

## **Fiscally Responsible Safety**, Jolea Mull, Supervisor

On November 4, 2008, the residents of Bridgewater Township will have the opportunity to participate in a historic moment at the polls—to vote to **decrease taxes!** The township board voted to reduce the current millage rate for police services from 1.5 mills down to 1.25 mills for the next two years. The board is able to do this because there are sufficient funds available to supplement the police-services line item from past years when the township collected a bit more money each year than was needed for police services. As the township is not in the business of being a bank, the board thought that this would be a good time to reduce the millage and combine it with those designated funds to pay for police services over the next two years.

Especially considering that our most recent police millage only passed by five (5) votes in 2006, the township board also did a bit of brainstorming and collaborating to reach the following results that both protect our community while reaching a more fiscally responsible solution. Special thanks to township resident Ron Raab for asking for this. Read on in the article below—from the experts!

## **Bridgewater is Part of a Winning Team**, Lieutenant Dieter Heren, Sergeant David Archer

This past year, Bridgewater Township has teamed up with both the Village of Manchester and Lodi Township to provide 24/7 police coverage for our area. Bridgewater Township contracts for one deputy with Washtenaw County, the Village of Manchester contracts for three deputies, and Lodi Township contracts for three deputies. By combining our forces, we are able to provide a 24/7 police presence for our residents.

Regarding Bridgewater Township's police services, did you know....

- \* ...it takes twice as long to for a police car to get dispatched (after receiving the initial 911 call) to an incident in one of the non-contracting townships (Saline, Freedom, Manchester) surrounding Bridgewater than it does to get a police car sent to an incident within Bridgewater Township.
- \* ...once a police car gets dispatched to an incident, it takes twice as long to get to an incident in one of the non-contracting townships (Saline, Freedom, Manchester) surrounding Bridgewater than it does to get to an incident within Bridgewater Township.
- \* ...it only costs about .23 per day per Bridgewater Township resident to provide the 24/7 police coverage (the township will pay between \$125,000 and \$130,000 for this current year's police services)
- \* ...if Bridgewater Township wanted to provide 24/7 police coverage on its own, it would require 5-7 deputies and would cost between \$675,000 and \$980,000!!!
- \* ...this means a total cost saving of between \$545,000 and \$855,000 by collaborating.
- \* ...by its new decision to collaborate with Lodi Township, Bridgewater Township saves an additional \$12,748 a year.
- \* ...if Bridgewater Township DID NOT collaborate with Lodi Township and only partnered with the Village of Manchester (which was previously done in 2007), there would be 832 hours a year were there would be NO POLICE COVERAGE. Bridgewater Township would have to rely on the Michigan State Police or Sheriff General Funded

Deputies to respond. This would drastically affect response time and visibility. We hope this information is helpful, and we thank you for your support.

**Election Update**, Cynthia Carver, Clerk

All area Clerks are expecting record turnout for the November 4 Election. Unfortunately, this can equate to long lines at the polls. If anyone would like an Absentee Ballot, you may get an application from me or on our Website. Also, you will be able to get the applications and actually vote your AV ballot at the Township Hall during our Office Hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 p.m. or on Fridays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Hopefully, this will reduce lines on voting day!

**Fall Clean – Up Day**

**Saturday, November 1, 2008**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Bridgewater Township Hall**

10990 Clinton Road

**Please Bring:** Household Discards, Old Furniture, Mattresses, Broken Toys, Scrap Metal, Iron, and Appliances. All Lawnmower and other Engines must have the **GAS** and **OIL DRAINED**.

**Electronic Appliances** may be recycled at the following rates:

VCR, Stereos, Microwaves, Computers, monitors and printers -- No charge  
Propane Tanks -- \$5 TV up to 19" -- \$15 TV 19" to 27" -- \$40 TV over 27" --  
\$70 Cabinet/console TVs -- \$40

**Please Do Not Bring:** Garbage such as Food Waste or Cat Litter; Liquids, Batteries, Tires, Fencing, Tree Stumps, Large Car or Tractor Parts, Building Materials such as Brick, Concrete, or Building Waste, Chemicals, or Recyclable items. Please take Recyclable items to the Bridgewater Depot.

**TIRES and Appliances that contain FREON**

will **NOT BE ACCEPTED** at Fall Clean-Up.

## **Christmas Cookie Exchange**

**Mark your calendars for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange! December 6, 2008**

This event will again be hosted by the "Friends of the Township Hall" committee. Last year we were able to send 12 care packages of Christmas Cookies and custom-made Christmas cards to the local servicemen and women serving our country. So, come on out and "Bring Three Dozen, Take Three Dozen," and bring an extra batch for our troops. Or, just bring a whole bunch for our troops if you like! Thanks for the idea, Mary Shaw!

## **Sewer Billing**

Please note effective, September 1<sup>st</sup> Linda Underwood will no longer be the billing agent for the Bridgewater Township Sewer Operation. Please forward payments or questions pertaining to the sewer to Amy Riley, 8630 Eisman Rd. Manchester, MI 48158. (734) 428-8151. E-mail:

**From the Planning Commission Chair,** Laurie Fromhart

As the new Chair of the Bridgewater Township Planning Commission, I would like to take this opportunity to inform residents of the Commission's future plans and recent activities.

The goals and objectives of the Bridgewater Township Planning Commission range from updating and codifying the Township's zoning ordinance to implementing recommendations from the Township's Master Plan. The Planning Commission is currently considering amendments to the zoning ordinance to incorporate revised language for flag lots and shared drives and recently recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt revisions to the Township's zoning ordinance to incorporate new provisions of the Zoning Enabling Act. The Planning Commission is also considering an ordinance to regulate private community wastewater systems for residential developments and is seeking amendments to the Conservation Preservation section of our ordinance. Presently, the Planning Commission is working with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department in accordance with the Natural Areas Preservation Program regarding site-plan approval for a boardwalk and observation deck at the Ervin-Stucki nature preserve. In addition, the Planning Commission continues to work with participating jurisdictions of the Manchester Community Joint Planning Commission to create a community-wide comprehensive Master Plan to guide growth and development to those areas in the region where it is best suited while protecting agricultural activities and vital natural resources.

I strongly encourage residents to attend Planning Commission meeting and to participate in the planning process. Our Planning Commission meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. I hope to see you there!

## CURRENT APPOINTED OFFICIALS & STAFF, FALL 2008

**Assessor:** Mary & Clayton Rider (517) 505-1462 **Board of Review:** Alwin Wahl (517) 456-4868, Louise St. Clair (734) 429-5337, John Porter (734) 428-7304 **Building Committee:** Jolea Mull (517) 456-6855, Karen Weidmayer (734) 428-8641, Cindy Carver (734) 428-0372, Doug Parr (734) 428-8243 **Farmland Preservation Board:** Ron Ellison, Chair (734) 428-9386, Louise St. Clair (734) 429-

5337, Dave Faust (517) 456-4969 **Manchester Community Joint Planning Commission**  
**Representatives:** Jolea Mull (517) 456-MULL, Laurie Fromhart (517) 456-6725, Mark Iwanicki (517) 456-7557 **Mineral License Board:** Doug Parr, Chair (734) 428-8243; Russ Lutton, Vice-Chair (734) 428-7889; Earl Carver (734) 662-4350 **Planning Commission:** Laurie Fromhart, Chair (517) 456-6725; Dave Faust, Vice-Chair (517) 456-4969; Tom Wharam, Secretary (734) 428-9668; Mark Iwanicki (517) 456-7557, Chris Brown (734) 428-3456, Dave Horney (734) 944-0459 **Road Committee:** Dave Faust, Chair (517) 456-4969; Tom Wharam, Secretary (734) 428-9668; Russ Lutton (734) 428-1675, William Swaney (517) 456-7244, Gary Corwin (517) 456-4754, Geoff Oliver (517) 456-7700, Randy Klager (734) 944-6030 **Sewer Committee:** Jolea Mull (517) 456-MULL, Dave Faust (517) 456-4969, Vic Mann (734) 428-8404, Dave Horney (734) 944-0459 **Southwest Washtenaw Council of Governments Representative:** Jolea Mull (517) 456-MULL **Townhall Staff:** Judy Klager (517) 456-7728 **Urban County Representatives:** Jolea Mull (517) 456-MULL, Cindy Carver, Alternate (734) 428-0372 **Western Washtenaw Construction Authority Representative:** Shelly Pike (517) 456-7238 **Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority:** Amy Riley (734) 428-1114 **Zoning Board of Appeal:** Theodore Sippel, Chair (734) 428-0924, Cindy Carver, Secretary (734) 428-0372; Dave Horney (734) 944-0459, Doug Parr, Alternate (734) 428-8243 **Zoning Official:** Carl Macomber, (734) 330-8105

TOWNHALL OFFICE HOURS, 10990 Clinton Road, (517) 456-7728

Mondays & Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m., Carl Macomber, Zoning Official    Thursdays, 8:30-11:30 a.m.,  
Mary Rider, Assessor

Additional Election-Season Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m. & Fridays 9-11 a.m.,  
Cindy Carver, Clerk; Judy Klager, Staff

Additional November & December Hours: Thursdays 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Jolea Mull, Supervisor  
See Townhall Postings Board for Periodically Updated Information!

## From the Desk of Shelly Pike, Treasurer

Winter 2008 bills will be mailed December 1<sup>st</sup> and are due February 14, 2009. If you do not receive your tax bill by December 10<sup>th</sup>, feel free to view it on-line by going to the Township website at [www.twp-bridgewater.org](http://www.twp-bridgewater.org). Click on "Treasurer/Taxes" on the right hand side of the page. If you do not have access to the website, please contact the Township Hall at 517-456-7728.

Please examine your bill carefully to assure accuracy. If you think there is an error in the address, description, your homestead exemption, or assessed value, please contact the township assessors, Mary or Clayton Rider, Jr., as soon as possible. There will be a December Board of Review held mid-December to correct any errors. They hold office hours every Thursday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Bridgewater Township Hall located at 10990 Clinton-Manchester Road. The phone number there is (517) 456-7728. To reach them at other times, call (517) 505-1462, or you can correspond with them by email at [mrider2760@aol.com](mailto:mrider2760@aol.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 188, Haslett, MI 48840.

In November I will be passing my Treasurer's hat off to the newly elected Treasurer. I have enjoyed being part of the Township Board and meeting so many wonderful residents. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has truly been an honor.

## Urban County, Jolea Mull, Supervisor

With the economic downturn that we have been experiencing, I wanted to take a moment to tell you about federal funding that may be available to help ease the burden for some folks. Bridgewater Township is part of the Washtenaw Urban County, which basically means that our residents may be considered to receive assistance from federal block grants to complete home

–restoration projects; even though Bridgewater itself is certainly not “urban,” the fact that we are part of a designated “urban county” is what qualifies us to participate in this program. If you think you may qualify for some level of lower-income assistance, please contact the Urban County office directly at (734) 622-9015. Damon Thompson will be able to help you navigate through the process to determine if you are eligible for funding to help pay for your home-restoration project that would otherwise be outside your current means. For more information, go to the website link:

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community\\_development/washtenaw\\_urban\\_county\\_area](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/community_development/washtenaw_urban_county_area)

### **Stay in the Zone**, Carl Macomber, Zoning Official

If you have questions about our local zoning, please stop in during my regular office hours at the townhall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. You may also call me at (734) 330-8105 and leave a message. Our township website may also help you answer some of your basic questions too. Go to [www.twp-bridgewater.org](http://www.twp-bridgewater.org), and click on “Publications” then “Ordinances” then “Zoning Ordinance;” you may use the “find” option at the top of the screen to quickly find the topics you are looking for.

You need to submit these items to our office for your construction projects and property-use changes: Zoning-Compliance Application, site plans and building plans (four copies), and appropriate permits (well, septic, soil erosion).

### **Join the Parade!** Jolea Mull, Supervisor

Become part of history by designing the Official Bridgewater Township Flag! Many townships around the state have township flags that represent the unique character and heritage of their area of Michigan. Our township does not have a flag and would be the first in our county to have one. What does our area stand for? How should Bridgewater Township be remembered in years to come? Submit your sketch with a summary of what it represents to P.O. Box 28, Bridgewater, MI 48115. The township flags are paraded in a formal procession at the opening ceremony at the annual Michigan Townships Association conference. The flags then hang at the town halls year-round. The deadline to submit your entry is November 30, 2008. And, you need not be an “artiste” to create a prototype for a more professional-looking design—we encourage any kids and adults who have a sense of our community to participate! The Board of Trustees will appoint a flag committee to recommend one of your flag designs to become the Official Township Flag. If you’d like to serve on the flag committee for this project, please call me at (517) 456-MULL

I enjoy serving our community as your supervisor! Please contact me at (517) 456-MULL to discuss any of your concerns. My November and December office hours will be on Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I am also available to meet at my kitchen table most any time by appointment! Blessings to you, Jolea Mull