

# Chester Township Newsletter

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April 2010

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## CALENDAR

April 12-Township Board Meeting  
April 26-Public Test of Election Equipment 8:30 am  
Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm  
May 1-Clerk's office open for Absentee Ballots  
May 4-Election Day  
May 10- Township Board Meeting  
May 24-Planning Commission Meeting  
May 30-Pancake Breakfast at KC Hall  
May 31-Memorial Day Parade  
June 14-Township Board Meeting  
June 28-Planning Commission Meeting

## ELECTION NOTICES

**School Elections May 4**-elections will be held for all school districts on Tuesday, May 4. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Ballot information for each district is as follows:

### COOPERSVILLE

Board of Education Candidates (2 seats)-  
Kurt Meinders  
Kurt Osterhart  
Denise DeWys-Gilbert  
Operating Millage Renewal

### KENT CITY

Board of Education Candidates (2 seats)-  
Steve Johnson  
Rick Stockhill  
Jon Thebo  
Jeff Vander Werff  
Dan Winell  
Partial Term Candidate  
Brude Hawley

### RAVENNA

Board of Education Candidates (2 seats)-  
Kathy Bonthuis  
Jennifer Gill  
Mark Grover  
Peter Kantola  
Dave Paprocki  
Operating Millage Renewal

### SPARTA

Board of Education Candidates (1 seat)-  
Tom Dupont  
2 Millage Proposals

**Absentee Ballots**-If you would like to receive an application to vote by absentee ballot, please contact our office.

**Photo ID**-a new law has taken effect that will require voters to present a valid photo ID card, such as a driver's license, in order to be able to vote. If you do

not have a valid ID, you may still vote if you are willing to sign an affidavit affirming that you do not have the required identification.

**Polling Location**-all Chester Township elections (including school district elections) will now be held at the township facility located at 3509 Sehler Street in Conklin.

## MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

**Pancake Breakfast**-the annual Firefighters Pancake Breakfast will be held at the KC Hall on 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. They will serve from 7:30 am until 12:30 pm. The price is by donation and the proceeds will be used for equipment. We hope to see you there for food and fellowship!

**Memorial Day Parade**- On Monday, May 31 there will be a program held in Conklin beginning at 11:00 a.m. The parade will follow at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Please come and join us for a day of community fellowship and to honor our veterans and their families!

## FEATURED SUBJECT-2010 Census

By filling out your census form accurately and returning it by the deadline, you and the members of your household will be counted in the national census, which is used to determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, allocate seats in the state Legislature, and influence how the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities.

Census data is also used to:

- guide planning for new hospitals, roads, job training centers, schools and more;
- determine the need for additional social services, block grants and other grant programs essential to many communities;
- provide information to ascertain the need for local initiatives, such as after-school programs or community action projects; and,
- help businesses identify where to locate factories, shopping centers, banks and offices, which often can lead to new jobs.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census be conducted once every 10 years. In accordance with law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's questionnaire responses with anyone.

If you did not receive a form, or if yours is lost or damaged you can call 1-866-872-6868 or go to [www.michigan.gov/census2010](http://www.michigan.gov/census2010).

## PARK NEWS

Chester Park will open for the season on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope you will come to enjoy a walk on the nature trail, watch some ball games, have a picnic and check out our playground area.

## NEW ORDINANCES

Abandoned Buildings Ordinance-In order to help avoid problems with buildings that have been abandoned and are not being properly maintained, the Township has passed an ordinance requiring that the property be kept up so that it is not a nuisance to neighbors. Please contact the Township Office if you have concerns about a property.

## ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

We are in the process of updating our photo records for the assessment files. This is being done to insure that our records are complete and include a current photo of all buildings. You may see Township employees taking photos of your property. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact the township office.

## FIREWORKS PERMITS

The State of Michigan requires fireworks displays that include firecrackers, bottle rockets or roman candles be prohibited without a permit issued by the Township. Please contact the Township office for information on obtaining the necessary permits.

## FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

Chester Township has an ordinance banning the use of any fertilizer within 300 feet of Crockery Lake. This ordinance was developed with the help of the Crockery Lake Association to help prevent the growth of unwanted aquatic vegetation. The following is a section of that ordinance:

*No Person shall apply, deposit, leave, maintain, place, use or permit another person to apply, deposit, leave, maintain, place, or use any fertilizer on any land or property within three hundred feet (300') of the lakeshore of Crockery Lake.*

*"Fertilizer" means any commercially available natural or synthetic material containing manure, nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium, or any mixtures containing a combination thereof, which is applied to land to increase the fertility of the soil.*

Ottawa County also has an ordinance that bans the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus throughout the county. Contact the Ottawa County Health Department for more information.

## JUNK CARS

Please help to keep our township looking nice by following the ordinance regarding vehicles that are unlicensed and/or inoperable.

If your property is less than one acre in size, no unlicensed or inoperable vehicles may be stored on your property. Parcels between 1 acre and 40 acres may have up to 2 unlicensed vehicles (but they must be operable). Parcels of 40 acres and above may have up to 4 unlicensed vehicles. Any unlicensed vehicle must be stored in the rear yard of a property with a dwelling on it. There are some exceptions allowed for farm vehicles and for vehicles being repaired or sold.

The full text of the ordinance is available on our website at [www.chester-twp.org](http://www.chester-twp.org) or you may call the office for more information.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT FLASHOVER

The spring fire season is now here. The early warm weather and dry conditions make outside burning extremely dangerous. Permits can be obtained from the Township office during office hours at 616-899-5544 or by calling the Fire Chief's home at 231-853-6848 (please, no Sunday calls). If conditions become too dry or windy for burning, permits will not be issued or will be revoked.

Testing of the weather warning sirens are the first Friday of the month at 12:00 noon. The testing will continue through November.

This year our firefighter of the year is Mark McDonald. Thank you, Mark, for your service to your fellow firefighters and your community.

In December we were able to purchase a 2009 Chevy 3500 HD 4X4 pick up to replace the grass/brush truck. The old truck was a 1974 Chevy ¾ ton. The favorable pricing and rebates from GM made this a good time to update this truck. Funding for the purchase of this truck was from the truck savings.

The operating millage for the Fire Department will expire this year. You will be asked to vote on a 1.5 mill renewal at the August election.

To the Chester Township Firefighters and their families, thank you for your dedicated service. To the citizens of Chester Township, thank you for your continued support!

Dwight Sheridan, Fire Chief