

1. Do you live on a gravel road?                      Yes                      No
2. How would you rate the condition of that road?    Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor
3. Would you support a millage increase to maintain/improve the Township's gravel roads?    Yes      No
4. Currently the township pays \$1200.00 for each **fire/rescue run**; bills the resident \$750.00 and the township pays the remainder out of the general fund. A millage assessment would enable the Township to cover all costs. Would you support such a millage?              Yes                      No
5. Would you like to receive a township newsletter regularly? If yes, how many times a year?
 

1              2              3              4                      Don't care                      Don't want
6. Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail? (Thus, saving the Township considerable mailing costs.) We would not give out your e-mail address to anyone else.              Yes      No  
 If Yes: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail (Print): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Would you look up the newsletter on the Township website?    Yes      No
8. What is your Number One concern about the Township? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you willing to help plan or work at the 175th township anniversary party?    Yes      No  
 If yes, Name and Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Freedom Township News  
 11508 Pleasant Lake Road  
 Manchester, MI 48158

Address Label

**Who to Call:**

- Supervisor Dale Weidmayer - 429-7101
- Treasurer Shirley Haeussler - 429-7162
- Clerk Jennifer Alexa - 428-0822
- Trustee Dan Schaible - 428-7241
- Trustee Denny Huehl - 475-1051
- Planning Commission Chair - Larry Lindemann - 428-9687
- Zoning Inspector - Jim Coval 429-4112
- Ordinance Enforcement - Alvin Ernst 662-8085

**Planning an event? Rent the Township Hall.**  
 Call Township Hall Manager: - Jill Eckfeld  
**428-9476**

**In Memoriam**

Erwin Haab

Bill Ames

Ruth Keebler



**From the Supervisor:**

**Burn Permits - 428-9439:** Spring is here, Summer coming. Keep our Township safe; get your Burn Permit – 428-9439. It's easy to do.

**Millage increase:** The Township is billed \$1200.00 for each fire/rescue run and then bills the property owner only \$750.00. The Township pays \$450.00 from the general fund. Though we don't want to, given the current decrease in property values which results in a decrease in tax monies, we MAY have to ask residents for a millage increase next year.

**Gravel Road Care:** We plan on two bringings this summer that will cost \$38,000. No additional gravel is scheduled. We have talked with Washtenaw County Road Commission about improving Schneider Road, and we hope they will do so. We certainly need it. .

**State Police:** Thankfully, we have only 5-6 calls/month. Hiring our own Sheriff for 8 hrs/day would cost \$142,000.00/yr; a good reason for keeping our Freedom Township a safe, clean place to live.

**Pets:** As a friendly warning and so we can all have a safe and enjoyable summer, be aware that if your dogs go on other people's property and destroy or damage that property, you, as the dog's owner, are responsible.

**Freedom Township's 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party:** On April 7, 1834 Freedom Township residents selected the first slate of Township officers. Help us celebrate our History on Saturday, September 26. We're having a picnic at the Township Hall. Bring family, friends, former Township residents and a dish to pass at 4 PM. (More about our party follows)

**Newbies!**

**Dennis Huehl**, elected in November for a 4-year term, is a life-long resident of the Township. He and his brother, Gerald, have owned and operated Centennial Farm, Huehl Acres, since 1976. They have 180 cattle and 1050 acres planted in corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He and his wife of 29 years, Carol, have 3 children. Carol is secretary of the Planning Commission.

He says: *I wanted to run for the board to keep the agricultural background of the Township preserved. I feel that simple common sense and cooperation among residents can preserve the townships rural character.*

**Dan Schaible:** Dan has lived in Freedom Township all his 50 years, farming with his father, Luke and brother, Mike. He and his wife, Julie, have 3 grown children. Dan filled Dale's seat on the Freedom Township board When Dale assumed the role of Supervisor after Bob Little's death. Dan now also serves as the Board's representative to the Planning Commission.

His past experience on the executive Committee of the Farm Bureau, and as elder, treasurer and president of St. John's Lutheran in Bridgewater help as he works to define future land use in Freedom Township and works on the Regional Plan,.

Township Website  
[Twp-freedom.org](http://Twp-freedom.org)

Wireless Washtenaw Lives!

Sort of - -

Wireless Washtenaw has been stalled by the global financial crisis, and difficulty 20/20 Communications has had in obtaining investor or loan funding. Service is now available within 3-4 miles of the Manchester water tower transmission point, in the southwest corner of the township.

Washtenaw County has applied for Federal Stimulus Funding to complete the Wireless Washtenaw buildout for the rural regions of the county. President Obama has specifically identified rural high-speed connectivity as a goal of the stimulus program. We hope such funding becomes available, or that other means of funding become available so that the program can proceed.

At this time, the County is still committed to completing the Wireless Washtenaw program, but no specific timetable has been provided. No one anticipated the degree of the financial downturn, so it's difficult to predict when and if this will be completed. Watch the Freedom Township web site for any breaking news. Contact person: Ray Berg.

From the Treasurer

Summer Taxes due 9/14/09  
Winter Taxes due 2/14/2010

Payable at United Bank and Trust until due dates.

Russian Wild Boars

Originally brought into our area for sport hunting, boars have recently been shot in the area of Saline-Waterworks and Parker Roads, the southeast corner of the Township. DNR reports these animals in 50 of Michigan's 83 counties.

These animals are dangerous and pose a serious threat to cropped fields, gardens, domestic and native wild animals, and if threatened, human beings. Females, who can have 3 litters of 7-10 young a year, may react aggressively if they perceive a threat to their young.

They can severely damage ponds, wetlands and crops. The average boar can weigh 300 lbs or more, with tusks measuring up to 9" in length. They are good swimmers and can run up to 30 mph.

If you see one, or more, DON'T PANIC! Don't run either. Move quietly to a safe place and call Dale Weidmayer at 734-429-7101 or Alvin Ernst at 662-8085. We need to monitor the severity of the problem in order to plan how to proceed. You can also report your sighting to DNR or the Sheriff's Department, but don't expect a quick response from them.

Planning Commission News

In 2009, the Planning Commission will revise the 20 sections of the Zoning Ordinance, making it easier to understand and follow, with tables and illustrations.

Sections 1 and 2 are finished. Larry Lindemann, Chair, says some of the sections will go very quickly, some not. The changes will help prepare the township for the changes that seem to be coming our way.

The Growth Management Plan is updated and revised to comply with new state regulations with resident input on many sections.

Zoning Administrator

Jim Coval, a lifelong resident of the Township, has held this position for 5 years. He assigns the new addresses required for the permit process when you are building a new home or business.

He also issues permits for wells, septic fields, driveways and, with the Planning Commission, does land splits. If you think you need his services, call him -429-4112.

Library Notes

Memorial Day – Labor Day, we will offer non-resident cards for \$35.00 per family; the give the card holder access to all library services. The reading programs for kids, teens and adult begin June 9.

The statewide inter-library loan system (MeL-Cat) offers local readers (and listeners) a broad selection of books, DVD's and tapes. The Food for Fines program was successful over the winter holidays and we plan to repeat it this summer when there are no school lunch programs.

Friends of the Library are having a very successful, ongoing, used-book sale in the Library; earning several hundred dollars each month for the Library collection.

For information about any library programs or access to the MeLCat program ask at the circulation desk or go to the website [www.manchester.lib.mi.us](http://www.manchester.lib.mi.us).

Knit night is Thursdays at 6:30. Non-knitters welcome.

Don't forget you can return ANY library items to the drop box in front of Fredonia Market.

Freedom Township Hosts 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – September 26-27, 2009

The year 2009 marks the 175th anniversary of the formation of Freedom Township. The township was formed by a legislative act of the Territory of Michigan on March 7, 1834. The first township meeting was held April 7, 1834 at the home of Henry W. Griffin.

At its January 2009 meeting, the Board of Trustees appointed a planning committee chaired by Bob Miller, Township Historian, and currently including David Davis, Beth Heuser and Ray Berg. They would welcome help with planning and conducting the day's activities. Contact Bob Miller at 734-428-8222 if you have some time to give.

Activities on September 26-27, 2009 will include:

1. A **township picnic** on the Township Hall grounds, food provided by donations and/or potluck; followed by a program in the town hall where special guests will be recognized (official dignitaries, senior residents, etc.), then a historical program will highlighting early township history and some recent research finds. →
2. A **township history booklet** documenting the early years (1830s-1860s) of the township will be available to the public for a small fee. Contributing Sponsors will be listed by name in the booklet. (We are also beginning to digitally scan and preserve the original township meeting minutes dating back to 1834.)
3. A **Church open house** is planned for Sunday afternoon, Sept. 27 at the four township churches. They are being asked to invite folks to visit and learn the history of their church.
4. A **community service project** with volunteer crews doing clean-up and repair in township-maintained cemeteries.
5. Erecting a **permanent and prominent sign to identify the Hall**, and announce current events.

**June 20 2009, from 11-3 PM, Barrett Paving will host an informational tour of its site. All are welcome. Show them we care. Take the tour.**

The Township Website  
[www.twp-freedom.org](http://www.twp-freedom.org)

- News
- minutes of Board and Planning Commission meetings;
- Township Ordinances;
- Policies and regulations of Western Washtenaw Construction Authority;
- Dedicated History Page;
- Listing of Township Businesses;
- Rental Information for Township Hall;
- Links to other useful sites;
- And more!

With comments or suggestions, contact Ray Berg at [rayberg@att.net](mailto:rayberg@att.net). Ray maintains our website as a benefit to all Township residents.

Lost Document found!!

133 years ago, Jacob Preston presented a paper to the Pioneer and Historical Society of Washtenaw County entitled "Early Settlement of Freedom". Thought to be the earliest known formal discussion of Freedom Township history, and often cited in historical publications, the full paper was presumed lost.

However, Bob Miller, Township Historian, recently obtained a copy of an 1899 book on the Preston family and clues gathered from this book let to discovery of the complete 1876 presentation; which will be available in the History booklet available at the 175th!

We want to know what you think of some of the issues discussed here. On the back is a brief questionnaire that we hope you will complete and return to:

Township Clerk  
4383 Lima Center Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
Fax: 428-0714