



# JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP Newsletter

Jefferson Township Hall  
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Osseo, MI 49266  
Phone 517-523-3165

Jefferson Township Sewer  
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*"Working Together To Build A Better Community"*

## So You Want To Be A PJFD Firefighter?

Applications are available at the firebarn for men and women. Those with criminal records need not apply. The merits of each applicant will be considered by the officers of the department. Upon an approval by the officers, all the firefighters then vote by secret ballot. The Fireboard and each Township Board must also approve.

After all this you are issued turn-out gear, a radio, and a long list of rules. The Firefighter I Course, which the townships pay for is next. A total of 186 classroom hours, two or three nights a week over five months and a passing grade of 70% gets you your Firefighter I certificate. One final vote is taken by all the firefighters and a one year probation period begins.

Now you can fight fires and operate equipment. Prior to "graduating" from Firefighter I Course, you can do simple jobs around the firebarn or at accident or fire scenes.

A two day class given by the State of Michigan is needed if you want to drive the big red trucks. Medical runs are increasingly important. Additional schooling is required for that.

All this to become a beginning firefighter with the privileges of being awakened any night to take on a potentially dangerous situation at a structure fire or a angry accident scene, 100 degree heat or minus zero degree cold are irrelevant. You may miss work (and a days pay) because you were up all night dealing with abusive accident victims. Our firefighters have been called vile names, spat upon and otherwise reviled. Of course their parents, spouses, children, and bosses will understand completely.

The pay? Twelve dollars (\$12) a run, payable once a year. Since it can't be the pay it must be the adrenalin rush and the satisfaction of serving your community.

### New Assessor

Jefferson Township has an new Assessor. Her name is Terrie Ellis. You can reach her by cellular phone number 517-392-8965, or at Jefferson Township Hall every Friday morning at 523-3165; or leave a message if call is made on another day, or time of day.

### Summer Property Tax Deferment

The Michigan General Property Tax Act has been amended with Public Act 24 of 2005 to allow certain citizens, including senior citizens, veterans and persons with disabilities, to defer their summer property taxes if they have a household income below \$35,000. The previous income level for deferment was \$25,000. For more information contact Terrie Ellis at 517-392-8965 or 523-3165.

### PJFD Gets Grant

Our Pittsford Jefferson Fire Department has just received a grant for \$52,535.00 from the US Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness in cooperation with the US Fire Administration. It awards one year grants to fire departments to support the nation's firefighters and the services they deliver. The grant will be used to buy SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) for our firefighters. Congratulations to Patrice Hudson, Betty Spahr, and Jeff Anspaugh, for outstanding work on writing a successful Grant.

### Computer for Sale

The Jefferson Township Hall has a computer for sale. It has Windows 98 installed on it and has AMD-K69™ 3D processor, 400 Mhz, and 256 MB of RAM. Anyone that is interested can send a sealed bid to Jefferson Township Clerk, PO Box 31, Osseo, MI 49266. Please write "Computer Bid" on the envelope. Any questions please call 523-3165.

**Our next regular township meeting will be Tuesday September 13th at 7:30 pm  
at the Jefferson Township Hall.**

**The November Regular Township Meeting has been changed to Thursday November 10, 2005. Mark your calendars.**

## Letter on Burning From The Blight Officer

A number of Complaints have come to me having to do with nuisance burning—that is trash burning resulting in the smoke or the odor or both, causing discomforture, annoyance or a safety hazard to a neighbor. Our township does not prohibit open burning nor does Hillsdale County. However the D.E.Q. ( Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) is charged with setting regulations of what kind of trash and where trash can be burned. Additionally Jefferson Township's own Ordinance #9 also is applicable. R336.1310 Open burning: Rule 310. (1) A person shall not cause or permit open burning of refuse, garbage, or any other waste material, except for the burning of any of the following:

(a) Waste disposal material from and at 1- or 2 family dwellings if the burning does not violate any other department rules.

(b) Structures and other materials used exclusively for fire prevention training.

© Trees, logs, brush, and stumps in accordance with applicable state and local regulations if the burning is not conducted within a priority I area as listed in table 33, a priority II area as listed in table 34, nor closer than 1400 feet to an incorporated city or village limit and if the burning does not violate any other department rules.

(d) Beekeeping equipment and products, including frames, hive bodies, hive covers, combs, wax, and honey, if burned for bee disease control.

(e) Logs, brush, charcoal, and similar materials that are used in preparing food or for recreation.

(2) The exceptions specified in subrule (1) of this rule do not authorize open burning if prohibited by local law or regulation.

Section 5 of Ordinance 9, the Jefferson Township Blight Ordinance as amended states: "It shall be a violation hereof for any person to create or maintain a safety hazard upon any premises owned, occupied or controlled by him."

Please take note: If you choose to burn you are responsible for any fire, smoke, or odors created from your open burning—and for any damage or hazard that results from your fire.

Our beautiful (well maybe not beautiful, but certainly really nice) transfer station will accept for recycling FREE of charge many items people choose to burn such as newspaper, cardboard, waste office paper and the like. Contact manager Ron Hyslop Saturdays and Monday mornings for a complete list of items that can be recycled, or other information at 523-3019.

At the risk of stating the obvious, please consider your neighbors when burning. Notify them, wait for the breeze to blow away from them. Burn only what is lawful. In short be considerate.

On a related note contact PJFD Chief Tom Halleck at 523-2255 for burn permits. If you do not and PJFD is dispatched you will be billed \$500.00 for a fire run. Steve Wismar, Supervisor/ Blight Officer

### Election November 8th

Don't forget to vote Tuesday, November 8th on the Bond Proposal. If you live in Jefferson Township and are in the Hillsdale Community School district, you'll be voting at the Hillsdale High School in the Band Room on:

**BONDING PROPOSAL** in the amount of \$17,495,000 for financing improvements to school facilities. Estimated Millage Increase: 1.20 mills in 2005 and 2.94 mills not to exceed 20 years. [Full text available at School office, 30 S. Norwood Ave, Hillsdale, and County Clerk's Office, 29 N. Howell St., Hillsdale]

If you live in the Pittsford school district you'll be voting at the Pittsford High School on:

**BONDING PROPOSAL** in the amount of \$10,935,000 for financing improvements to school facilities. Estimated Millage Increase: 4.76 mills in 2006 and 5.23 mills not to exceed 25 years. [Full text of ballot proposal available at School office, 9304 E. Hamilton St., Pittsford and County Clerk's Office, 29 N. Howell St. Hillsdale]

### New Transfer Station Driveway

The driveway to the Recycling Center (from M-99) is paved now. It was done by the Quality Asphalt Company from Homer, MI. The Price was \$33,330.00. It seems nice not to have to dodge holes and/or mud puddles. Remember-Jefferson Township Recycling Center will start closing at noon on Monday October 1st unless published otherwise.

The schedule will be **Saturday 8 am to 5 pm**  
after October 1st **Monday 8 am to 12 noon**

### Jefferson Township Roads

The Jefferson Township Board has signed 6 agreements with the HCRC for a variety of work on local roads in the township this summer. The township's share is estimated to cost \$120,628.

The rehabilitation of Bear Lake RD between Doty and Lake Pleasant Roads begins in late September. This is not the comprehensive reconstruction project for future paving that was proposed several years ago. It is a minor improvement including selective tree removal, spot ditching, culvert replacements and new gravel surface.

Your Jefferson Township Board believes that local road improvements are one of the best things they can do for their citizens, and they consistently rank in the top 2 or 3 of the county's 18 township in road spending. We trust that you appreciate their efforts.

### Pittsford Library

Pittsford Library is selling cookbooks. They should be ready to purchase hopefully by November 1st. The library will be taking preorders, if anyone is interested. The cost will approximately be \$18.00. A Definite price has not been set.

The Friends of the Library are selling Bath salts, 1/2 pint will be \$3.00, a pint will be \$5.00. Scents that are being made are French vanilla, lavender, citrus, sunflower, and mint. Mint makes a great foot soak to help revitalize those tired feet.

The Library is in need of canning jars. They need 1/2 pints, jelly, or pint jars. Also if you have any unwanted books, audios, videos, or DVD's, don't forget the library takes donations. They can give a receipt that you can use for income tax purposes. Also don't forget donation of inkjet and laser cartridges and Campbell's labels and Spartan labels. Thanks for keeping them in mind.