



## Happy New Year – Dexter Township

The end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024 continues to be very busy in our Townhall. Below are a few short, bulleted updates – we will release additional information following the Board of Trustee meeting on January, 16<sup>th</sup>.

- **Absentee Ballot Applications** have mailed out – watch your mailbox and return the application if you would like to receive your absentee ballot. There will be an election on February 27, 2024 – Check out information below for the Public Safety Millages.

**Absentee Ballots** will be sent in the mail starting January 18<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Proposal 2, which passed in 2022 gives voters the flexibility to cast their vote **9-days early** in all elections. Dexter Township is combining with other area municipalities for early voting. Dexter Township residents can vote early at Sylvan Township Hall (18027 W Old Hwy 12, Chelsea, MI 48118) beginning February 17<sup>th</sup> – February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 5pm. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Clerk's office at Dexter Township Townhall (734-426-3767)

### **DID YOU KNOW, DEXTER TOWNSHIP'S PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGES EXPIRED?**

Dexter Township's fire safety and police millages expired December 31, 2023. The Dexter Township Board of Trustees voted to place a renewal for each of these millages on the **February 27, 2024 ballot.**

### **FAST FACTS**

#### **FIRE**

Our Dexter Area Fire Department puts out fires and are first responders for medical emergencies. But did you know that fire services can help lower homeowner's insurance rates? Communities with better fire services receive a better Public Protection rating, which means lower-cost insurance.

#### **POLICE**

Currently, Dexter Township contracts with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department to provide dedicated police services in the Township, ensuring around-the-clock police response for residents in Dexter Township. The expired millage provided the funds to financially support that contract.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**





➤ Renewal of Public Safety Millages will be on the February 27<sup>th</sup> ballot – Please vote! **Visit the link below for more information.**

➤ <https://www.dextertownship.org/public-safety-millage/>

➤ **BUDGET information** - Earlier in January, the Board of Trustees did hold a workshop meeting to work on the 2024-2025 budget. Voting on the budget will take place at the January 16, 2024, Board of Trustee meeting. The complete **DRAFT** report that Supervisor Sikkenga put together is posted on our website. Follow <https://www.dextertownship.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-Budget-Book.pdf> to review the **draft** document. Updates will follow as we complete finalizing the 2024-25 budget. This is a very informative document.

➤ **Spring 2024 Community Police Academy** (March 13-May 29, 2024) If you are interested in attending, please complete the application and release forms by Feb 9<sup>th</sup>! <https://washtenawsheriff.formstack.com/forms/cpa> See the attached flyer for complete information.

➤ If you happen to watch the Board of Trustee meetings via live stream – please accept our apologies. Townhall has been going through major renovations to update the facility. In turn, our IT has been challenged while construction continues and some of the live streams have not functioned well. Construction is expected to be completed in the next couple weeks. New furnishings will not be completed until late February. Stop by and view the newly updated offices. Live streams will be running, and we are updating equipment to allow zoom attendance by residents. Stay tuned.....

➤ **Notary Services** now available at Dexter Townhall – Samantha Edwards, our Administrative Manager, can now notarize documents. If you need a notary – call and schedule a time with her. This is a free service to Dexter Township residents and only \$5 for non-residents.

**Farmland & Open Space Board - FIRST PROJECT CLOSED IN Dexter Township**

In early December, Dexter Township Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program closed it's first project. Just over 70 acres and borders a popular 275 acre Washtenaw County West Lake Preserve. The conservation ensures the land will never be developed. Utilizing Washtenaw County Natural Area Preservation Program, the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the State of Michigan Agricultural Preservation Program Fund, the township's share was only 5.5% of the appraised value purchase price.

Congratulations to the Farmland and Open Space Committee!! Great Job and thank you residents for supporting these efforts.

- Our Planning & Zoning Department will be initiating a review of many ordinances to update and streamline processes. There will be easy fixes and longer-term policy questions, that will involve the public input. Changes to zoning ordinances require hearings at the Planning Commission meetings and then forwarded to your Board of Trustees. If you have interest, please review meeting times and topics on our website, [dextertownship.org](http://dextertownship.org)
- In December, the Board of Trustees did approve a single hauler ordinance for our township. Approving this ordinance allows us to further explore the single hauler issue for our township. A short survey will be posted on the website later in January and stay active for approximately 30 days. We are seeking to collect information from our residents to assist in building the request for proposal to garbage companies for bid. This project will most likely have many updates in the next couple months. Please feel free to email [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) with your comments, opinions, or questions on the matter.
- The Huron River Watershed Council releases a couple bits of information:
  - **Safe Alternatives for Snow and Ice Remover** – to help protect our waterways - take a quick look (<https://www.hrwc.org/tis-the-season-use-less-salt-on-your-driveway-this-winter/>)
  - **Winter Stonefly Hunt** – these underwater creatures elude most predators by growing during the winter months when most fish are more sluggish. They live only in good quality streams so searching for them tells us about problems in the river and its streams. HRWC does stonefly search to gauge the health of our streams. Follow with link to join a small group of volunteers to search a selected stretch of stream or river for stoneflies - <https://www.hrwc.org/volunteer/stonefly/>
  - The Township continues to support and encourage residents to assist the Huron River Watershed Council – One of the township's strategic goals is environmental stewardship and HRWC works endlessly supporting that topic. Thank you HRWC!
- In December we did host our first Volunteer and Staff Appreciation event. While the Township has a low number of actual staff, we do have an army of volunteers. It takes everyone working

together to help make all our projects and initiatives happen though out the year. The event was held at the Inverness Country Club house and attended by approximately 80 people, who were able to enjoy good food, good music and each other's company though the evening. THANK YOU to everyone who participates and works, once or 20 times in the year, helping Dexter Township. YOU ARE APPECIATED, probably more then you know!

- Speaking of volunteers – yes, we continue to need people and new faces to help. Sometimes, it feels like we are constantly seeking volunteers and truthfully, we are. Your Board of Trustees are a very active board, launching new projects and tasks throughout the year. For us to continue at the pace we are, we need you. Just to mention a few:
  - Board and Committee openings (see the dextertownship.org website) – we have multiple openings on multiple boards and committees.
  - MLWSA – Multi Lake Water & Sewer Authority – needs two Dexter Township residents to serve on this Board (one regular and one alternate), meetings are once a month, the third Thursday of the month at 10:30am at the MLWSA offices.
  - The cemetery project will start up in the spring and require some strong individuals to help reset headstones into their proper locations.
  - The film collection project for Chelsea High can always use additional volunteers to serve as backup for moving film to the high school.

Drop a line to info@dextertownship to express any interest. If you don't know, just ask – it really does take a village to run a township.



## INTERESTED IN PLANTING TREES IN A

### RIPARIAN ZONE?

- ✓ Pre-ordering opens on January 2, 2024
- ✓ <https://store.washtenawcd.org/collections/2024-riparian-species-hrwc> to review prices and species available.
- ✓ Link also available on dextertownship.org website

## Washtenaw County Road Commission: Report a Road Issue

Follow this link <https://www.wcroads.org/residents/report-an-issue/> to report a non-emergency road issue to Washtenaw County Road Commission

An additional “in the loop” report will follow later this month after our January Board of Trustee meetings. As always, should you have any questions, comments, or information to share feel free to reach out to us through the [info@dextertownship.org](mailto:info@dextertownship.org) email or any of the individual Trustee’s emails.

We love to hear from the residents of Dexter Township. Take care and stay warm....



[Report a Road Issue](#)

Use WCRC Fix It to report non-emergency road issues. For emergencies, please call us at (734) 761-1500.



## Spring 2024 Community Police Academy – March 13 – May 29, 2024!

If you are interested in attending the Spring 2024 WCSO Citizens Police Academy please complete the application and release forms using the link below by **February 9, 2024**.  
<https://washtenawsheriff.formstack.com/forms/cpa>

The Community Police Academy is designed to give you a behind the scenes, in-depth look into the everyday happenings of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. Our goal is to make this course an informative and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. It's our opportunity to share what we do and how we do it. You'll meet command staff, learn how traffic stops are made, take a tour of the jail, meet our K-9 members, learn how to process a crime scene, make an arrest, and much more.

**Class Schedule:**  
 March 13<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 Every Wednesday  
 Dinner: 5:30pm  
 Class begins: 6:00pm  
 Class ends: 9:00pm

**Location:**  
 County Service Center – Jury Assembly Room at 2201 Hogback Rd.

**Cost:** FREE  
**Age:** Must be at least 18 years old, unless part of the Washtenaw County Sheriff Office Explorer Program

### Topics Covered:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Meet the Sheriff                                  | What is Community Engagement       |
| Road Patrol Understanding                         | Corrections/Jail Tour              |
| Community Corrections                             | Emergency Management               |
| Community Outreach Program                        | K-9 demonstration                  |
| Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT)                     | Arrest Procedures                  |
| Traffic Crash Reconstruction                      | Juvenile Detention Center          |
| Crime Scene Investigations                        | Tour Metro Dispatch                |
| Simulated Firearms Training                       | Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) |
| Co-Response Unit (CRU)                            | Narcan – Prevent Opioid Overdoses  |
| Marine/Underwater Search and Recovery Team (DIVE) |                                    |