

Olive Township Spring 2011 Newsletter

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Library News

Since 1976, Olive Township has had a contract for library services from the Herrick District Library. This service has been financially provided from penal fines paid to the State that are redirected to the library on behalf of the township. This simple exchange of penal fines for service was provided without interruption until 2009.

In 2009, the Herrick District Library requested 0.3 mils from the Olive Township Board of Trustees because their budget required additional monies to operate the library. In order to prevent interruption of service, we arranged for the monies from our General Fund for the period of July 2010 through June 2011. However, we also indicated to the library that we did not feel it was appropriate for the township to constantly borrow from our own savings to assist the library with its budget.

As a result, the Olive Township Board of Trustees placed the requested millage for the library on the ballot, which put it before the residents of Olive Township for a vote in August of 2010. This ballot request occurred at this time because we needed to wait for the expiration of an existing mil in order to reallocate proposed millage amounts. In this case, to accommodate the library proposal, a Fire Department millage of one mil was scheduled to expire. As a result, the Olive Township Board of Trustees used the expired one mil and divided it between the proposed library millage at 0.25 mils and the Fire Department at 0.75 mils. In accordance with State law because of the reallocation of the one mil between two proposals, the Fire Department millage was required to be presented as a new millage. That is, any change in a millage must be placed on a ballot as new even though in this instance the existing Fire Department millage was already collected by the township at a higher rate. For the library millage, 0.25 of a mil equals a tax of \$25.00 for every \$100,000.00 of taxable value on your property. Ultimately, the library millage request was defeated by our residents.

Given this result of the voters, the Olive Township Board of Trustees listened to our residents and did not offer further general fund monies to the library. However, at the same time we also pursued other avenues to provide our residents with library service. One option is a user pay service. Unfortunately, soon after the recent millage defeat, the Herrick District Library Board voted to not allow a user pay service. Consequently, our Board was unable to pursue additional options with the Herrick District Library. Our service concludes with the Herrick District Library at the end of the day on June 30, 2011.

As you may be aware, our area benefits from other nearby libraries. The Howard Miller Public Library in Zeeland welcomed our inquiry and is willing to provide service to our residents through the collection of penal fees as well as a user pay system. This relationship with the Howard Miller Public Library is expected to begin by contract and have service available no later than July 1, 2011. However, their service has some limitations. While we understand that many of our library users enjoy the Lakeland Cooperative service between libraries, this option is unavailable because it requires approximately 0.3 mils to fund the cooperative. As a result, while all other library services will be available from the Howard Miller Public Library, our residents will be unable to benefit from the cooperative. If this mil amount is provided in the future, we should have services for all libraries within the cooperative, as long as there are no rule changes within the cooperative. The Howard Miller Public Library has diligently worked with the township to provide library services with the anticipation that the necessary mils to fund the cooperative will be provided in the future. We would like to thank the Howard Miller Public Library for accommodating our residents without hesitation.

If you have any questions regarding future library services, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. I will also be available at the township clean-up day on April 30 to answer any questions.

--Todd Wolters

**Township Clean Up Day
April 30, 2011**

COUPON

Please reserve Saturday, April 30 for the Annual Olive Township Clean-Up Day. The hours will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will be held at the **OLD** Township Hall, 11768 Polk St.

Reminder--Please wait until 9 a.m. on Saturday to bring your items.

Recyclables accepted include: glass, paper, tin, aluminum, car and other type batteries. Appliances will be accepted with a \$ 20 charge for freon removal. **We will not accept tires, whole cars, paints, oil, or solvents of any kind.** The county has drop off points for solvents and paints.

This year eWasteNotWantNot will be on site accepting electronic devices for recycling, including small appliances, computers and monitors. No **tube** televisions will be accepted for recycling. For a complete list of recyclable electronics, call eWasteNot-WantNot at 616-510-7977 or stop in the township office and ask to see the list.

Please present this coupon at the entrance to the clean-up day.

Absentee Ballots

Reminder—when you mail your absentee ballots in, only one 44 cent stamp is needed.

Dog Licenses

Ottawa County dog licenses can be purchased online, by mail, or in person at the Ottawa County Treasurer's office on Fillmore Street. They can also be purchased from participating veterinarians and the Harbor Humane Society. A listing of participating veterinarians is posted on the County web site:

www.miottawa.org

**Olive Township
6480 136th Ave
Holland MI 49424**

Local Farmers Market

We need your help! Olive Township is interested in organizing a farmer's market to promote local farmers, especially our own and we want to make sure it is a success. Would you buy produce, eggs, cheese and other locally made farm goods if we provided a central location? Would you be a vendor at our farmer's market? Any farmer or resident that can offer me five minutes of your time so I can hear about your experiences and interest is appreciated! Please call me at 786-9996 or email me at greg@olivetownship.com to give me your thoughts on the idea. Even a simple "yes, I'd buy local" email would be helpful!

Olive Township Historical Society News

The Olive Township Historical Society invites the public to visit the museum on Memorial Day after the ceremony at the Olive Township Cemetery. The annual memory walk will take place after the ceremony and proceed to the museum. Walkers and bike riders are encouraged to dress in red, white and blue to honor those who served in the military.

Saturday, July 23, 2011 the society will celebrate the gift of the Ottawa Station School to the society from the Hepler and Peets families. The dedication of the school to the society will be a members-only event. If you desire to attend and are not a member contact one of the board members to learn how to become a member.

The society seeks to honor those farms and homes that are historical in nature and would like to place a Historic Olive Township plaque on the building. A history of ownership and description of the building qualifies the building for a plaque. See a member of the society for details or call 875-8036.

Memorial Day Service

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Memorial Day Service at the Olive Township Cemetery Monday, May 30, 10:30 a.m. Bring your lawn chair and help us honor those who have served our country.