

# Merrill Township News

March, 2015 Volume 15, Issue 1 Editor: MLP

1585 West 11 Mile Road, Bitely, MI 49309  
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## \*Regular Office Hours—Other times by appointment

|          |             |                      |
|----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Tuesday. | 1:00 - 4:00 | Clerk                |
| Thursday | 2:00 - 5:00 | Assessor             |
| Friday   | 1:00 - 4:00 | Zoning Administrator |
| Saturday | 9:30 - noon | Treasurer            |

\*Hours are subject to change.

## Township Officials & Contact Numbers

- Supervisor Barry Baldwin  
(231)745-7661 or (616)260-5151
- Clerk Marilyn Pembroke  
(231)745-7661 or (231)689-1225
- Treasurer Debra Fisher  
(231)745-7661 or (231)689-0776
- Trustee Gene Fisher (231)689-0776
- Trustee Frank Jackson (231)689-6049
- Assessor Earl Spalo (231)745-7661
- Zoning Administrator Ron Corradin  
(231)745-7661

## Township Board Meetings

The 2015 meetings will be held the **third Monday of each month, except the August meeting, held the fourth Thursday**, which is also the annual Transfer Station public hearing. All meetings are at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and to give input on Township matters.

## Board of Review

Members: Barry Baldwin, Gordon Elzinga, Barbara Lanting-Miles, and Tom Wenstrom; alternates are Phyllis Carter and Sharon Jones. The March, 2015, meeting dates are:

Tuesday, March 3, at 1:30P.M. (organizational meeting)

Monday, March 9, 9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M.

Tuesday, March 10, 3:00P.M. to 9:00P.M.

## Planning Commission

Members: Gene Fisher, Gus Hopson, Sharon Jones, Peter Morgan, and Denise Suttles. Regular meetings for 2015 will be on the **third Thursday** of each month at 7:00 P.M. You are encouraged to come to the meetings and express your opinions on planning and zoning issues.

## Merrill Township Transfer Station

Located at Bingham and 12 Mile Rd.

Telephone (231)745-8609.

## Winter hours of operation through Mar. 29, 2015:

- Sunday 12:00 – 5:00
- Wednesday & Saturday 9:00 – 2:00

## April 1 through October 31, 2015, hours of operation:

- Sunday, Wednesday, & Saturday 9:00 – 5:00

Your transfer station is for disposal of household refuse. No concrete, medical waste, dirt, leaves, grass, clippings, liquids, pesticides, or other hazardous materials are accepted.

Did you know there is a **recycling bin** at the Transfer Station? “A new technology, called ‘single stream recycling,’ began in the summer of 2010 that enables you (the recycler) to mix all of your CLEAN plastic jugs, metal cans, glass bottles, and paper products together in one container...NO need to separate.” Ask the attendant for an information sheet.

You must present a Merrill Township Transfer Station I.D. Card when you use the Transfer Station. Cards can be obtained in person, or by mail, from the Township office.

Coming soon: the 2015 **Annual Spring Clean-up** will be May 16 through 24. Watch for flyers and posters with more information.

## Zoning Board of Appeals

A schedule of tentative meeting dates (will convene if there is pending business) for 2015 is yet to be set. Please contact the office for more information.

## Township Board News

- Acquired property next to the park for future use.
- Annual cleanup week: volunteers cleaned more than 12 spots in the woods; removed a dilapidated hazardous house and 2 old mobile homes.
- The Fremont Area Community Foundation has approved a \$2,500 matching grant for blight cleanup in the township.
- Have been working with Scott DeBruyne, Fire Chief of Lilley Township Fire Department (provides our fire protection) on the installation of an electric pumped well on 11 Mile Road near Bingham, which will supply year-round access to a water supply for the fire department.





### Neighborhood Watch

Funding of the Neighborhood Watch Organization is necessary for all of us to reap the benefits of this service. We appreciate those of you who have contributed. Please keep sharing in this responsibility. Make checks payable to The Source, and send to: Lottie Tyson, 8823 18<sup>th</sup> Ave, Bitely, MI 49309.

The Watch is currently active. Activities other than "watching" included: 1) the establishment of a road committee—persons appointed (one from each section of the township) observe and report the road conditions; 2) encouraged the installation of the fire hydrant located near Common Ground on 11 Mile Road in Woodland Park; 3) had a Christmas tree, also at Common Ground on 11 Mile Road during the Christmas season.

Join us. The Neighborhood Watch meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. **June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup>.** The annual picnic will be held Saturday, **August 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Lottie Tyson

### Woodland Park Schoolhouse Committee

The Schoolhouse Committee is ready for winter to end, and to get back to work restoring the schoolhouse. Last year our big project was renovating one of the bathrooms so we would have a usable restroom. Gordon Elzinga, Harry Dillard, and Bob Teunis did an awesome job!



Our list of projects for this year includes: 1) moving the icehouse to its permanent location on our property; 2) getting bids on renovating the back room, including putting in a kitchen; 3) putting up the original light fixtures and taking down the fluorescents; 4) getting the desks refinished; 5) getting bids on a handicap ramp. We are still working on publishing a cookbook and need lots of recipes. You can send your favorites to: Woodland Park Schoolhouse Committee, PO Box 116, Bitely, MI 49309.

We held several fundraisers last year including bake sales, brat sales, and our popular Soup Supper in the fall. Watch our sign in the front of the school and our Facebook page and website for this year's fundraisers. We are looking for some new fundraising ideas so we can continue with our restoration work. If you have any ideas, let one of the committee members know or leave a message on our Facebook page or website.

We are always looking for donations for the museum part of the schoolhouse. If you have any items from the early days of Woodland Park—pictures, newspaper articles, ticket stubs, signage, menus, or other mementos, or even memories—please contact one of our committee members. We are a 501-c-3 organization so donations are tax deductible.

Check out our Facebook page, and our website at [www.wpschoolhouse.webs.com](http://www.wpschoolhouse.webs.com).

Carol Vandyke

### Woodland Community Quilters

Do you like to quilt? Would you like to learn how? Do you like crafting with fabrics? Then come to the Merrill Township Hall on Tuesdays from 1:00-4:00 P.M. There will be friendly, knowledgeable people to welcome you and to answer your questions.



### Senior Meals

The N.C. Commission on Aging serves lunch four days per week at the Merrill Community Complex. Lunch is served Monday at 11:30 A.M. and Tuesday - Thursday at 12:00 noon. If you are 60 or older the suggested donation is \$2 per meal, or \$4 if you are under 60. Please call (231)689-2100 if you have any questions.

### Woodland Park Lake Association

8711 Red Clover Ave, Bitely, MI 49309

Greetings to all those who love Woodland Park. It is my honor to have been elected the next President of the Woodland Park Lake Association in beautiful Merrill Township. I will be succeeding James Ware as the association's next President. The WPLA was founded in 1991, by permanent and seasonal residents for the purpose of maintaining the water quality, managing recreational use, monitoring the fisheries resources and to address all other concerns that are directly related to the management of watershed.



As the next President, I hope to improve communication among the members through the use of digital communications techniques such as e-mail, Facebook and texting. With the support of members, I would like to publish a quarterly e-news letter, so that members can be quickly informed, polled for their comments, suggestions and votes on projects. For example, projects like these have been suggested by membership for action in 2015:

- Continued water quality analysis
- Fish consumption analysis
- Fish stocking
- Fish shelter construction w/tree drops & rock piles
- Up-dated signage at launch ramps
- Portable dock at the public beach
- Quarterly e-news letter

The association has limited funds on hand for some of these projects but *needs* your input and support if we can be expected to continue in stewardship to the woods and waters of the park. Scheduled meetings for 2015 are:

1:00 PM, **June 27, July 25 and Sept. 26** at the Merrill Township Hall, 1585 W. 11 Mile Road, Bitely 49309. The membership dues are \$20.00/year per person and it is not necessary to be a resident of the area to become a member and have a vote. For more information, contact me at [markbates1121@aol.com](mailto:markbates1121@aol.com) or call 517-204-0893. Thank you for your support.

Mark Bates