigan mechanical Code, The N.E.C. 2002, International Property maintenance Code 2003, and Township Ordinances.

**Moving a Home?**

Any structure intended to be moved into the Township would first have to be inspected. A moved structure must comply with all current codes.

**Demolition Permit?**

Any application for a demolition permit should include a notice of disconnect from all utilities. (Electrical, water, gas)

**Things All Residents Should Know**

It is our intention at the Sumpter Township Building Department to assist in completing all building projects as smooth as possible for you, the resident. Our goal is to insure that your project meets code standards for health, safety, and welfare, for yourself as well as the general

public.

**Protect Yourself!**

When contracting work to be done to your home...

1. Always, hire a State of Michigan licensed contractor, licensed in the trade in which they are doing work.
2. Always, have your contractor pull permits (If you, the homeowner, pull the permit and fill out the "Homeowner Affidavit", you, the homeowner are responsible for the work) Always, make sure that your contractor shows you the copy of the permit, and displays it in a visible location.

**Swimming Pools**



James Meyer, Building Official

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 everyone 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.

**A Meeting Of The Minds From: Malissa Baker, Dispatch Coordinator**

On June 18, 2008, Mr. Vawters held a Sumpter Township Dept. Head meeting. This meeting was held to give each Department Head an opportunity to voice their opinions, ideas and concerns as to the operation of Sumpter Township. This meeting was very productive and gave each member present an idea of what goes on within the other departments. One of the issues addressed was brought up by the Police Chief James Pierce and Dispatch Coordinator Malissa Baker. The issue was in regards to power outages within the Township. During

the second week of June, Sumpter Township experienced several power outages due to severe storms. Dispatch was overwhelmed with calls from citizens, Township employees and Officials wanting to know two things, had the problem been reported to DTE and when would the power be restored. These calls slowed down the ability for other citizens to get thru who were trying to call in for Police, Fire and/or Medical Services. DTE has advised us that in the event of a power outage they request you the homeowner to call them for service. They are

unable to except requests for service from Dispatch, since they require personal information such as home address, home phone number, account number, etc. to access the account. This is information that Dispatch does not have, however Sumpter Twp. Police and Fire Dispatch calls DTE for service, we are told an ETA can not be given and that someone would be out as soon as possible. We realize the frustration when the power goes out because when the Township loses power, so does the Police Station forcing us to run on generated power which is not strong enough to

power all the equipment needed to fully run the department, therefore, we run what is absolutely necessary to provide service to the citizens. We are asking that in the event of a power outage, citizens report the outage to DTE. For estimated time of restoration, again, the one to best give you that information is DTE. The number is 1-800-477-4747 or www.DTEEnergy.com. In the event of a Police, Fire or Medical emergency dial 911. For all other Police, Fire and Medical needs, call the 24 hr. non-emergent Dispatch number at 734-461-6898. We thank you for your understanding. From all Sumpter Dispatchers, Officers and Staff. We hope you have a great summer.

# Sumpter Township Senior Citizen Center

Ahhhh Summer!!!

Picnics, walks, the abundance and beauty of your flower and vegetable gardens, travel & trips, festivals and fun! It's a time for enjoying the great outdoors and what better

place to do that then in Sumpter Township! Why not join us for stretch & tone class every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 am to limber up after all those "outdoors" activities!

Senior Olympics takes

place August 18-22. Don't let the title scare you, there is a variety of events, including non-physical ones. Let's represent Sumpter Township, meet fellow active seniors and have fun doing it! Registration

forms are available in the office. Questions call 734-461-9373.

Spring saw a lot of new faces, needs being met, progress being made.

Speaking of needs, the grass-cutting program (page #1), is managed through the senior center office for qualifying residents.

### Coming up:

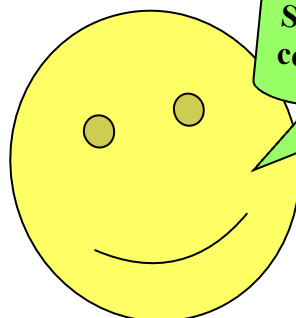
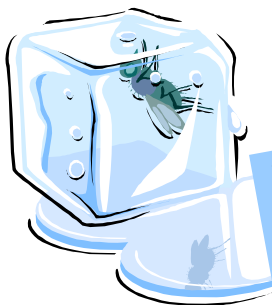
**Shipshewana, Kewadin, Seasonal Potlucks, Massage Therapy, Classes of interest to Seniors and Caregivers and More.**

### NEW:

**Penny Pokeno, it's easy & fun, bring your \$2 worth of pennies on Thursdays at 12:30.**

**Got a favorite old piece of furniture that just needs a little "lift"? Upholstery class will be repeated this fall.**

**When it's hot outside, it's cool at the Center**



**Smile, see you at the center!**

**Wayne County Nutrition lunch  
Monday—Friday 11:45 am. 24 Hour Registration Requested.**

**Sumpter Senior Center  
Is located in the  
Community Center Building  
23501 Sumpter Rd.  
Hours Monday thru Friday  
9 am—4 pm  
734-461-9373**

23480 Sumpter Road  
Belleville, MI 48111

Phone: 734-461-6201  
Fax: 734-461-6441  
www.sumptertwp.com

Country Living At Its Finest

## Sumpter Township Postal Customer

County Executive

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Sponsored by:

Wayne County Department of Environment  
(734) 326-3936

**Saturday, August 9, 2008—8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Henry Ford Community College**  
**5101 Evergreen Rd., Dearborn**  
**(Just south of Ford Road)**



Examples of Acceptable Items

- Household paints, stains, dyes
- Floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner
- Furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, solvents
- Nail polish, glue
- Fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides
- Antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline
- Automotive batteries and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs (all types)
- Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors
- Mercury thermometers, thermostats and elemental mercury



Electronics Recycling

- Computer CPU's, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice
- Cell phones, fax machines, copiers, and televisions



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Only household generated products from Wayne County** \*  
\* **residents will be accepted.** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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\* **Items that will not be accepted include:** Commercial waste, Industrial waste, radioactive \*  
\* material, explosives, ammunition, 55 gallon drums, shock sensitive materials, pharmaceuticals \*  
\* waste, household trash, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste, & \*  
\* concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, please contact the Wayne County \*  
\* Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936. \*  
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### Mark Your Calendars!

The last day to register to vote in the August 5th primary is **Monday, July 7**. Make sure your family & friends are registered! If they have moved since they last voted, they must re-register in their new community.

