

THE FENTON TOWNSHIP NEWS

A Newsletter For The Residents of The Charter Township of Fenton

July, 2009

Hurley Millage Election Scheduled for August 4th

A millage proposal for Hurley Medical Center is the only item on the ballot for an election to be held on Tuesday August 4, 2009. All six Fenton Township voting precincts are located at the Lake Fenton High School, which is located at 4070 Lahring Road. The election will be conducted in the band room in the south wing of the school. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters may enter the high school parking lot from either the Jennings Road or Lahring Road entrance and should enter the building at the south wing entrance. Signs will be posted to help direct voters to the proper stations.

Listed below are some of the more common questions the Township has received regarding the Hurley Medical Center millage proposal:

Q. What are the specific uses of the funds to be generated by the proposed millage?

A. The official language for the ballot proposal is as follows:

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed against all taxable property by Genesee County be increased by a new additional millage of 0.9 mill (\$0.90 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of ten (10) years, 2009 through 2018 inclusive, for the purpose of supporting services to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through obtaining the continuous provision by Hurley Medical Center of health care services including, but not limited to, trauma, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), pediatric, burn, senior, and community health care services, for residents of Genesee County, including, but not limited to, uninsured, underinsured, and low-income residents, such services to be obtained by the County through the County Health Department, by a contract between the County Health Department and Hurley Medical Center (estimated to provide revenue of \$10,247,471 in the first year of the authorized levy subject to the tax capture provisions identified below)?

In Genesee County there are local authorities that capture and use for authorized purposes tax increment revenues from property taxes levied by the County. Such capture would include a portion of the new millage levy. The total amount of captured tax increment revenues from such millage in the first calendar year of the levy is estimated to be \$201,727. The following such local authorities presently are expected to capture and receive disbursement of a portion of the County's property tax levy: City of Fenton's Downtown Development Authority and Local development Finance Authority, City of Davison's Downtown Development Authority and Local Development Finance Authority, City of Clio Downtown Development Authority (for the Clio Tax Increment Finance Authority), City of Montrose Downtown Development Authority, City of Swartz Creek Downtown Development Authority, City of Grand Blanc Downtown Development Authority, City of Flint Downtown Development Authority, Vienna Township Business Development Area, Davison Township Downtown Development Authority, Genesee County's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank Authority, Village of Otisville Downtown Development Authority, Village of Lennon Downtown Development Authority, and Village of Otter Lake Downtown Development Authority. Other such local authorities could be created in the future.

More simply stated, the proposal, if approved, would levy an additional 0.9 mills of property tax on all properties in Genesee County for a period of ten years. The additional levy would generate approximately \$10 million in additional revenue for Hurley Medical Center each year. Based on the language contained in the proposal, these funds could be used for any and all expenses related to the operation of the hospital.

(continued on Page 2)

Q. How much will I pay in additional taxes?

A. If the millage is approved you would pay an additional \$0.90 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. For example, if the taxable value of your home is \$120,000, (the average in Fenton Township), your property taxes would increase \$108.00 per year.

Q. How does that compare with the property taxes levied by Fenton Township?

A. Fenton Township currently levies 0.7122 mills of property tax. Using the same example as above, a home with a taxable value of \$120,000 is currently paying \$85.46 per year in property taxes to support Township operations, such as road improvements, police protection, etc.

Q. How was this proposal placed on the ballot?

A. The Genesee County Board of Commissioners authorized the placement of this county-wide millage proposal on the ballot.

Q. Since the Hurley proposal would be on the ballot anyway, couldn't Fenton Township have put their own proposal, such as a millage for road improvements, on the ballot?

A. The Genesee County Board of Commissioners approved the placement of the millage proposal on the August ballot at a meeting held on May 26, 2009. Under Michigan Election Law, May 26th was the latest possible date to approve ballot language for the August 4th election. Therefore Fenton Township, as well as all other Genesee County communities, did not have an opportunity to place its own issues on the ballot after the Hurley millage proposal language was approved.

Q. How much will it cost to conduct this election and who is responsible for those costs?

A. The cost for conducting the election in Fenton Township will be approximately \$5,000.00. Those costs will be funded by Fenton Township.

Q. If the proposal is approved in some communities but not in Fenton Township, will my taxes still increase?

A. Yes. Since it is a county-wide proposal, the outcome will be determined by the results of all votes cast in Genesee County. If a majority of voters in the county approve the proposal, all property in Genesee County will be subject to the additional tax, even if the proposal was not approved in some communities.

Q. It has always been my understanding that Hurley Medical Center was owned by the City of Flint. How can non-city taxpayers be subject to this additional tax?

A. That same issue was raised by State Representative Paul Scott, who requested a legal opinion from the Michigan Attorney General on that very issue. Because the election had already been scheduled, however, the Attorney General declined to issue an opinion on the legality of the millage proposal.

Q. If the millage is approved, who controls how the additional \$10 million of annual revenue is spent?

A. Hurley Medical Center is governed by a volunteer community board of managers. The Mayor of the City of Flint appoints all members to the Hurley Board of Managers, subject to the approval of the Flint City Council.

Q. I will be out of town on August 4th. Can I still vote in this election?

A. Voters that expect to be absent from the community on Election Day, as well as voters that are 60 or older and voters with disabilities, may vote by absentee ballot. An absentee ballot application may be requested in person, by mail or by telephone.

Q. When can I vote by absentee ballot?

A. Absentee ballots are available now at the Fenton Township office. Absentee ballots may be picked up as late as Monday August 3, 2009 before 5:00 p.m. All ballots must be returned to Fenton Township no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Additionally, the Fenton Township Office will be open Saturday August 1, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for voters to cast their absentee ballots.

Any questions regarding the upcoming election may be directed to the Fenton Township office at (810) 629-1537.

DID YOU KNOW?

Open Burning

Residents should be aware that open burning is illegal in Fenton Township, with two exceptions: 1) Owners of large agricultural properties may apply for a burning permit for the purpose of clearing agricultural land. The Township Fire Chief shall make the final determination regarding the issuance of any such burning permit. 2) Small recreational fires or “camp fires” for outdoor cooking are also allowed and do not require a permit, however **leaves and grass clippings cannot be burned under any circumstances**. All other outdoor burning is prohibited. Questions regarding burning regulations may be directed to the Fenton Township Office (629-1537).

Banquet Hall and Meeting Rooms

If you are looking for a facility to hold a wedding reception, a wedding or baby shower, a business meeting or an association meeting, Fenton Township may have just what you're looking for. The lower level of the Fenton Township Civic Community Center is used for public meetings but is also rented out for wedding receptions, large parties or large business meetings. This banquet facility features a floor area of just under 3,000 square feet, a 570 square foot raised platform at the north end of the hall, and seating capacity for approximately 200 people. Although food cannot be prepared on site, the kitchen does include an ice maker, a large refrigerator and a beer keg cooler with two taps. The banquet hall also offers handicap parking, full handicap accessibility and beautiful views of Lake Fenton.

For smaller gatherings the Township has a small meeting room on the first floor of our building. This meeting room seats approximately 20 and is available for rent to businesses and organizations, (free for Fenton Township subdivision, condo or lake associations). Contact the Fenton Township office at (810) 629-1537 or visit www.fentontownship.org for more information.

Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

The sharp increase in the number of reported cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) over the past few years has increased the awareness and importance of mosquito control programs. We are fortunate in Fenton Township to have a very effective mosquito control program that has been in place for more than 25 years. While this program greatly reduces the number of mosquitoes in our community it can never totally eliminate them. Therefore it is important that all

of us take additional precautions to avoid mosquito bites, such as using insect repellents that contain DEET, window and door screening, draining standing water in your yard and emptying water from potential mosquito breeding sites such as buckets, barrels, cans and other shallow pools where mosquitoes can lay their eggs. For more information visit the Genesee County Health Department website at www.gchd.us.

Also, if you're having an outdoor event, Advanced Pest Management will provide additional barrier spraying at no additional costs. Spraying requests can be made by calling APM at 810-735-8731

Trash Collection Update

Please be aware that the residential trash collection services contracted through Fenton Township are for normal household refuse only, such as food waste, combustible trash, (paper, cartons, boxes, etc.), non-combustible trash, (metals, crockery, etc.), and ashes. Large amounts of waste resulting from emptying out a home (i.e. foreclosures) are not considered to be normal household refuse and **will not** be picked up. In those situations, the property owner or custodian is responsible for disposal of all waste, (Example: contracting the use of a dumpster). Other types of waste that are not considered to be normal household refuse include: earth & wastes from building or remodeling operations, dead animals, wastes from industrial processes of agricultural or manufacturing operations, (scrap metal, lumber scraps, etc.), vehicles, (autos, boats, motorcycles, etc.), paint cans, car batteries, used motor oil and any refuse from an ongoing business operated from a residence.

Also, beginning last fall, the list of recyclable items was expanded significantly to include items such as telephone books, junk mail, office paper, #3, #4, #5, #6 & #7 plastics and plastic grocery bags. More recycling is good for the environment and reduces the volume of trash going into landfills.

If residents have more recyclable items than their bin can hold, clear plastic bags or containers clearly marked for recycling can be used for the extra volume, (recycling stickers are available at the Fenton Township office).

A detailed brochure outlining the new recycling standards is available on the Township's website at www.fentontownship.org.

Updated Sewer Info On Township Website

Updated information regarding the Fenton Township's ongoing sanitary sewer system rehabilitation project and Sewer Fund finances has been posted on the Township's website at www.fentontownship.org. Please feel free to direct any questions regarding this information to the Township at 810-629-1537 or info@fentontownship.org.

Additionally, the Township receives frequent inquiries regarding partial payments for quarterly sewer bills. Please be advised that partial payments are accepted and can be made at any time.

Township Newsletter Available by E-Mail

This and all future editions of the Fenton Township News will be available on the Township's website at www.fentontownship.org. Individuals may also subscribe to future editions of the Fenton Township News via e-mail. Simply e-mail your subscription request to info@fentontownship.org and you will be placed on our list to automatically receive newsletters by e-mail.

Important Telephone Numbers

Fenton Township Office 629-1537
Building Inspector 629-6711
Assessor 629-3445
Fire Department, Emergency 911
Fire Department, Non-Emergency 629-1911
Police, Emergency 911
Genesee County Sheriff Department 257-3422
Sewer Emergencies 800-544-3204
Republic Services (Trash Collection)..... 341-9750
Advanced Pest Mgt. (Mosquito Control) 735-8731

THE FENTON TOWNSHIP NEWS

12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430-8817

*Published as a public service for Fenton
Township residents by your Township Board:*

***Bonnie K. Mathis, Supervisor
Robert E. Krug, Clerk
John R. Tucker, Treasurer
Tony L. Brown, Trustee
Mark A. Goupil, Trustee
Kenneth J. Hill, Trustee
Robert C. Kesler, Trustee***

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE
FENTON, MI 48430-8817**