

MILLEN TOWNSHIP SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS:

- **Supervisor**
R. Dennis Smith (231) 357-2426
- **Clerk**
Cathy Ostrander (989) 335-5847
- **Treasurer**
Barbara Bartlett (989) 736-0700
- **Trustee**
Scott Kosal (608) 322-8210
- **Trustee**
Jeff Somers (928) 304-3098

APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

- **Assessor**
Randy Thompson (989) 724- 5603
- **Cemetery Sexton**
Barbara Bartlett (989) 736-0700
- **Planning/Zoning Administrator**
Mike Davio (989) 736-6694
- **Planning Commission Chairman**
Richard Gillies (989) 736-6203
- **Barton City Park Manager**
Karen Sutton (586) 960-4737

BARTON CITY PARK RENTAL:

- Pavilions/Cook Shack/Horseshoe Pit/Ball Field
- Contact BC Park Manager

MAPLE RIDGE CEMETERY:

- Thanks for the continued efforts by the community to keep gravesite ornamentation minimized in support of grounds maintenance.
- Flags were placed for Memorial Day utilizing a donation from the Alcona Veterans Association
- Flowers have been added at the main cemetery planters.
- We also appreciate your patience while dead/damaged trees are trimmed and removed from the grounds.



We hope to see you at the
"Biggest Little 4th in the North"

- Barton City Parade
- Activities at the Park
- Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast
- Fireworks

**Watch the website for
additional details*

MILLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS:

The 1st Monday of every month at 7:00 pm, meetings are held at the F.O.E. Aerie 4141, 671 N. Sanborn Rd, Barton City, MI 48705.

Everyone is welcome!

Check out our Township website:
MillenTownship.com

ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT 2022 ROAD PROJECTS:

- **Hubbard Lake Road** – Apply single sealcoat with fog seal from Fowler Rd. south (1.99 mile) 10,560 ft. to Township line common to sections 25 & 36 T26N R7E of Millen Township
- **Trask Lake Road** – Apply single sealcoat from Hubbard Lake Road west (3.09 mile) 16,315 feet, common to sections 1, 2, 3, 4 T26N R7E of Millen Township

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you to all the volunteers!
We appreciate your donations, time and commitment to make this a nicer place to live. We couldn't do it without you!

BC Park Spring Cleanup:

- Barton City General Store (Gary and Mo Somers)
- Stout's Lawn Service (Ron Stout)
- Mark Keller
- Jim Pangonis
- Jeff Anderson
- RuthAnn Couperthwaite
- Paul Lauth
- Jeff Lauth Lawn Service
- Rod Cordes
- Karen Sutton
- Rob Sutton
- Corkey Brown
- Tom Davis
- Ron Stout
- Roy Somers
- Mark Malanyn
- Trish Miller
- Pete and Cathy Ostrander
- Dennis and Sheryl Smith

BC Park Seasonal Plumbing:

- Andy Cox - Cox Plumbing & Heating

BC Park Donations:

- Sundance Hunt Club

BC Flag Placement:

- Rodney Cordes
- Rob Sutton
- FOE/Aerie 4141

New Flower Barrels:

- BCIA

Hawes Family Park Bench Donation:

The Hawes family: Chuck, Laura, Bo, Bev, Chris, Ed and Elaine

BARTON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT - CHIEF RODNEY CORDES

Millen Township Residents:

- **Thanks** - On behalf of the Barton City Volunteer Fire Department Inc. Board of Directors and Firefighters/Medical First Responders, thank you for your continued support!
- **Fire Station Addition** - Unfortunately, the addition on the Fire Station has been on hold. It was too cold during the winter to work on the drywall and to side the building exterior. The general contractor recently reported to our insurance company he would be hoping to complete his work by November. Our Board President and a Trustee will be meeting with the general contractor to confirm his schedule.
- **Grants/Equipment** - Last year we applied for a grant towards air packs. We did receive \$4,999.00 towards 2 new packs at a total cost of \$16,608.00. We have also applied for an AAA grant for the amount of almost \$15,000.00. We are in need of some traffic safety equipment and a new jaws spreader. We also have applied for a DNR grant for 2023 to assist in the purchase of new pagers replacing the outdated ones due to Central Dispatch changing over to 800 paging. We continue to look for funding from other sources. If you know someone that is a grant writer, please have them contact someone on the Fire Department.
- **Medical First Responders** - We continue to provide Medical First Responders assistance on medical calls. We are always in need of folks who are willing to do this type of service for the community. There are lots of hours involved to get an MFR License, but it is not too difficult to get your ongoing education credits to keep your license current.
- **Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors** - We ask that you check your smoke/carbon monoxide detector batteries twice a year. Please mark it on your calendar so you don't forget to check them.
- **Firefighters Needed** - We are always looking for Volunteer Firefighters to help protect and serve our great community.
- **Be Responsible, Be Safe and Have a Happy Summer!**

A MESSAGE FROM MILLEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR - R. DENNIS SMITH

Greetings! I wish to thank the community volunteers that assisted with the park and cemetery clean up this spring. Again, thank you for a great effort by all to keep our Township's park and cemetery looking very nice.

I would like to take a minute to talk to you about our Township finances. The Township has been operating on a bare bones/no frills budget since 2018. Over the past few years, many maintenance projects (park pavilion, cemetery and park lawn maintenance) have not been addressed as well as they should be due to the lack of finances. A "perfect storm" has and is now hitting our Township finances due to three circumstances:

1. The Headley Tax Act has reduced Millen Township's operational income down to .5374 mill since it was established in 1969. The State's minimum township general operating fund recommendation is 1.0 mill.
2. Millen Township has 65% (approximately 29,000 acres) of its property owned by the National Forest Service and therefore no tax dollars are collected. The National Forrest Service does pay the County one dollar for each acre they own. In previous years leading up to 2018, the County Board of Commissioners distributed 50% of that payment back to the affected townships. Unfortunately, from 2018 to 2022, the Township was operating without these funds as the County withheld this money. This figured out to be approx. \$14,000 dollars per year, representing 17% of the Township's annual operating money. After many meetings and budget reviews with the County Commissioners, they have agreed to start paying about \$7,000 or 25% of the payment received by the County back to the townships starting in 2023.
3. Lastly, the Constitutional Revenue Sharing payments have been reduced due to the 2020 Census. As much as \$7,000 annually will be reduced from Millen Township income.

The Board continues to be conservative with your tax dollars, spending it wisely on meaningful projects for the Township. I am requesting your consideration for support of two Millen Township ballot proposals on the August 2nd Primary Election:

- A General Operating Fund Increase of ½ mill (.500) that will address the Township's financial issues discussed.
- A Road Millage Renewal of 1.0 mill that will continue to accomplish great maintenance of our Township's roads.

I would like to give one more word of thanks before closing out my message. The Township was given a gift of a beautiful park bench by the family of Jean Hawes. It was Jean's wish to provide the Township with a bench for all to enjoy in the park. This was made possible by the Hawes family: Chuck, Laura, Bo, Bev, Chris, Ed and Elaine. Thank you to the Hawes family for this beautiful donation to the township park, it will be enjoyed by many.

Thanks for everyone's continued support of our community. **Have a Safe and Happy Summer!**