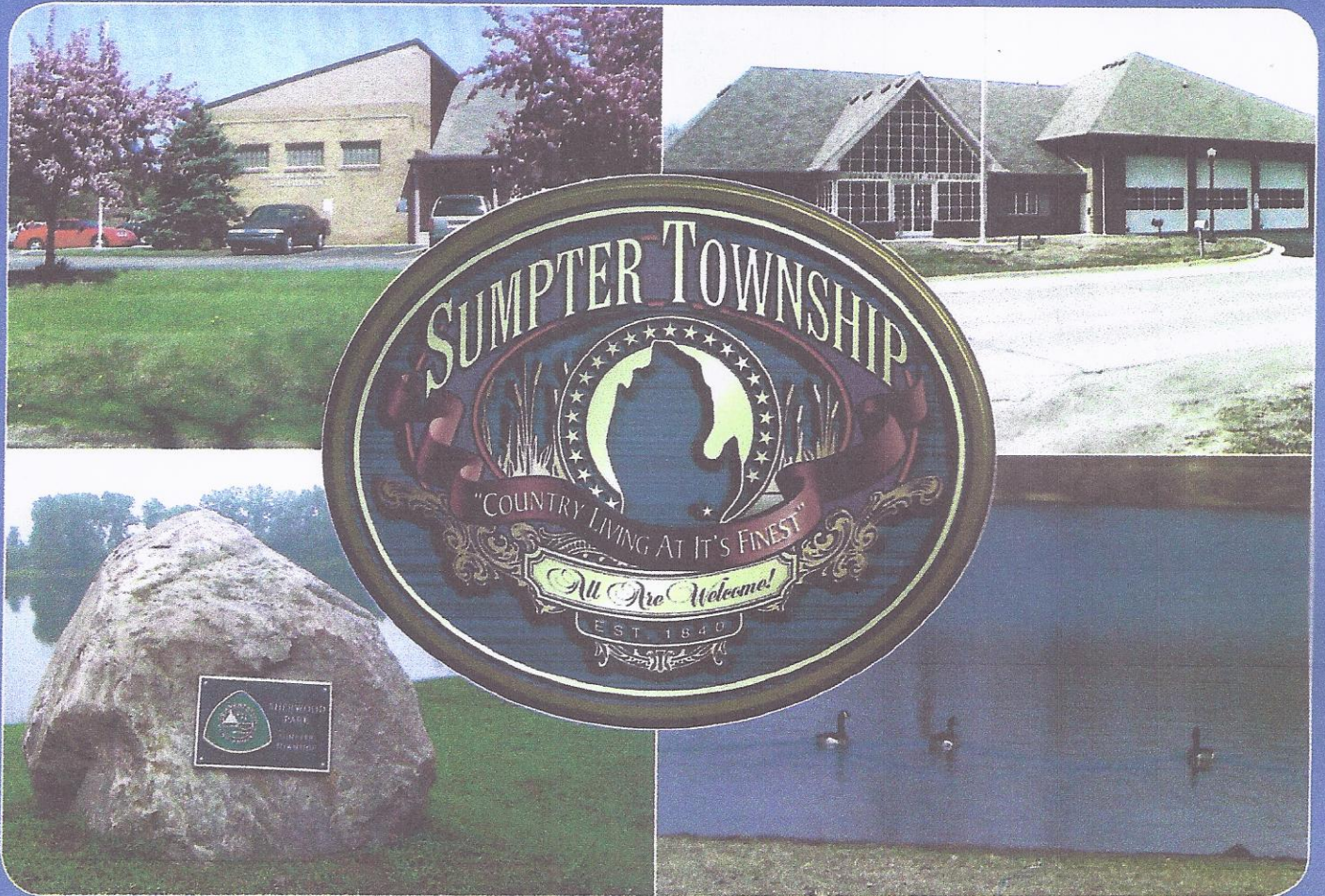


# Discover Sumpter Township

A Great Place to Live, Work and Play!



OCTOBER 2015

## **Sumpter Country Times**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR



### **JOHN W MORGAN**

Dear Residents:

As with each passing year, the summers seem to fly by! We hope that our residents had a relaxing and fun filled summer packed with wonderful memories! Now that our children are back in school and buses are running, we ask for our residents to be extra cautious when driving and to slow down and stop when required for buses.

It's been a busy time in the Supervisor's office. We have made a concentrated effort to work on blight in our Township. We are proud to say that within the last year, five properties that were on our demolition list have been taken down. The majority of these were done with grant monies. We are in the process of compiling a new list for demolition with the anticipation of receiving more grant funds. The Supervisor's Office is also in the process of verifying that we will have grant funds to plow snow for our qualified seniors this year.

We hope to have confirmation of this by October. The application and required list of items needed will be available in the Supervisor's Office once confirmation is received.

The Supervisor's Office has made note that numerous residents have come into the Township requesting to see if a survey is available for their property. Based on this observation, we are requesting that our Assessing Department input sketches with boundary lines for properties. Being aware that our wonderful Township is home to over 4000 properties this will be a long time consuming project but as Earl Nightingale said "Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might as well put that passing time to the best possible use."

The Supervisor and all our Board Members are wishing Health and Happiness this coming fall to our Residents!



The Farmers Almanac predicts "Super Cold" but not as many flakes for this coming winter. Brrrrrrrrrr

**Thought for the day:** "Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also" Carl Jung

**With the onset of cooler and wetter weather, we would like to remind our residents that should they have a road complaint to call the**

**Wayne County Road Commission at:**

**1-888-762-3273.**

**Remember to obtain a reference number and should you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Supervisor's office with the reference number for follow up.**



# *News From The Clerk's Office*

*Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk*

## **The Clerk's Office provides the following services:**

- Notary Service (Free)
- Garage Sale Permits (\$2.00)
- Business Licenses (\$50.00 ea. Includes Building Inspection)
- Elections
- Registration of Voters
- Trash Complaints (877-264-5544)
- Cemetery Plots (\$300.00)
- Zoning/Master Plan Questions
- Planning Commission Requests
- Freedom of Information Requests
- Fire Reports (\$3.00 ea.)
- Notifications/Publications for residents
- Rentals of Community Center and Parks
- Recycling (Saturday's 9am to 1pm)
- Assist citizens with various questions, topics, & subjects

## **November 3, 2015 Election**

**Last day to register for the November Election is October 5, 2015. Absentee Ballot Applications are available at the Clerk's Office for November 3, 2015 Election.**



## **Community Food Bank Nourishing Gardens**

If you are in need of food, please do not hesitate to come down. We will be able to provide food. We are able to service small families as well as large families. If you have any questions for you and your family, please give us a call at 734-713-7715, or visit our website at [www.nourishinggardens.org](http://www.nourishinggardens.org). Our hours: Sunday 11am – 12:30pm. Location: 24831 Sumpter Rd., Belleville (Between Wear & Willow Roads).

## **HELP! HISTORICAL Information Wanted!**



Sumpter Township Clerk's Office is looking for any historical information and photographs of/about Sumpter Township for the years of 1910 to 1935. If you, or someone you know, has any historical information or photographs that Sumpter Township could copy and possibly display, please contact the Clerk's Office at 734-461-6201 ext. 2243. Thank you!

## **WIC Program**

Wayne County Health Department has a WIC Office located at 23501 Sumpter Rd. (Corner of Sumpter and Dunn Rd.). If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or have a child up to the age of five, you could be eligible to receive healthy food and nutrition education to help your money go further. Call 734-461-6419 and make an appointment to see if you are income eligible for services WIC has to offer. No walk-ins.

## **Landfill Pass**

Landfill passes are available at the Clerk's Office. You must have a current drivers' license with a Sumpter Township address. There are 2 days per month you can take your non-toxic items to the landfill located at Clark & Oakville Waltz. Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm and Saturday mornings from 7:00 am until 12:30 pm.

## *From Your Township Treasurer,* ***Alan D. Bates***

A new school year is upon us again. Hopefully, everyone had a safe and happy summer break. Keep an eye out for those school children waiting at the bus stops when driving.

Your Summer Tax Bill (pink) was due September 14, without penalty. You may still pay that bill at the Township until February 29, 2016. There is a 1% interest charge per month starting in September. The first week of December 2015 the Winter Tax Bill will be in the mail. The Winter Bill this year is once again blue and due by February 29, 2016. You have until February 29, 2016 to pay your Summer and Winter Tax Bills at Sumpter Township. After February 29, 2016 all the bills are turned over to Wayne County and MUST be paid there.

Just a reminder that the Treasurer's office is open evening hours twice a month. On the **second and fourth Tuesday** each month the Treasurer's office is **open 8:30 am – 7:00 pm**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 734-461-6201, ext 2239. These hours coincide with the Township Board meetings, therefore there is no cost to the township or the residents.

Holidays when the Township Treasurer's office is closed are as follows: October 12, 2015; November 11, 2015; November 26 & 27, 2015. December 24 – December 30, 2015. The Treasurer's office is **open** Thursday, December 31, 2015 for tax payments.

In closing, the Treasurer's Office staff and Treasurer Mr. Alan D. Bates would like to wish all of you a Happy Halloween, a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### **Banotai Park**

Many changes and additions have been made at Banotai Park over the last couple of years. The beach has been enlarged and more sand has been added. We now have a sand volleyball court installed for the citizens to enjoy. The playground has new spring toys and merry-go-rounds for the little ones to play on. The size of the parking lot has been increased and will have lights installed later this year. Picnic tables and grills have been added, new horseshoe pits are at each pavilion, and the fishing pier has been made larger to allow for more fishing. The road has been resurfaced with asphalt milling to provide a better surface and minimize dust. Please come out to the park and enjoy the swimming, picnicking, and other things for family fun.



**Maryann Watson Senior Center Specialist**

**Wayne County Nutrition Manager**

Barbara Thomason

**734-461-1186**

*Trustee Bill Hamm Senior Liaison*

### **Senior Advisory Board**

Karen Mickens Margaret Rochon

Barbara Thomason Joe Wilson

#### **A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falling**

This eight-session course is led by two trained instructors. The goal of the program is to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Workshops are interactive. Participants engage in group discussion, problem solving, skill building, assertiveness training and learn exercises to increase flexibility, range of motion and strength. Classes help participants learn to:

- Think of falling and fear of falling as controllable
- Set realistic goals for increasing activity
- Change their environment to reduce fall risks
- Exercise to increase strength and balance

#### **Summer Fun**

We traveled to Lansing with the Senior Alliance for Older Michiganians Day and Shipshewana in June. For July travels we planned a trip to Detroit to see the sites and feed the homeless. Sumpter seniors made 196 sandwiches purchased snacks to share at 2 homeless shelters. The people were grateful and would not take anything they wouldn't eat. We had numerous donations to assist us with the cause. Thanks again to all! We also visited the homeless Jesus statue on Jefferson.

We had 21 participants for the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics we brought home 28 medals! Great job Olympians.

The courtyard raised garden is producing beautiful collard greens lots of tomatoes, and cucumbers peppers for our salads.

Honorable Mention goes to the Quilters for their hard work with lap quilt donations.



### **Sumpter Senior Center**

**23501 Sumpter Rd. 734-461-9373**



**The Senior Alliance.**  
Area Agency on Aging 1-C

734-722-2830

Lunches served daily \$2.25 suggested donation  
Free and low cost transportation & travel  
Focus Hope /TEFAP food available to  
qualifying individuals

Computer Lab, WIFI,

Upholstery class

Arthritis Foundation

Exercise, Fall Prevention class & A Matter of  
Balance

Loan Closet-walkers, bath chairs, wheelchairs

### **UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS**

November 6,7 Craft Show

November 23 Medicare open enrollment

December 15 Christmas Party

January 22 Walter Karkowiak 100th Birthday  
Party all welcome

February 26 Black History Celebration

#### **Mission Statement (Condensed)**

It is the expressed mission of the Sumpter Township Senior Center to do all within its restraints of time, funding and manpower to:

Provide a safe and enjoyable environment wherein seniors may congregate.

Act as a liaison between area seniors, social service agencies, Wayne Co. & Sumpter TWSP Admins. Create activities promoting health, recreation, education socialization empowerment.

Open to suggestions

## From Your Township Police Department

### OFFICER-WORN VIDEO CAMERAS



In this age of smart phones, where almost anyone can record live events in real time, the question of on-duty police officers using body-mounted cameras to capture incidents as they unfold has come under intense scrutiny. The practice of using body-worn cameras, also referred to as "body cams" is in the initial stages of evaluation and implementation, although they are quickly becoming standard equipment in police departments across the land. Legislative bodies across the United States, including the federal government have been debating the pros and cons of police body cams and whether they should become a mandated piece of the standard law enforcement officer's uniform equipment nationwide.

The Sumpter Township Police Department has been wearing body cams for about two years now and find them to be an extremely useful tool. The cameras are portable devices, about the size of a deck of playing cards, which can be easily clipped to the uniform. The devices are capable of recording high quality video (& audio), even in most situations where light is compromised such as in dark interior spaces or at night. Our officers are required to wear the cameras throughout their shift and have them active during any official citizen contact, whether that be a dispatched call for service, a traffic stop or any other self-initiated citizen contact involving their official police duties.

#### Main advantages for both police and citizens:

The ability to record every interaction with residents is bound to minimize complaints about police officer behavior and the use of force, because interactions are captured for everyone to see. Video recorded by body cams help protect against false accusations, misconduct, and/or abuse against officers and citizens alike. Furthermore, video footage captured

may help speed up court proceedings by providing indisputable proof of situations.

#### Some disadvantages:

Officers are required to physically activate the cameras, and must condition themselves to do so when they exit their patrol car or otherwise have citizen contact. Obviously, during moments of heightened stress, such as those times when there is an increased risk to the officer's safety, activating the camera is (and should be) the last thing they think about in terms of priorities.

Technological issues related to the cameras may occasionally prevent proper functioning. This could be due to any number of things; including a dead battery, damaged components, obstructed lens, and or other tech related problems. In these, or any other instance where the camera is not activated immediately, there should never be a rush to judgment that the officer did anything wrong based solely on the lack of video footage.

The cost of the overall system can be expensive. Costs involved in their use include the device itself, ongoing maintenance, and costs associated with storing and maintaining the video footage after it's collected. Video storage costs far outweigh the cost of the cameras themselves and can be cost prohibitive for many municipalities, especially those with large police departments where storage costs can climb into the millions of dollars per years. Obviously, our costs are nowhere near that and have been very manageable within our budget.

#### Our position:

After using the cameras for the past two years, it is apparent that the positives far outweigh the negatives. Therefore, the body-worn video cameras will continue to be a vital piece of equipment utilized by all of our road patrol personnel. The Sumpter Township Police Department will continue in our commitment to serve the citizens of Sumpter with respect, integrity, professionalism, and, last but not least... modern technology.

## **Sumpter Township Fire Department**

### **TIS' THE SEASON**

Symptoms of CO poisoning are headaches. Dizziness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. If you or family are experiencing any of these symptoms remove family from the home and into fresh air and call 911 for help. Yes it is fast approaching. Children are back in school, leaves are changing colors and the days are getting shorter. What does all this mean, cold weather is coming. Now is the time to get your gas appliances checked by a qualified technician. Why you ask, the main reason is CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING.



Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you.

Where does CO2 come from, it comes from fumes anytime you burn fuel in cars, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, furnaces and stoves.

How can you prevent this in your home, install a CO detector. Make sure your appliances are properly vented. Have existing vent pipes are in good condition, never patch a vent pipe have it replaced. Never use a generator, portable stove, portable heater inside.

Remember change those co detector batteries when you change your clocks each spring and fall.

Remember if you use an alternate heating source such as a fireplace, wood stove, pellet stove have the chimneys cleaned and inspected it could save your home and family.



***PLEASE COME AND PARTICIPATE IN TRUNK OR TREATING  
PARENTS DECORATE YOUR CAR AND LET THE CHILDREN  
TRICK OR TREAT IN THE SAFE PARKING LOT AT THE FIRE-  
HOUSE.***

***THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY  
HALLOWEEN EVENT AT SUMPTER***

***FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION #1***

***STARTS AT 6:00, OCTOBER 31, 2015***

***PLEASE REGISTER AT THE SUMPTER TOWNSHIP  
SUPERVISORS OFFICE***

***CONTESTS***

***BEST DECORATED VEHICLE***

***BEST COSTUMES***



**Sewer Customers:**

The Environment One grinder pump is capable of accepting and pumping a wide range of materials. However certain materials can cause damage to your pump and might result in you being charged with costly repair bills.

Please **do not** introduce these materials plus any similar materials into your system.

**Kitchen grease , Glass, Cotton swabs, Metal, Aquarium gravel, Seafood shells, Personal / cleaning wipes and sponges, Plastic objects (toys, utensils, etc.), Sanitary napkins or tampons, Diapers, socks, rags or cloth, Disposable toothbrushes, Kitty litter, Cigarette butts, Syringes, Latex / Vinyl items, Dental floss.**

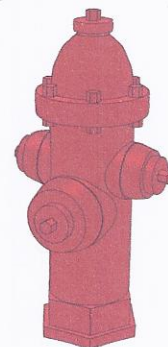
Caution: Kitchen garbage disposals do not keep grease/oil out of the plumbing system.

In addition you must never introduce into any sewer: **Explosives, Flammable material, Strong chemicals, Gasoline, Lubricating oil and/or grease.**

**IN PERIODS OF DISUSE:** If your home is left unoccupied for longer than a couple of weeks, perform the following procedure on your grinder pump system.

**PURGE THE SYSTEM:** Run clean water into the unit until the pump activates. Immediately turn off the water and allow the grinder pump to run until it shuts off.

**DO NOT DISCONNECT THE POWER TO THE UNIT**

**Water Customers:**

It's important that our customers receive accurate bills for the amount of water consumed by their household. Thus it is imperative that when Township Water Department requests access to our metering equipment, that an appointment be promptly scheduled with the water billing department at (734) 461-6201 ex 2242.

### FROM SUMPTER TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE OFFICER



The Ordinance department is excited about some new avenues we are working on to increase our effectiveness in responding to citizen's complaints about blight. Due to the volume of requests for investigations, we are requesting that, if at all possible, to have the resident come in and complete the complaint form themselves. This way, we will have on record a more accurate description of the problem and the resident will have a copy of what was submitted to the Ordinance Officer.

Other notes from your Ordinance Department; complaints regarding road issues, please call Wayne County Road Commission at: 1-888-762-3273. The Road Commission has been very responsive to complaints and is doing a wonderful job in mitigating problems. Please have your address number posted on your home and at the road (visible from both sides) for location purposes. Remember: If your request for investigation deals with animal issues, that should be directed to the Sumpter Township Police Department, phone number: 734-461-4833.

Randy Lynch, Ordinance Officer

## Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Commission



### Beach Area At Banotai Park



Picture taken for the 2015 Sumpter Country Fest

FRONT ROW: Holly Swinson (Co-Chair), Seth Brown-Chudzinski (future member) and Don Swinson (Liaison)

SECOND ROW: Anna Bellamy, Virginia Belinski, Drusilla Allen (Treasurer), Kim Toms (Chairperson) and Jim Posegay

BACK ROW: Alan Bates, Margaret Rochon, Cheryl Toms, Jim Chudzinski, Jay Bardell and Joanne Posegay

NOT PICTURED: Richard & Sharon Pokerwinski (Secretary), Kevin Rochon, Becky LaPalme, Danny Jones, Mary Carter, Esther Hurst and Selena Swinson

The Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Commission consists of a 21 member volunteer group that is sponsored by the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees. They volunteer their time to provide wholesome activities for the families within the township. The committee works very hard over the year to make sure that everything is in place and that everyone that attends the events that Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation sponsors has a safe and great time.

Events put on by Sumpter Township Parks & Recreation Commission are as follows;

### Sumpter Twp. Parks & Recreation Commission

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Sumpter Country Fest

Family Fun Day

Car Show & Demolition Derby

Turkey Shoot (Sundays in October)

Mardi Gras

**WE**  **VOLUNTEERS**

For information contact Sumpter Township Hall at 734-461-6201 or Kim Toms - Chairperson 734-697-3963

### From the Building Department –

**Happy Fall!** We hope everyone is having a good year so far! We want to welcome our **new Building Inspector, Tim Wright**. He is a wonderful addition to our Sumpter Township Family.

**We would like to inform our Residents of some recent changes to our Building Requirements** – When building a new house we now require a minimum 6/12 roof pitch (from a previous 5/12). We are also currently working on new standards for Accessory Buildings, and everything should be wrapped up soon. Please contact us for more information, or you can also attend the next Planning Commission Meeting. We would love to see you there. Those meetings take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00pm, in the Board Room of the Township Hall.

**Don't forget your Building Permits** – A building permit is usually required for: new buildings, additions, decks, garages, new roofs, furnaces, fireplaces, etc. Renovations, electrical systems, plumbing systems, and HVAC systems all require permits. If you are unsure of a permit being required, please call the Building Department at (734) 461-6201 Ext. 2233. A permit ensures that the proposed construction meets minimum safety standards, and allows Code Officials to protect the public by reducing potential hazards of unsafe construction. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections, so the value of the property could be reduced and problems may arise when the property is sold.

Also, if you own a rental property, it is a requirement to have a **Rental Inspection** completed in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. A **Re-sale Inspection** is also required if you plan on selling your home. A Certificate of Occupancy must be obtained prior to someone occupying a home. Please call us if you have any questions.

**Thank you & enjoy the rest of the year!!**

SUMPTER PARKS & REC'S

# TURKEY SHOOT



FIRST FOUR SUNDAYS  
OF OCTOBER

Questions,  
Call Don Swinson @  
734-674-4980

SUNDAYS  
IN OCTOBER

Registration Starts  
@ 11:30 a.m.

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

Police Firing Range at Old Landfill  
on W. Willow Rd. (Between Sumpter & Elwell Road)

Rules: 12, 16, 20 Gauge Shotguns -  
30" Barrel Max., NO Scopes or extended chokes  
410 Shotgun (Kids 12 & under only)

Prizes: Turkey, Ham, Bacon  
& \$\$ rounds  
Ammo provided



**Sumpter Township**  
**Resident Information**

**23480 Sumpter Road**  
**Belleville, MI 48111**

**Phone 734-461-6201 Fax 734-461-6441**  
**www.sumptertwp.com**

**Hours:** Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, closed all major holiday's.

A drop box for water or tax payments is located on right side of the double doors in the front of the building.

**Meetings**

Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 pm.

Planning Commission Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Township Hall.

Parks & Recreation Meetings are held on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at recreation building at Graham Park (corner of Sumpter & Wear Rds.).

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Cable Service: Comcast Cable	1-888-266-2278
Trash Services: Republic Waste	1-877-264-5544 Trash must be out by 6 AM or night before scheduled pick-up.
Carleton Farms Landfill:	734-654-0001 Free yearly landfill pass is available at Townships Clerks Office.
Water & Sewer Service:	Billing every 3 months, any questions call 734-461-6201 Ext. 2242.
Senior Citizens Services:	734-461-9373
Police & Fire Emergency only:	911
Dispatch (Non-Emergency):	734-461-6898
Police General Information:	734-461-4833
Wayne County Road Commission:	888-762-3273
Belleville Chamber of Commerce:	734-697-7151
Belleville Post Office:	734-697-0047
DTE (Gas & Electric)	800-477-4747
34th District Court	734-941-4462

## Sumpter Township

Country Living At Its Finest

23480 Sumpter Road  
Belleville, MI 48111

Ph. 734-461-6201  
Fax 734-461-641

All Postal Customer

Sumpter Township., MI 48111

### Sumpter Township

#### Board of Trustees

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- *John W. Morgan, Supervisor*
- *Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr., Clerk*
- *Alan D. Bates, Treasurer*
- *Matthew Oddy, Trustee*
- *William (Bill) Hamm, Trustee*
- *Peggy Morgan, Trustee*
- *Don Swinson, Trustee*

