



MESSENGER

JULY 2010

Volume XVII Issue III

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Special Points of Interest:

- Treasurers Report
- Supervisors Report
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**SALEM TOWNSHIP
NOW HAS A
DROP OFF BOX
FOR YOUR TAX
PAYMENTS
(NO CASH PLEASE)
IT IS LOCATED ACROSS
FROM OUR
BULLETIN BOARD**

FROM THE DESK OF PAUL J. UHEREK, TREASURER

Taxes

Summer 2010 tax bills have been mailed. I thank my Deputy, Michelle Heisler and Carol Liogghio for all they do in this process. If you did not receive a tax bill, contact the Treasurer's office and we will mail you another copy. Taxes are due September 14, 2010. Postmarks are not honored. Please include the bottom of your bill with your payment, keep the top portion as your receipt. If not paid by the due date, starting September 15, 2010 interest will be added every month until February 28, 2011. After that unpaid taxes will be turned over to Washtenaw County Treasurer as delinquent.

If you have any questions concerning state equalized value, taxable value or the amount of your principle resident exemption, please contact our Township Assessor, who will be glad to assist you.

Application for Deferment of Taxes

If you need help or have any questions regarding **Deferment of Taxes**, contact the Treasurer's office. We are here to help you. Deferring taxes is a process which delays the paying of taxes without interest or penalty within a specified time. Summer deferments are only deferred to February 14th 2011. Winter deferments will "pull along" the summer deferment if one has been filed.

- An Agricultural Deferment is for summer taxes only.
- The form may be picked up in the township office or on our web site.
- File this at the Treasurer's office along with 2009 Federal Tax Statement.

South Lyon School District Millage Increase

For those that are in the South Lyon School District, you are probably asking why did the school debt millage go up? The following was provided by that school district:

- ›The reason for the change in the debt millage is because the debt payment (principal and interest) are fixed; therefore the district must by law set a dept millage rate high enough to generate the dollars necessary to meet the payment schedule, while also taking into account uncollected delinquent taxes.
- ›The debt millage of the school district is levied on the taxpayers to pay the principal and interest payments associated with voter approved bond issues.
- ›Voters approved only the bond dollar amount, not a millage amount.
- ›Because the debt millage can vary year to year based on the changes in the overall tax base value and/or the bond payment schedule.

What does all this mean to your tax bill? In these hard economic times, any increase in tax rates can be difficult and painful for taxpayers. However, even though the school debt millage is increasing to 10.500 mills, many homeowners have had their

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF HURON VALLEY HAS A RELEASE PROGRAM FOR STRAY AND FERAL CATS.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley has a trap, neuter and release program (TNR) for stray and feral cats. HSHV will live trap, neuter and return for release feral and stray cats for a nominal donation of \$25.00 per cat. Call Kathryn Hancock at HSHV at 734-661-3523 for information or to arrange a pickup. HSHV has free, neutered cats under the Society's "Barn Buddies" program. You provide the home they provide the cat. For Barn Buddy information call 734-662-5585 ext. 104.

OZONE ACTION DAYS BEGIN

Ground level ozone is a result of hot, sunny days. Elevated levels can be a health hazard, particularly for the elderly, the young, and those suffering from respiratory ailments such as emphysema or asthma. Current standards are much tougher than in the past, making it even more important for residents to take action on Ozone Action Day.

You can help the environment by waiting to refuel your vehicle or mow your lawn on Ozone Action Day.

Visit: www.semcog.org/OzoneAction to see if today is an Ozone Action Day.

FROM THE DESK OF PAUL J. UHEREK,

taxable values reduced over the past few years, which means they may not be paying more actual dollars than they would have been paying had their taxable values continued to increase in value as they had in the past.

If you have more questions, please contact James Graham, Assistant Superintendent, South Lyon Schools for Business and Finance at graham@slcs.us.

Committee Updates

The 457 Retirement Benefits Committee

Below is an update article from Chair, Susan Bejin. I would like to personally thank her and the other committee members, Doug Shepherd and our Supervisor, Robert Heyl for countless hours of research, interviews, and in general all their hard work.

Sewer and Waste Water Treatment Issues

I have finished my preliminary review for funding of the Sewer and Waste Water Treatment facility. After consulting with the Township Board, I will bring a motion to form a committee for publication of my findings and to strategize an action plan.

Also for your review is a copy of the Treasurers Investment Report.

Enjoy your summer,
Paul J. Uherek, Treasurer

Retirement Benefits Committee Update

The Benefits Retirement Committee was established by the Salem Township Board of Trustees at the April 13, 2010 board meeting. The committee is to review the history and current status of all retirement benefits available to Salem Township employees and report the findings and possible resolutions to the Board. It has met several times and is completing the process of compiling all documents relating to the employee deferred retirement plan, known as the 457(b) Plan. In the administration of the 457(b) Plan, the Township deposited a total of 12.4% of the gross pay (representing equal 6.2% contributions from the township and the employee) into each participating employee's 457(b) account.

The Township has confirmed with the help of experts that an underpayment of FICA withholding taxes occurred during the 2007, 2008 and 2009 calendar years. As a result, the Township recently paid \$71,448 to Social Security which affected eight current and former, elected officials and employees. The Committee is continuing its fact finding and will make a presentation to the Board at either the second July or first August Board meeting. The committee is also reviewing all benefits and will provide further recommendations to the Board by mid-August.

Susan Bejin, Trustee
Benefits Retirement Committee Chair

Salem Township Treasurers Investment Report as of June 30, 2010 - Paul J. Uherek

Institution	Bond Investments	Total Cost Basis	Interest	Accrued Interest	Description
Comerica	FEDL HOME LN MTG CRP SER 2770 CL	\$128,653.10	5.00	\$285.90	
Comerica	GOVT NATL MTG ASN SER 2009-74	\$427,706.99	5.00	\$653.44	
Comerica	GENESSEE CNTY MICH ISSUES	\$400,000.00	1.85	n/a	
Comerica	FEDL HOME LN MTG CRP	\$200,000.00	2.00	\$1,177.78	
Comerica	FEDL HOME LN MTG GRP	\$300,000.00	2.25	\$2,906.25	
Comerica	FEDL HOME LN MTG CRP	\$900,000.00	2.25	\$56.25	
Comerica	FEDL HOME LN MTG MTG CRP NOTE	\$100,000.00	3.00	\$1,166.67	
Comerica	FEDL NATL MTG ASSN NOTE	\$300,000.00	4.00	\$5,066.67	
Comerica	FEDL NATL MTG ASSN NOTE	\$675,000.00	3.50	\$65.62	
	Bond Investment Comerica:	\$3,431,360.09		\$11,378.58	Total for active/current.
				\$25,213.68	Total for Redeemed Bond this month.
				\$36,592.26	Total Accrued Interest this month.
Fifth Third	GOVT NATL MTG ASSN	\$1,017,500.00	5.00	\$2,083.33	
Fifth Third	FEDL NATL MTG ASSN	\$1,080,000.00	5.63	\$7,187.50	
Fifth Third	FEDERAL NATL MTG ASSN	\$537,398.15	5.78	\$1,926.67	
Fifth Third	FEDERAL NATL MTG ASSN	\$700,000.00	4.00	\$2,955.56	
	Bond Investment Fifth Third:	\$3,334,898.15		\$14,153.06	Total for active/current.
				\$23,707.36	Total for Redeemed Bond this month.
				\$17,108.62	Total Accrued Interest this month.
Total Comerica and 5/3rd:	Total for Bond Investments:	\$6,766,258.24			
	Total Accrued Interest for bonds this month, (Comerica and Fifth Third Bank):			\$74,452.68	
Institution	Investment Cash Accounts	Balance			
Fifth Third	Instl MMKT Core LSIXX CASH	\$614,781.81		Waiting Settlement	
Comerica Bank	Dreyfus Government Prime Cash Mgmt.	\$196,438.96		Waiting Settlement	
Pooled Funds	Government Pooled Funds	\$86,596.20			
	Total for Investment Cash Accounts:	\$897,816.97			
Institution	Sewer Fund	Balance			
Chase WWTP	Waste Water/Sewer Expansion	\$42,827.05			
Fifth Third	Waste Water/Sewer Expansion Bond Investment	\$345,000.00	3.00		
	Total for Sewer Fund:	\$387,827.05		Included in bond(s)	

TOWNSHIP NEWS

BY SUPERVISOR ROBERT HEYL

Dear Residents:

The Treasurer and I felt his report in this Salem Messenger was very important to residents so we agreed to move it to the front page in this issue.

Several residents have contacted me recently very concerned about a rumor that the Fire Department is to be disbanded. This rumor is totally false. As a matter of fact, the Fire Department recently voted unanimously to unionize. The Township Board has seated a committee to negotiate an agreement with the Fire Fighters Union that will be equitable and fair to the Township and the Fire Fighters. **As your Supervisor, I have no intention of disbanding or eliminating the Township Fire Department.**

The long running Police Service lawsuit initiated by the previous Board has been settled. Washtenaw County accepted the Township's settlement offer of approximately \$48,000 and it was approved by the Board in a 6-1 vote. We are still waiting for the settlement agreement to be signed. This settlement, once finalized, will end the continued accruing of interest and attorney fees and will allow the Township to re-establish a good working relationship with the County and the Sheriff's Department.

I would like to congratulate all of our Graduating Students here in the Township. **"Congratulation for a job will done."**



FREE CONCERT
Saturday August 21, 2010
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
MUSIC ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
Presented by Salem Community Events

THE FLATROCKERS

This old/classic rock band with a little bit of country and acoustic will be playing live at the Village Green in Salem Township, corner of Six Mile Rd. and Dickerson Rd, in downtown Salem.

Bring your family, friends and lawn chairs to enjoy this free event!

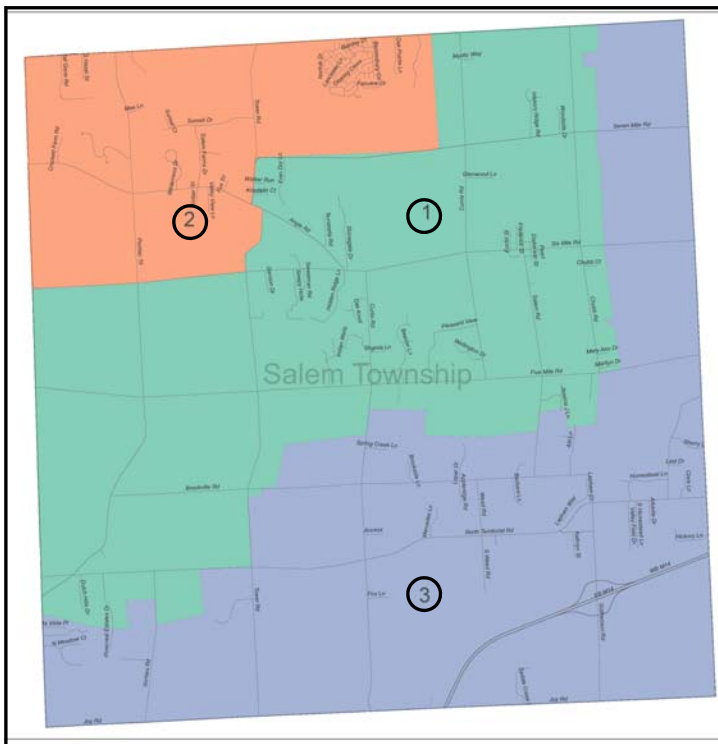
Please check out our website, saalemflagday.com, for this event and pictures of the 2010 Flag Day Celebration.

Clerk's Commentary.....by David Trent

Primary Election Day – Tuesday, August 3, 2010
The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The primary election will determine which candidates from the Republican and Democratic parties will be on the ballot for the general election in November. Offices to be voted on are Governor, Congressional Representative, State Senate, State Representative, County Commissioner and local Precinct Delegates. Also, voters in Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 will have an Oakland Community College millage renewal question on the ballot. Shown below is the precinct boundary map along with the voting location for each precinct. Contact my office at your earliest convenience if you are unsure of your voting location.

Recently it was discovered that some voters within the South Lyon School District had been misclassified for the community college that they should have been assigned. The original charter that was approved for Oakland Community College in 1964 stated that the entire South Lyon School District would be under OCC. During the 1990's when land splits were approved and the Northville Crossings development was built those parcels were miscoded into the Washtenaw Community College District by the County which handled assessing responsibilities at that time. In light of this finding, all voters who had previously been assigned to Washtenaw Community College for ballot issues have been properly reassigned to Oakland Community College. Any changes in your taxes due to this change will be reflected in next year's tax roll. Should you have any questions on this issue feel free to contact my office to discuss your concerns.



POLLING LOCATIONS

- Precinct 1 – Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile
- Precinct 2 – Salem-South Lyon Library,
9800 Pontiac Trail
- Precinct 3 – Salem Elementary School,
7806 Salem Road

Absent Voter (AV) Applications

Citizens who desire to vote absentee for the upcoming August primary have until Saturday, July 31 to make application to receive their ballot via mail. I will be in my office on that day from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to receive applications in the Rider House at 7912 Dickerson on the township campus. You will have the opportunity to designate that you would like to vote absentee for the November general election at the same time. Also, you can request to be placed on our Permanent AV list.

ANNUAL AUDIT UPDATE

The annual audit of the township's financial records was conducted the week of June 1 by representatives from our auditing firm, Plante & Moran. The Audit Committee met with them earlier this month to review the draft financial statements. Results of their findings will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the August 10, 2010 meeting.

Happenings of Interest Around Salem Township

WEST POINT: James DiMilia, son of Jim and Sue DiMilia, has received an appointment at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. James graduated from Detroit Catholic Central in Novi, MI on May 23, 2010 where he earned a GPA of 3.96.

During James' undergraduate years he was named to the National Honor Society, was on the Honor Roll, and received the Gabriel Richard, AP scholar Award as well as numerous Departments' honors. In addition, James served as Captain of the Varsity Ski Team, participated in the Track & Field and was named a scholar athlete.

James, and his family, believes in volunteerism. He was a member of the Boy Scouts where he earned his Eagle Scout Award. Numerous hours were spent assisting the Gleaners, the Salvation Army, Operation Can Do, as well numerous Salem Township projects that included his Eagle Scout Project for Salem Area Historical Society.

Congratulations to James on his appointment and on his future career.

CHANGES IN COUNTY'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMAND: Recently, Deputy Lisa King has taken a new position to focus on the Eastern part of Washtenaw County. Deputy King will be concentrating on Ypsilanti and Superior Townships and her replacements will take over the rest of the County.

If people want to talk to officers in the Community Engagement area, contact Sergeant Dave Archer at archerd@ewashtenaw.org or Deputy Ray Yee at yeer@ewashtenaw.org. Either officer or director Derrick Jackson (jacksond@ewashtenaw.org) will be glad to help you start a Neighborhood Watch Group, or would like a home security survey, or another service that the Community Engagement Division offers, please feel free to contact one of them.

Thanks for your previous help in Salem, Deputy King.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS: The Johnson Creek (Rouge Watershed) and the Fleming Creek (Huron River Watershed) continue to make news. Friends of the Rouge discovered the free-living Caddisfly (*Rhyacophila lobiferain*) in the

News and Notes From the Planning Commission

I hope everyone enjoyed the pleasant weather we had in June. July has started out too hot for me and, I suspect, for many of you. In any case, enjoy the summer months.

Site plan review activity has been slow over the last few months. With the slightly improving economy we may see some increased activity as the summer progresses. So, keep your eyes on the Planning Commission agendas

The Planning Commission continues to review and update the Township's Zoning Ordinance. The Commission is taking an orderly approach and is reviewing the existing ordinance section by section. The primary goal is to bring the Ordinance up to date with the recently adopted Salem Township Master Plan. There will also be some changes in how information is presented to improve clarity and ease of use. And, of course, the Ordinance will be updated to incorporate recent changes in State law. Even though this effort to update the Zoning Ordinance will lead to some late meeting, the citizens of Salem are encouraged to attend Planning Commission meetings. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Dwight Shusda
Planning Commission Chairman

Johnson Creek at a site in Salem Township. These sensitive insects require cold, well oxygenated water to survive and are not found in poor quality rivers. Meanwhile a healthy population of a rare snake, the Queen Snake, was found living by the Fleming Creek in Ann Arbor Township last week. Both Creeks do continue to be gems in our midst.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Marcia Van Fossen
Salem Township Trustee

Salem Area Historical Society News

Membership News:

If you are not a member or you have not renewed your membership, please send in your membership dues. Forms are available on the "SAHS Membership" page of the Salem Area Historical Society's web site www.sahshistory.org.

CALL FOR CRAFTERS AND FLEA MARKET DEALERS

3rd ANNUAL COUNTRY CRAFT FAIR AND FLEA MARKET, sponsored by the Salem Area Historical Society will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2010, we are looking for Crafters and Flea Market Dealers. The event will be held at the Jarvis Stone School, 7991 North Territorial Road at Curtis Roads, Plymouth, MI, (Salem Township) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

10' x 10' spaces are available for \$25.00 (\$22 before 7/31), two spaces for \$35. This is for space only, tables and coverings are not provided. You need to bring your own tables, chairs, tents or space coverings.



Space is limited. Reservations accepted until all spaces are sold but no later than September 1, 2009. For Reservations: Call Pat Hatala, 248-486-5515 or email Sue DiMilia at sdimilia@charter.net or Salem Area HS@yahoo.com. For more information and application forms go to www.sahshistory.org.

August 2010 Event:

SAHS will be hosting a Historical Vehicle Show and Ride on Sunday, August 15th, on the Society's historic park grounds surrounding the Jarvis Stone School from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. All are welcome to register (no fee) their 1985 or older vehicle via the form on www.sahshistory.org. Ice Cream and refreshments will be available. Please join us for an afternoon of free family fun.

September 2010 Events:

"Bow to your partner, bow to the corner...." The Annual SAHS Barn Dance will be held on Friday, September 10, 2010 from 7 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Three Cedars Farm on Six Mile Road just west of Curtis Road. Members and non-members are welcome. Admission at the door will be \$5.00 per person or \$3.00 for SAHS Members. The Picks 'N' Sticks will provide the music and their Square Dance Caller will assist dancers with all levels of experience. Proceeds will be used for the upkeep of the Jarvis-Stone School and the Dickerson Barn. Cider and donuts will be available for purchase.



The SAHS hopes that we can capture your interest in our goal of preserving the past for the future and to see you at our events. More information can be found at the Salem Area Historical Society's Website (www.sahshistory.org) or via an email request Salem Area HS@yahoo.com.



SALEM TOWNSHIP
9600 SIX MILE ROAD
PO BOX 75002
SALEM, MI 48175

Please leave with current address

Salem Township Board of Trustees

Robert Heyl, Supervisor robert@salem-mi.org

Paul J. Uherek, Treasurer paul@salem-mi.org

David Trent, Clerk....david@salem-mi.org

Susan Bejin, Trustee....susan@salem-mi.org

Marcia Van Fossen, Trustee....marcia@salem-mi.org

Wayne Wallazy, Trustee....wayne@salem-mi.org

Brien Witkowski, Trusteebrien@salem-mi.org

The Messenger is published to inform Salem Township residents about issues and events in our community. If you have any comments or questions, contact the officials above or call the Township Office.

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone No. 248-349-1690

Fax 248-349-9650

Call 911 for Emergency

Non Emergency call

734-971-3954

SALEM TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

JULY

27 Board of Trustee Meeting - 7:00 pm

AUGUST

3 Election 7 am - 8 pm.

10 Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm

16 Planning Commission - 7:30 pm

15 Historical Society Vehicle Show -
2 pm - 5 pm

21 Music on the Village Green -
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

24 Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm

Check the website for additional information www.salem-mi.org.