



February 2024 Update(s) – there is quite a bit of information this month, please peruse to the bottom to review all topics...

VOTING: - February 25th is the final day of the 9 day early voting period for Dexter Township residents to complete their early voting at the Sylvan Township Townhall. February 27th is the day to vote in person at your local precinct – Presidential primaries and the Fire/Police millage for our township are on the ballot. Please vote – questions? Please contact the Clerk’s office at townhall: 734-426-3767

RESCHEDULED COFFEE CHAT on Single Hauler Project – NEW DATE & TIME: MARCH 20th at 6:30pm at Townhall – *hope you can join, we want to hear your comments, thoughts as we gather information*

What is the status of the single hauler project as of late February?

This is a very large project for our township and may impact every resident on some level. Our intent is to continue listening to the residents, to understand what you need and want. We are moving slowly and deliberately as we gather information to put together the RFP (request for proposal). We have had a short questionnaire on our website soliciting from our residents – to date: we have had 445 residents respond, with a 79% would utilize single hauler services with 47% seeking curbside trash and recycle services, 26% trash only and 12% opting out of all curbside services. These numbers were also supported in the Master Plan survey results, many residents are calling for single hauler to reduce our road traffic and improve services.

Many ask, why are we exploring this topic? One of our jobs as Township Trustees is to explore options for service to our residents to improve and maintain our township. Single hauler can

often obtain improved services if/when a vendor can service many homes in a single area. With that thought in mind we are also working in conjunction with Lyndon Township to increase the possible number of service sites. Accompanying the improved services, we can also address less wear and tear on our roads due to the fact that garbage vehicles frequently report to be some of the heaviest vehicles on the roads. Some of our subdivisions and neighborhoods have 2-5 trucks per week covering an area. Another issue is to fully support the WWRA, currently not all curbside recycling collection is directed to this facility, we wish to support them. No decisions have been made to date on what services will be offered, what the cost will be or who the vendor will be. These questions will be addressed in the RFP results much later this year.

All this information is being collated to start addressing issues in the RFP as we work with Theo Eggermont from Washtenaw County Public Works and their consultant Matt Naud from Recycle.com. Please understand, even putting our RFP out does not guarantee we move forward to the implementation stage. At this stage, we are still gathering and refining information, final decision making is months ahead. We hope you can join our first **Coffee Chat on this topic on March 20th at 6:30pm.**

_____ **A few road construction updates**
below _____

Washtenaw County Road Commission –

Construction Update -- N. Territorial Rd & Dexter Town Hall Rd (Dexter Twp)

Heads up Dexter Township! Construction will begin soon for the N. Territorial Rd and Dexter Town Hall Rd Safety Improvement project.

WCRC is hosting a virtual public meeting regarding this project and the related traffic impacts on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 11 a.m. See below for Zoom information:

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has contracted the Fonson Company (Brighton, MI) for these federal aid safety improvements.

The Contractor is currently scheduled to close the intersection of N. Territorial Rd and Dexter Town Hall Rd on Thursday, February 29, 2024, for approximately 10 -12 weeks while crews begin forestry work, removing pavement and excavation operations. This closure is necessary to promote the safety of motorists and construction crews. Access will be maintained only for residents who live, work, rent or own property within the closure limits.

**WCRC's Virtual
Construction Information Meeting**
N. Territorial Rd & Dexter Townhall Rd Safety Improvement Project
Join us Tuesday, February 27 2024, at 11 a.m.
on ZOOM

 bit.ly/wcrcprojectmeeting

 Dial (929) 250 6009, Meeting ID: 879-2332-8754
(no member ID required)

 Download the ZOOM App,
Meeting ID: 879-2332-8754



[Click here for the N. Territorial Rd detour map.](#) (right click on link and select open hyperlink to access)
[Click here for the Dexter Town Hall Rd detour map.](#) (right click on link and select open hyperlink to access)

WCRC will send out project updates as the project progresses. Have questions about the project? Contact Nate Murphy Sr. Project Manager – D&C, at (734) 327-6647, or via email at murphyn@wcroads.org.

**ADDITIONAL - ROAD CLOSURE ADVISORY –
FEB 28-29TH**

WHEN: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

WHERE: Colby Rd between Donner Rd and Dexter Town Hall Rd in Dexter Township

WHY: Culvert replacement

__Please be safe and patient as these road improvements proceed this Spring __

Recyclers – we need your help!

We are again seeking volunteers to assist in the film collection project. Volunteers would empty the plastic film from the orange bin in the townhall parking lot and transport it to Chelsea High School Door #4. Overall, this takes about 1.5 hours and volunteers are asked to sign up for one time per week. Please send a note of interest to either info@dextertownship.org or officemanager@dextertownship.org. We appreciate your assistance in supporting the High School's efforts to win their recycling contest and remove items from our landfills.

Dexter Township Supervisor's Report by Karen Sikkenga February 20, 2024

Office Remodel

The office remodel is nearing completion. All of the larger projects have been completed including installing carpet in the board room, new flooring in the main office area, new paint in the board room, lobby, and main office area, new countertops at the front counter, as well as in the bathrooms, breakroom, and coffee bar. There are other small tasks that need to be completed and Proven has a punch-list of odds and ends that need tending to. Other items we are awaiting quotes for include a rug with the Dexter Township logo, as well as a mural of the Dexter Township logo in the main office area on the green accent wall.

We are happy to report the delivery and installation date of the new furniture is scheduled for Friday, March 8th. We decided to schedule the delivery and installation for that date because our IT company can help us get our tech set back up and organized, and we are closed to the public on Fridays. We are all very excited that a delivery and installation date has been confirmed.

Elections

We began sending Absentee Voter Applications December 29, 2023 and Absentee Voter Ballots out January 18, 2024. As soon as we receive the AV Applications to the Clerk's office, from our residents, we initiate a ballot that is then mailed out that day. As of today, we have sent out:

1. 3,223 Absentee Voter Applications, those apps are sent to all Dexter Township registered voters who have chosen to be on the Permanent AV (absentee voter) List.
2. 1,477 Absentee Voter Applications have been mailed back to the Clerk's office for processing.
3. 1,477 Ballots have been initiated and mailed to Dexter Township Residents.
4. 761 Total Ballots have been returned as of February 12, 2024

We had our first Election Commission Committee Meetings which included Supervisor Sikkenga, Treasurer Metz and myself Clerk Stamboulellis this past January 12, 2023 where we made motions to:

1. Approve the Ballot Style, Ballot Format and Ballot Language.
2. Approval of the location of Precinct #1, Precinct #2, and Precinct #3.
3. Set date for Preliminary Logic and Accuracy Testing of Tabulators.
4. Certification of Election Workers for the Presidential Primary Election.

Important discussion items we discussed were:

1. The Clerks office sent out a total of 2,919 Absentee Voter Applications
2. Return Absentee Voter envelopes are pre-paid by the State of Michigan (purple envelopes)
3. The flat election day ballots and folded Absentee Voter Ballots were delivered January 10, 2023.
4. We Picked up our Blue Keys and V-Drives from the County
5. Ballots will be mailed out January 18, 2024

The next Election Commission Committee meeting date will be February 19, 2024.

Friday February 9, 2024, the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Election Staff Lois Beerbaum performed the initial testing on the voting tabulators – set the date and time and downloaded all of the ballot styles and precincts for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election.

Monday February 12, 2024, we performed the Public Accuracy Testing, which included the Election Commission Committee, to give the community the opportunity to see the machines we use throughout election day. During this event we run test ballots through the machine with most of them having issues such as voters who overvote, voters that may attempt to cast a ballot out of our district, don't fill in the bubble completely, use the incorrect writing utensil... for example if you attempt to vote for more than one candidate the tabulator will not accept it and will prompt a reason why on the machine. This test is to show the precision and accuracy of the tabulation machines that we use throughout our Election Process.

The Presidential Primary Election is right around the corner, February 27, 2024, we are hard at work sending ballots, processing ballots, scheduling election worker training and preparing for the early 9-day voting – located in Sylvan Township – and election day at the Township. If you have any questions or concerns, please see my Clerk and Elections page on the Township Website dextertownship.org or please call the Clerk's office at 734.426.3767 ex110.

Taxes

Winter tax bills were sent out the first week of December. If you have not received your tax bill, or it has been misplaced, please reach out to the treasurer's office for information. Summer and winter 2023 taxes are due February 14th; however, Dexter Township will collect tax payments until 5:30 p.m. February 29th without winter tax interest. Please note that past due summer taxes accrue 1% interest at the beginning of each month until they are fully collected. After February 29th at 5:30 p.m., all unpaid taxes are turned over to Washtenaw County for collection. Please ensure enough time to make your tax payment by the due date. As of January 30, 2024, \$4,942,303.47 of taxes remain delinquent. Dexter Township is 72.9% collected for the 2023 tax cycle.

Public Safety

The fire and police millage renewals will be on the February 27 election ballot. The township mailed a postcard out to all households in the township informing residents about these renewal requests. Trustee Scott also hosted a coffee hour about the topic at the Township Hall on January 29, Treasurer Metz and Clerk Stambouellis also attended the coffee hour.

Single Hauler

We have created a survey to collect information from our residents regarding their curbside trash/recycling collection. The survey was launched towards the end of January and already has 149 responses. The link to complete this survey is available on the homepage of the Dexter Township website and on our Facebook page. The survey is collecting answers to questions regarding what type of services residents currently have, what type of services they would like, and how much residents would be willing to pay for bulk curbside pickup per quarter. We are continuing to seek a provider through an RFP and collecting details. More information will be available for residents on March 20, 2024, at 6:30pm during our Trustee Coffee Chat event. The event will take place at 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Rd. Dexter, MI 48130. Please feel free to stop by and ask questions. Dexter Township Report

Page Fire Negotiations

The board sub-committee working on the collective bargaining agreement continues to negotiate with the Local Firefighters Union. As noted in previous updates, we believe this will continue to represent a significant change in the contract and the main reason it has taken such a long time coming to conclusion. We do believe we are close to reaching a final agreement. The Sun Times recently published an interview with Chief Armstrong, where he summarizes several key initiatives and investments made by DAFD that are having positive impact on the Department and the community.

IT Support

An RFP is being created to seek out a new IT company. The qualities that we are looking for in a company include onsite support staff availability, increased user-end satisfaction, remote IT services, reduced problem resolution time for onsite and remote hardware/software issues, device monitoring, network management, and security monitoring.

WWRA Township Recycling

We are pleased to report that WWRA staff have cleaned the recycling debris that was located in the Dexter Township parking lot, as well as in the woods behind the parking lot. Dexter Township staff and residents noticed this debris and WWRA was contacted and asked to begin the cleanup process. WWRA manager, Marc Williams, reported that his crew will make it a priority to cleanup the recycling debris more regularly.

Planning and Zoning

The Planning Commission gave a final site plan approval for additional buildings to replace the tent at Cornman Farms at their January meeting, as well as a favorable recommendation for two Zoning Ordinance amendments. Staff reports, recommended language and draft ordinances are attached. Please contact our Township Planning Consultant, Megan Masson-Minock, at dpz@dextertownship.org with any questions. The proposed amendment for Table 16.3 corrects a burdensome situation for large lots and is needed for the Cornman Farms proposal to proceed. The Zoning Board of Appeals has requested the amendment to Section 29.06(C)(4), which they have found difficult. The Planning Commission is continuing to work on Zoning Ordinance amendments, which will come to the Board for approval. Grayson Moore of Carlisle Wortman Associates has joined the DPZ team. He will be in Township Hall on Thursday afternoons, assisting with zoning permits and code enforcement.”

State Legislative Updates

Washtenaw County is doing best practices and there are currently no immediate impacts on our township. The state of Michigan is also putting together an effort to improve recycling statewide. More information and updates to come at a later date

Footnote Activities: (if you want additional information on any of these topics, please reach out to us. You may email info@dextertownship.org or the lead official noted)

- **Digitization of paper files:** A contract was approved to enlist AmeriScan to scan all physical files in the township and create a digital

library. This will greatly assist in reducing response times, staff effort, and improve accuracy for permits and FOIA requests. Additionally, it will create more room in the basement for future community space development.

- **Dexter Bicentennial** - The Board of Trustees agree to participate in the Dexter Bicentennial in June. Trustee Scott will lead this project should you wish to volunteer or have additional questions.
- **Solar Legislation** – Trustees Driskell & Sanders will lead development of solar ordinance(s) for our township for small scale and large-scale projects. State siting legislation will take effect at the end of November 2024. Summary impact is if local communities do not have an ordinance in place for 50MW project the state can approve the project.
- **Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board** – reports having 7 confidential projects being considered, three were scored on the open space land rubric, while two of the other four have notable areas of wood. A second mailing to owners of sizeable parcels will be done in the coming months: in the database there are 34 with primarily farmland but 47 with primarily or exclusively open space. The FOSPB can only review applications submitted: it is hoped that more open space landowners will apply with this contact. Questions on FOSPB are handled by Trustee Sanders.
- **ATTN: Residents on Private Roads** – we have had interest from residents seeking to put together an informal gathering to share private road maintenance information. If you oversee maintaining a private road (dirt or paved), possibly we can gather and share processes, vendor information, pricing, and attempt to create economies of scale. If you have completed the S.A.D. process for your subdivision road, we have residents that would appreciate learning from your experience. If you are willing to share, teach, or want to learn to improve your processes, please send an email to info@dextertownship.org with Private Road in the subject line. We will gather names and arrange a future gathering for interested parties. Karen Nolte will be leading this effort. This is a great example

of where our experiences can help each other in our township. Hope you can join.

- **Hudson Mills Metropark Pass Project** – March 29th is the deadline to request your free park pass to Hudson Mills Metropark. To date, we have distributed 1,250 passes with 42% senior (62+) and 58% adult. Send your request to info@dextertownship.org with Park Pass in the subject line – remember to include: your name, complete address, age, and phone number. Trustee Nolte is handling this project should you have questions. Please do not go to the park or townhall to request this pass, it is only administrated though email.
- **Cemetery Restoration project** - work on this project will start up again in the Spring or after the freeze is over. We could really use help on this one: we have headstones to clean, headstones to reposition, grounds to clean up, and we require some strong bodies or a tractor to help move headstones and reattach pieces. Additionally, some historical work is needed to return found (unburied) headstones back to their proper location. Trustee Nolte is the point person on this project. Please join and help us restore our history. Drop an email of interest to info@dextertownship.org with Cemetery in the subject line.
- **A New Street Light at Dexter-Pinckney and Fleming Rd** – approval was granted by the Board of Trustees to purchase a new streetlight at Dexter Pinckney and Fleming Rd. DTE will install the light soon to assist in lighting up that intersection.
- **Dexter Area Fire Department will install free smoke alarms and more** - The Dexter Area Fire Department (DAFD) has joined the MI Prevention statewide fire safety campaign through the State Fire Marshal, the Bureau of Fire Services and Michigan's fire safety organizations to reduce the high number of fire deaths, injuries, and property loss in Michigan.

To protect the health and safety of high-risk populations in Dexter Township, DAFD is participating in MI Prevention by installing smoke alarms in homes free of charge and educating consumers on safety

practices. “Having working smoke alarms in your home and making fire safety a constant priority are the best ways to prevent fires before they start, and stop fire-related deaths and injuries,” said DAFD Fire Chief Doug Armstrong. “The lives of all Michiganders depend on fire safety, education and awareness.”

“The program focuses on two groups that are affected most by fire fatalities: adults over age 40 and children under age nine,” said State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier. “Nearly 80 percent of Michigan’s population are in these high-risk groups and it’s where we’ve seen the greatest number of fire deaths.” More than just an alarm give-away program, this campaign is an actual home installation program with an educational component to increase awareness and knowledge about fire safety to achieve a sustained behavioral change.

Upon the request, DAFD personnel will install the 10-year life expectancy alarms. Homeowners can request a fire safety home visit at no charge, by calling 734 426-4500 or by email at dafd@dexterareafire.org.

As always, should you have questions on any topic or wish to comment, please reach out to us. We like to hear from you.

Take care and have a good month!