



# Homer Township

newsletter

**October 2012**

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*website: [www.homertownship.org](http://www.homertownship.org)*

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**Supervisor**

Chad Moody

*[supervisor@homertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@homertownship.org)*

It is hard to believe fall is here. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer.

Homer Township celebrated 150 years on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day of celebrating.....from the dunk tank, raising funds and awareness of needed fire safety, the wiffle ball game, the historical displays, an appearance by Lou E Loon, community displays, old tractors and antique and classic cars, live entertainment..... to ending the day with the outdoor movie. The kids had a blast with the large inflatable obstacle course, being entertained by Jewls the Clown and face painting by a student and teacher from ACEA.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all the volunteer fireman who helped that day from explaining the fire safety equipment to their contribution at the dunk tank. Also thanks to Scott Stephenson, the new Midland County Sheriff for volunteering for a shift in the dunk tank.

We can't forget a big THANK YOU to the committee and their countless hours to make this event a success, along with all the volunteers who stepped forward on the 25<sup>th</sup> to help make this a great day.

I would also like to thank all of the sponsors who made a contribution to help fund this celebration which is now added to our history.

We have a lot to be thankful for in Homer Township, from all the friendly, gracious and helpful residents to the fireman who keep us

safe and to all our ancestors who put in place the amenities for us to keep growing and succeeding.

Remember to get out and vote on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>!

At any time you are welcome to call me if you have questions or concerns. I am always available for a friendly conversation.

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**Clerk**

Todd Lee

*[clerk@homertownship.org](mailto:clerk@homertownship.org)*

Hello Homer Residents.

I hope everyone's summer went well. As fall approaches, remember about the November General Election on November 6, 2012 at the Fire Safety Facility. If anyone needs to vote, please either call or email me to get an application and then I can get the ballot out to you right away.

I also hope everyone made it to our sesquicentennial party on August 25. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all.

I can be reached either by email or phone. I am in the office most mornings from 8 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

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Remember that township board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Meetings are open to Homer Twp residents.

# **Homer Township Newsletter**

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October 2012

## **Trustee**

Russ Varner

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer.

Our expanded recycling program has been implemented for just over a year. We have reduced our garbage tonnage by 25 per cent so far. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

If you still have questions about it, please contact a board member or Republic Waste directly.

Have a great fall.

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## **Assessor**

Dawn Gentz  
989-389-0832  
[nmassessing@gmail.com](mailto:nmassessing@gmail.com)

On May 1, 2012, changes were made to PA 115 which established new deadlines for Principal Residence Exemptions. The deadline for a property owner to file a "Principal Residence Exemption" changed from May 1 to June 1, and a second deadline of November 1 was added. As a result, property owners that occupy a property as principal residence and submit Form 2368 to the local tax collecting unit on or before June 1, 2012, may qualify for a PRE beginning with 2012 summer tax levy.

If a property owner occupies a property as a principal residence at any time from June 2, 2012, to November 1, 2012, and submits Form 2368 to the local tax collecting unit on or before November 1, 2012, the owner may qualify for PRE beginning with the 2012 winter tax levy.

Please check your tax bill as soon as you receive it to be sure the Principal Residence Exemption is correct. Public Act 115 does not allow the owner to petition the Board of Review if form 2368 is not timely filed.

For questions concerning assessments and principal residence eligibility requirements, please call or email me.

## **Website**

Sandra Simmons  
Website Coordinator

I hope all of you are visiting the township website ([homertownship.org](http://homertownship.org)) not only to keep updated on township happenings but to use the KINKS section to easily connect with a number of other community sites/activities/lawmakers.

Your input on how the site could be more useful would be appreciated. You may contact me at 631-0366 or go to the township website homepage and click on "contact webmaster".

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## **Planning Commission**

Sandra Simmons, Chair

The planning commission is beginning a review/update of the township master plan which has not been done since 1997. This process will take about 2 years as we must follow the procedure spelled out by state law. Sometime early next year we will be seeking input on everyone's vision of what you think the township should be now and for the next 5 years.



**VOTE !!**



Election Day is  
Tuesday, November 6,  
2012.



Take time to vote at the Township  
Fire Safety Facility.



## Fire Department

John Hanson, Fire Chief

Homer Township has 27 active firefighters; we are rated through the Insurance Services Offices as a 6/9. The lower the insurance rating, the lower the cost of your home owner's insurance rate. We are licensed as a Medical First Responder agency through the State of Michigan. Some of the training and certifications of the Fire Fighters is listed below:

- 25 with Firefighter I/II certification –
- 2 are in training
- Two Paramedics
- Twelve are Emergency Medical Technicians
- Nine are Emergency Medical First Responders
- Four are in medical training

### Call volume:

2002 – 250	2003 – 245	2004 – 237
2005 – 276	2006 – 240	2007 – 227
2008 – 268	2009 – 295	2010 – 289
2011 – 255		

Response Time to an emergency call (this includes calls to neighboring townships)

- 7:00 minutes



### Training required to be a firefighter in the State of Michigan:

**Firefighter I/II** - 240 hours of initial training, and 40 hours of annual refresher.

**Emergency Medical Technician** – 200 hours of initial training and 10 hours per year refresher.

**Hazardous Materials Operation Level** – 24 hours of initial training – 4 hours per year refresher.

**Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training** – 14 hours of initial training – 2 hours per year refresher.



### Homer Township Fire Trucks:

1986 GMC pumper – tank capacity of 700 gallons, pump capacity of 1000 Gallons per minute

2002 International Tanker/Tender – tank capacity of 3000 gallons, pump capacity of 1500 gallons per minute

1995 Chevrolet Suburban – rescue and Incident Command vehicle

2000 Dodge 3/4ton pickup – brush fire truck, tank capacity of 200 gallons

1986 Chevrolet 5/4 ton utility truck – crash rescue and brush fire



There was a cake for all to enjoy as we celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Homer Township.

**AUGUST 25, 2012**



Children had fun bouncing around and playing on the inflatable “obstacle course”.

# Celebrating 150 years

1862 - 2012



An antique car, representing our past, was fun to see at the park. Many residents checked it out and some reminisced about the “buggy” they had when they were younger.

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The Historical Society brought many documents and photos from early days in Homer Township.



There were old tractors to see and we wondered how the farmers used them “back in the day”.

*Thank you all who attended our own Homer Township's Sesquicentennial Celebration on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*

*And, thank you to the Celebration Committee who spent a year planning and preparing to make the day a success.*

*---Darcie Johnson*

Our firemen were on hand to help explain what they do, showed us some of their equipment and talked about a need for a millage to help them in the important job they do for our community.



(Some of our firemen who rise to the challenge at every emergency: John Hanson, Jerry Taylor, Phil Reiss and Brandon Fogle.)



## FOR SALE

There are some Sesquicentennial Celebration commemorative t-shirts on sale at the township hall for \$6.



Midland County's first fire truck was parked for everyone to see. It was a red 1941 Chevrolet.

## **Talkin' Trash**

Once again, Republic Services appreciates the opportunity to provide solid waste and recycling collection for the residents of Homer Township. Wow, what a year the residents of Homer Township have had! You celebrated your 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and did a great job recycling. With your efforts the township has nearly doubled the amount recycled to what it was the year before. Republic tracks the recycling volume that we collect for the purpose of monitoring the program to ensure it's working and we can tell you it **is** working. We, at Republic, again want to thank you for your effort.

Just a quick reminder.....it is important to bag your trash before placing it in the cart to prevent the trash from blowing around. Also Republic encourages recycling, so if any residents need a copy of what can be recycled please either contact the Township or Republic Services Customer Service at 1-800-438-0966. Please make sure both your trash and recycling are placed at the curb no later than 7am on your collection day.

We value your opinion. Please feel free to contact Customer Service and let us know how we are doing.

Gary Hicks  
Republic Waste

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## **Carpenter's Circle**

Fall is rapidly approaching and there are still things to do.... As the leaves fall, the visibility of your hidden items out back will stand out. Homer Township does have regulations concerning revealed objects such as cars, boats and other valuable scrap. Please include the removal of these objects in your fall cleanup before I get complaints and have to

contact you to remove them or issue citations to remove them.

I hope you are properly planning your next project or new home. If you need a worksheet, checklist and permit application to guide you through this simple process, please, contact me so you can proceed without getting into untimely delays. They are also available online at **homertownship.org**. Click on "Documents", and print off the *application* and fill it out and call me. New requirements for dwellings and additions have been installed this new code cycle (2009 edition and the latest version of the Energy code) so please contact me for these updates and verifications.

As I have stated before, permits are very important for your building progress in Homer Township. If your project is a deck or utility barn under 200 sq. ft., you will not need a building permit – but please be sure to check on the zoning setbacks. **Anything and everything else** needs a building permit.....

Demolition of any kind to a structure, pools, ponds, and lean-to's ....It may fall under the **No Charge** category, but you still need to pursue one. OR – How do you know if you need a permit? Call me please, and I will return your call, fax and/or message as soon as I can. Electrical and plumbing/heating questions also? At least call the inspector to inquire. The call is cheap compared to the double fee and a citation charge of construction fraud filed against you for proceeding without a permit. Please, believe me when I say we (all the inspectors) are on your side so that the project will proceed smoothly without delays and problems. The office is still on the corner of E. Olson Rd. and N. Homer Rd.

Kevin Varner,

**FOR BABY TO SENIOR AT THE  
LIBRARY**



The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library is your place for fun and learning. There are story times for babies to preschoolers. Our **Happy Halloween Party** is October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 am-3:00 pm. **Brown Bag Book Club**, K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and **Crafty Readers**, grades 4-5, are starting in September. **FAB FRIDAYS** is new for teens grades 6-9 featuring games, crafts and more. **Plots and Pizza Teen Book Discussion** is back this fall.

The library regularly offers free computer classes and demonstrations for adults. Board and card game enthusiasts can join us for the new **Game Night**. The **Anywhere, Anytime Online Book Group** provides flexibility for busy readers. The **Small Business Start-Up Seminars** and the **Classic Movies in the Afternoon** continue this fall.

**“Beyond Books: The Early Literacy Activity Center”** for children 0-5 is open during library hours in the Children’s area. The play-based learning activities prepare children for school.

Children and adults are excited by the growing eBook collection available for the Kindle, Nook and other eReader devices. Click on Overdrive eBooks from the library’s website.

Dates and times for library programs and other information are on our website: [www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary](http://www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary) or find us on Facebook.

Melissa Barnard



**CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER**



Chippewa Nature Center has a full calendar of events for all ages! Be sure and visit [www.chippewanaturecenter.org](http://www.chippewanaturecenter.org) for a complete listing. ‘Like’ CNC on Facebook and sign up for the weekly email for up-to-date information and program reminders.



**Nature at Night** will take place Saturday, October 27 from 6-8:30 pm. This free event includes games, activities and crafts to help kids learn about nocturnal mammals and the night sky, as well as a jack o’ lantern trail, storytelling by the light of the fire, face painting, night songs and a puppet show. Kids dressed in a nature-themed costume will receive a treat!

**Nature Art Show and Sale** will be Saturday, December 1 from 9 am-5 pm and Sunday, December 2 from 9 am-4 pm. Some of Michigan’s most outstanding artists will feature their paintings, woodcarvings, photography, sculpture, baskets, pottery and more.

Mark your calendars for **Winter Solstice Celebration** on Thursday, December 20 from 6-8 pm. For centuries, people have gathered to recognize the longest night of the year and to celebrate the return of longer days. Take part in earth-friendly traditions as you roll a beeswax candle and make an evergreen wreath and a small Yule log to take home.

Jamie Hockstra



# Homer Township

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<b>SUPERVISOR</b>	Chad Moody 832-7882	<b>Fire Chief</b>	John Hanson 832-8034
<b>TREASURER</b>	Sandra Turk 631-4399	<b>Building Inspector</b>	Kevin Varner 839-9181
<b>CLERK</b>	Todd Lee 832-0964	<b>Electrical Inspector</b>	Mike Gravis 631-3336
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	Charlie Glynn 835-1207 John Pruiett 631-2775 John Stern 835-4203 Russ Varner 835-6845	<b>Plumbing Inspector</b>	Ted Van Wert 631-9645
		<b>Township Hall Rental</b>	Pam Varner 832-9618
		<b>Newsletter</b>	Carolann Maxwell 631-7488

Homer Township Hall  
522 North Homer Road  
Midland, MI 48640