




MAY 2024 “In The Loop” - Dexter Township’s Monthly Email Update

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MONDAY JUNE 17 at 7pm for an important conversation in our township! The State of Michigan passed a law, Public Act 233 of 2023, which mandates municipalities to allow utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage facilities and limits local control of these renewable energy operations. Dexter Township can retain some approval power over these facilities, if the Zoning Ordinance is amended in compliance with Public Act 233. Join Trustee Laura Sanders, Trustee Gretchen Driskell, Marty Straub and Mark Teicher for discussions. Now is the time for input – Please join us for this timely conversation!

 Community Conversation
Dexter Township Hall
6880 Dexter-Pinckney Road
Monday, June 17 @ 7 p.m.

Understanding Renewable Energy State Law & Options for Dexter Township: What Choices Do We Have?

Wind Solar Battery Storage

SURVEY on Dexter Township COMMUNITY PRIORITIES – we seek to provide services that address the community’s top priorities. Follow the link below to take a short survey or visit our website (dextertownship.org) to access. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please note that our *mandated* activities (running elections, collecting & disbursing taxes, and master planning) are not included because these activities are required by statute.

Questions or comments? Please contact info@dextertownship.org. THANK YOU in advance for participating.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=moxqF01SB0uGgkGUQq-RL6uBeTxla_pFlHH_OH6ERyVUOEExLRjQyMk5BWVcxOTY0NDdUSEVaNTJETC4u

For a short summary from the May 2024 Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting:

- Dexter Township offices will be closed for routine zoning permits, tax payments and other routine non-election business on the two upcoming election days: August 6th and November 5th. This will allow the townhall to be utilized for voting only and eliminate confusion. Additional, public posts will be made in the future.
- The permit for the annual fireworks display on Portage Lake was approved, they are scheduled for July 6th.
- **The amended Open Air Market Zoning Ordinance** was approved at May’s BOT meeting. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on March 26, 2024. No public spoke at the meeting, two businesses did share emails displaying their concern about additional parking requirements. The Planning Commission asked for a number of edits and gave a favorable recommendation of the amended ordinance. The amended zoning text is compatible with the goals and policies of the Master Plan and consistent with state and federal law.
- **Warning Sirens in our Township** – The Board of Trustees approved the expense to upgrade hardware and software to the 16 warning sirens, installed in 2012/2013. These sirens play a crucial role in alerting residents to impending natural disasters, severe weather and other local emergencies which may impact their safety. In selecting this option, recommended by Washtenaw County, we fully integrate our sirens into Washtenaw County’s network. The plan includes adding a Federal Signal universal controller into each warning siren, allowing Washtenaw County to directly trigger our sirens, similar to other municipalities in the county, and would allow for future integration to the county’s proposed two-way monitoring system. The proposed costs will be supported by the Police Fund, an allowable expense per the Township attorney. The Police Fund ended with a fund balance of \$1.54M. Our reserves policy requires that we retain \$1.1M for cash flow, operating reserve, and

emergency reserves in the Police Fund in FY25, leaving \$463K for strategic one-time expenses.

- Landscaping bid contracts for the next year were awarded to KB Services for the cemeteries and 16 outdoor warning systems and the Salisbury Landscape Group was awarded Dexter Townhall and Dexter Fire Sub Station properties.
- **CELL SERVICE ISSUES - Trustee Lonnie Scott provided an update:**
This month, I have had calls with both AT&T and Verizon to discuss cell service issues within the Township. Both companies acknowledged hearing from residents as well as from the Township Board regarding these issues. AT&T informed me that, at this time, we are not on their two-year plan for service improvements. I will continue to stay in touch with their representative and encourage residents with AT&T service to also continue to call and voice their concerns.

Verizon is in the process of looking for land to locate an additional service tower in the Township to alleviate performance issues. I had a virtual meeting with representatives from Verizon's real estate and siting teams. I also provided them with the locations of the two landlocked parcels owned by Dexter Township for evaluation, to determine if they are suitable and buildable locations. Once they have reviewed possible locations, we will meet again to discuss options, and I will bring any recommendations to the Board. Once a location is found and any necessary zoning permits are obtained, it will take at least 18 months for a new tower to be built.

We are still in the early phases of trying to alleviate this problem, but I am thankful that Verizon seems to be moving toward finding a solution that will help our residents who currently have poor or no cell service at their homes.

Dexter Township Report May 21, 2024 by Supervisor Karen Sikkenga:

Michigan Township Association Annual Conference

Five members of the Board of Trustees attended the Michigan Township Association Annual Conference. We maximized the value of the conference by splitting up, with each Trustee attending a different educational session whenever possible. We came away from the conference with good information and will be returning to the BOT over the coming months for permission to execute some of the recommended best practices from the conference. These include:

- Establishing a Citizen's Township Academy to provide a forum for township residents to learn about our operations,
- Improving cyber-security
- Policies and best practices for short-term rentals
- Exploring options for capital and grant funding
- Understanding issues relating to renewable energy and local control

The conference was also an opportunity to interact with vendors who specialize in Township operations, including information technology providers, signage specialists, engineers, planners, attorneys, and more.

Fire Suppression

The Board of Trustees approved two items in the capital budget designed to improve fire safety in Dexter Township, consistent with our strategic planning goals. The first item is a fire alarm system for Dexter Town Hall. The second item was \$125K for fire hydrant at Fire Station 2, two new “dry” hydrants (hydrants connected to bodies of water) at Silver Lake and Fieldstone; and certification of an existing dry hydrant at Sundance Trail (a subdivision with ~50 houses). We will be returning to the Board of Trustees in June with a request for approval for vendors to move forward with these projects.

Town Hall Lower-Level Usability

We continue to move forward on improvements in the lower level. Approval of the proposed \$5K expense for plumbing represents the first expenditure for this project. At the June meeting, we plan to present a project budget that includes lighting improvements, glass doors, flooring in the bathroom area, furnishings, and amenities. The lower-level improvements are less sweeping than upstairs, including lighting improvements, furnishings, and simple bathroom upgrades.

Multi Lake Water and Sewer Authority Grant Application

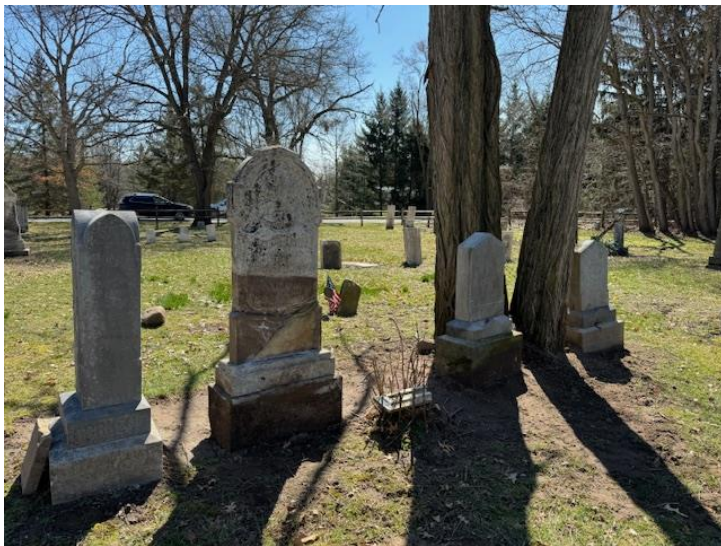
MLWSA submitted a federal grant request for \$580K for infrastructure upgrades, through the Community Project Funding & US Representative Debbie Dingell’s office, to improve our wastewater treatment plant. The Dexter Township Supervisors letter of support is available to review in the BOT monthly packet. No word, as of this writing, has been received to the status of the grant request.

Our cemetery restoration project continues – below is an example of before and after,

want to join in on this project? Please reach out to Trustee Karen Nolte



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HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL UPDATE – MAY 2024 by Sue Bade

- 1. Huron River Report Card Summary: Related handouts are in the Township offices**

**THE HURON RIVER AND ITS WATERSHED ARE
IN MODERATE CONDITION**

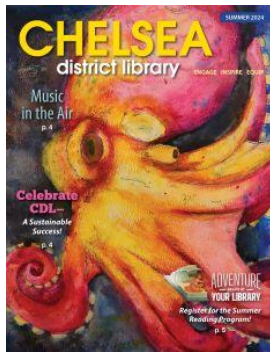
<https://www.hrwc.org/wp-content/uploads/Huron-River-Watershed-Report-Card-2024.pdf>

2. Take Action

May's clean water tip: Rain gardens reduce runoff!

Rain gardens allow up to 30 percent more water to soak into the ground than conventional turf grass lawns. In addition, downspouts and diverters can direct runoff from hard surfaces like rooftops and sidewalks straight into a rain garden, thus preventing polluted water from reaching nearby storm drains that lead to local waterways. Want to make your own? Learn how at hrwc.org/landscaping

Source Facebook Huron River Watershed Council 5/10/2024



Chelsea District Library would like to share a few upcoming events that maybe of interest to you:

June 1: Celebrate CDL & Music in the Air.

2024 is a special year at the library! We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the formation of our library district, the 65th anniversary of offering services in the historic McKune House, the 75th anniversary of the Friends of Chelsea District Library, AND the final payment on the building bond! Check out the day's schedule of events:

Music in the Air Family Concert | 11–11:45am | CDL Reading Garden

No worries about sitting still or making noise—it is all welcome at this upbeat classical piano performance!

Celebrate CDL—A Sustainable Success | 1–2:45pm | McKune Room

Join us for an open-house style celebration of the library—past, present, and future. Mingle with the Friends, explore CDL Friends history, take a look at the strategic plan, check out useful library resources, and enjoy light refreshments.

Music in the Air | 3–4pm | CDL Reading Garden

The CDL celebration will culminate at the annual Music in the Air concert. We will kick off the

concert with a ceremonial burning of the mortgage, as the library's building bond was paid off on May 1. Then, relax in the Reading Garden as Jacopo and Maddalena Giacomuzzi play solo and four hands, performing works from Schubert, Debussy, Liszt, Kapustin, and more.

June 7: Summer Reading Kickoff | 12–2pm | Library Lawn

It's the happiest day of the year at the library with hundreds of kids playing inside and outside the building celebrating the end of the school year and the start of our fabulous summer reading program.

June 13: Local Author Fair | 6:30–8:30pm | Reading Garden

Chelsea District Library is thrilled to welcome a diverse group of local writers to a special author fair during Sounds & Sights in the CDL Reading Garden. Visitors can find books of all genres and for all ages. Purchase books and have them signed by the author!

Have a great month – as always, should you have any questions, please reach out to any of the Township Trustees via their individual email addresses or info@dextertownship.org.