



# Independence Township Times

OAKLAND COUNTY

FROM THE DESK OF **Supervisor, Chuck Phyle II**

## Independence Township Updates

As summer continues, Independence Township remains focused on practical, forward-thinking decisions that support residents, improve safety, and strengthen core services.

At a special meeting held on July 8, the Board of Trustees voted to approve a new contract with Associated Appraisal Services (AAS) to provide professional assessing services for the Township. AAS brings decades of experience working with municipalities across Michigan and is known for its accuracy, responsiveness, and customer service. Transitioning to a contracted assessment model will save revenue, streamline operations, ensure compliance, and provide residents with the timely, high-quality service they deserve.

Even with this change, residents can continue to have their property assessment questions answered at the Assessing counter at Township Hall or by emailing [assess@indtwp.com](mailto:assess@indtwp.com). The Township remains committed to providing clear and accessible communication throughout the transition.

Another important update involves traffic safety at the intersection of Bluegrass Drive and Holcomb Road. With increased traffic from ongoing I-75 construction, this area has seen a noticeable rise in unsafe driving and cut-through behavior. In response to these concerns, cement barricades have now

been installed to close Bluegrass Drive at Holcomb. This measure is intended to prevent through traffic, slow down speeds, and reduce the risk of accidents in nearby neighborhoods. While the closure may be inconvenient for some, the safety of residents remains the Township's top priority.

On a broader level, Oakland County is currently developing a countywide transit plan, which could significantly impact all local communities, including Independence Township. As it stands, the proposed plan offers limited benefits to our community while requiring a significant financial contribution from local taxpayers. It's important for residents to be aware of what's being proposed and to make their voices heard. A flyer is included in this issue of the Township Times with more information and a QR code linking directly to the county's feedback form. Please take a moment to review the plan and share your input—your feedback plays a critical role in helping ensure fair and equitable outcomes for our Township.

Through thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, and open lines of communication, Independence Township continues working toward a safer, more efficient, and connected community for all.

— Chuck Phyle II, Township Supervisor



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Telephone: 248-625-5111 Ext. 213

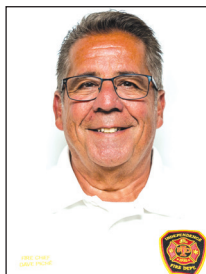
E-mail: [Supervisor@indtwp.com](mailto:Supervisor@indtwp.com)

Address: 6483 Waldon Center Dr.  
Clarkston, MI 48346



Web: [www.indtwp.com](http://www.indtwp.com)

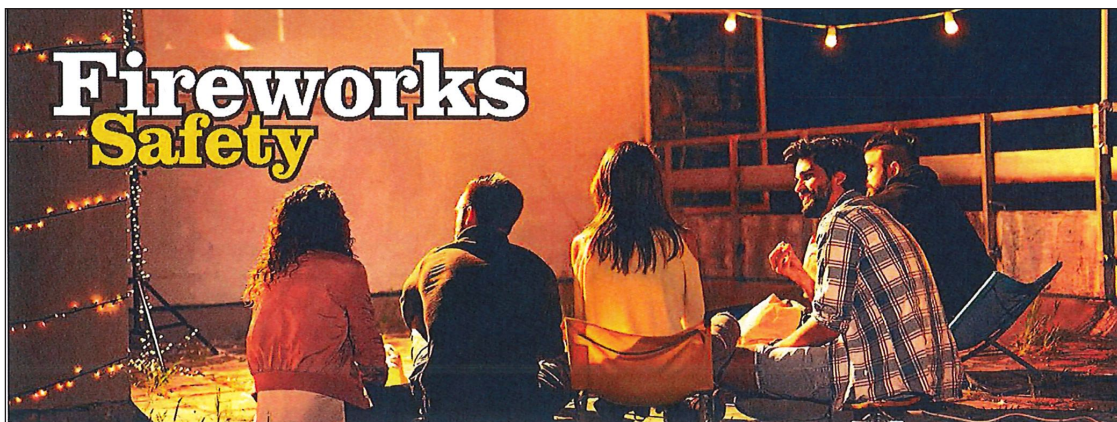
# Firework Safety Tips from the Independence Fire Department



**Dave Pichè**  
FIRE CHIEF

The Independence Fire Department wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July! As we celebrate our nation's independence, it's important to remember that safety should always come first. Fireworks are a fun tradition, but they can be dangerous if not handled properly. If you choose to participate by using fireworks, please follow these simple safety tips to ensure a safe celebration for all.

- Never let children handle, play with, or light any fireworks.
- Always follow the manufacturer's recommended separation distance from your audience.
- Carefully examine each firework prior to lighting. Do not use fireworks that are damaged or appear to be damaged.
- Light the fireworks in a clear, open area away from buildings, vehicles and overhead obstructions such as power lines and trees.
- Have a bucket of water, a garden hose, or fire extinguisher nearby. It's a good idea to wet the ground around the area prior to igniting any fireworks, especially during dry conditions.
- Never look into the tube or put your head or any body part over the top of any fireworks products.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on proper disposal or for what to do if a firework does not work properly.
- Fireworks are to be used on private property only, never on public property or roadways.
- Per Michigan law, the following dates and times are approved for firework use during the Fourth of July holiday:
  - June 29 through July 5, starting no sooner than 11:00 AM and going no later than 11:45 PM on each of those days



**FIREWORKS** are often used to mark special events and holidays. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. It is important to know that **fireworks are not safe in the hands of consumers**. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year.

## A few ideas to get into the patriotic spirit, without fireworks:

1. Use glow sticks, they glow in the dark and are a safe alternative to a sparkler. Fun for all ages.
2. Loud and proud. Noise makers are sure to make a statement. They can be found at local party supply stores or make your own.
3. Outdoor movie night. Set up a screen and projector. Don't forget the bugspray!
4. Red, white and blue silly string...fun for all ages.
5. Make a patriotic craft with the family.
6. Throw a birthday party for the USA, and don't forget the cake.



## FACTS

- ! More than 31,000 reported fires are started by fireworks annually.
- ! Burns account for 38% of the 7,400 injuries treated in emergency rooms in the month around July 4.
- ! Half of the fireworks injuries at emergency rooms were extremities: hand, finger, or leg. One-third were to the eye or other parts of the head.
- ! Children younger than 15 years old accounted for 28% of the estimated fireworks injuries.
- ! Sparklers account for 29% of fireworks injuries for children under the age of 5 treated in emergency rooms in the month around July 4.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 2022 Fireworks Annual Report



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards





# Heading Out On The Water? Help Report Aquatic Invasive Species

If you enjoy spending time on or in the water, this summer you can help the Michigan Invasive Species Program by identifying and reporting aquatic invasive species. Early detection of new or emerging invasive species, like those on Michigan's Watch List, greatly improves chances to slow their spread or possibly eradicate a population.

A graphic shaped like a wheel showing Michigan's watch list aquatic invasive plants., PictureThe 18 aquatic invasive species on Michigan's Watch List have been identified as posing an immediate or potential threat to Michigan's economy, environment or human health. These species have either never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan, or have a limited known distribution. The list includes 10 aquatic plants, five fish, two crayfish and the New Zealand mudsnail.

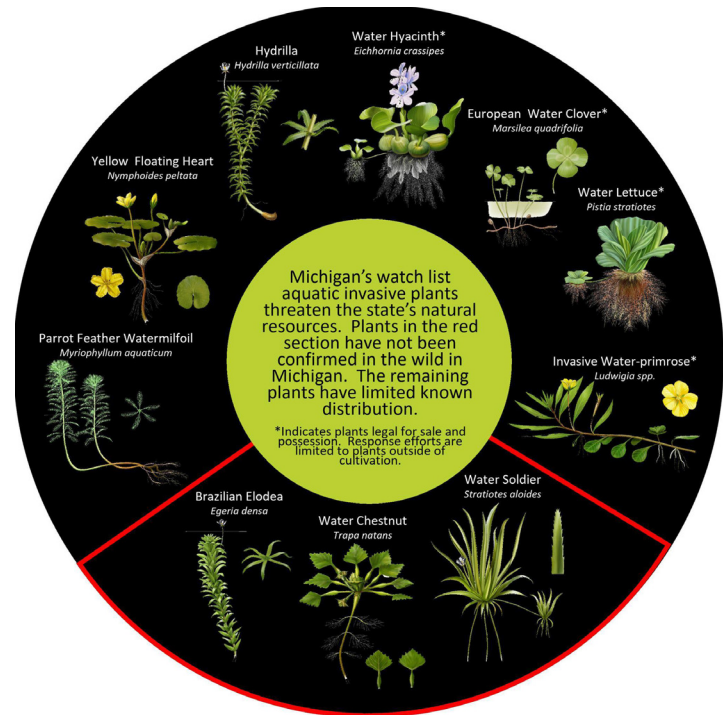


**David McKee**  
DIRECTOR OF DPW

Populations of watch list aquatic species, including yellow floating heart, water lettuce, parrot feather and red swamp crayfish have been detected in Michigan through reports from people just like you who noticed something unusual in the water, took photographs and reported what they found.

Information about watch list species, including identifying characteristics, photos and illustrations, can be found on the Watch List webpage.

Sightings of aquatic plants on the watch list can be reported year-round to EGLE's Aquatic Invasive Species Program. All watch list species can be reported through the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network's website or smartphone app, found at MISIN.MSU.edu.



## Want to Help Shape Local Public TV?

There's currently a vacancy on the Video Center Administrative Board (VCAB)—and we're looking for a Township resident who's passionate about community media, local government transparency, or educational programming.

The VCAB is a joint effort between Independence Township and Clarkston Community Schools that helps manage and guide our Public Access Television Center. The board meets quarterly and provides input on programming, operations, and franchise agreements with Comcast and AT&T.

Apply today to be part of this collaborative, community-focused board! Must be a resident of Independence Township. Download the application using the QR code.



## Struggling to pay your summer tax bill?

Eligible senior residents (age 62+, income \$40K or less) can apply for an interest-free summer tax deferment now through September 14, 2025. Please call the Treasury Department to learn more: (248) 625-5115





# Celebrating 50 Years of Connection and Care: The Independence Township Senior Community Center

What began in 1975 as a simple gathering of seniors in the township hall basement has grown into a cornerstone of community life. From bingo and cards to full-scale programming, the Independence Township Senior Community Center has become a vibrant hub of support, activity, and enrichment for older adults. This year, the center proudly celebrates its 50th anniversary—a milestone honoring decades of care, connection, and community spirit.

By 1979, with strong leadership and new parkland in Clintonwood Park, the center secured a permanent home. With help from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and HUD, three buildings were transformed into welcoming spaces for crafts, dances, woodworking, and more. With support from volunteers, local organizations, and township staff, the 1980s and 1990s saw tremendous growth, offering fitness classes,

transportation, legal clinics, and quilting groups.

Guided by leaders like Rina Chemin and Margaret Bartos, the center became increasingly inclusive and responsive—especially with the addition of an Outreach Worker to serve homebound residents. When the original facility faced structural issues, the community united again to build a new center, which opened in 2008. Bartsch Hall was added in 2015, strengthening the center's role as a vital resource for seniors.

Today, the center remains a lifeline—representing decades of friendships, shared meals, and lives well lived. To celebrate, join us for a nostalgic picnic party on Thursday, July 24, from 12–2 PM. Enjoy food, music, games, and memories as we mark 50 incredible years—  
together.



## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

### FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC OR BASIC-EMT

#### REQUIREMENTS

- At least 18 years of age
- High School Diploma or GED
- Valid Driver's License
- Firefighter I & II (*Paramedics currently enrolled in approved Fire Academy are encouraged to apply*)
- Michigan Paramedic License (*Or currently enrolled in good standing in an approved paramedic training course at time of application. Basic EMT's hired have 1 year to obtain their Paramedic License*)
- Physical Agility (CPAT, OPAT) *within 45 days of conditional letter of employment.*
- Physical Examination
- Background Check

#### COMPETITIVE BENEFITS

- 2025 Firefighter/EMT Salary Range:
  - \$53,050-\$81,741
- 2025 Firefighter/Paramedic Salary Range:
  - \$56,764-\$87,463
- Holiday Pay, Food Allowance, Special Teams Pay
- Tuition Reimbursement up to \$3,000 annually
- Defined Contribution Plan 401a
  - 20% Max Employer Contribution w/ 5% Employee Contribution, 25% Total
- Family Health, Dental, Vision Insurance
- Disability, Life Insurance
- Retirement HCSP - 3% of annual base salary
- PTO: 11 days first year, up to 24 after 20 years of service.
- Previous experience may be eligible for lateral pay

**6500 CITATION DR.  
CLARKSTON, MI  
48346  
OAKLAND COUNTY**



**APPLY NOW  
INDTWP.COM**

## IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE 50 GOLDEN YEARS

**THURSDAY, JULY 24, 12-2PM**

Drop by and join us for a summer picnic at the Senior Community Center, where we'll celebrate and reminisce about the past 50 years together.

Hotdogs, popcorn, music, yard games and giveaways!

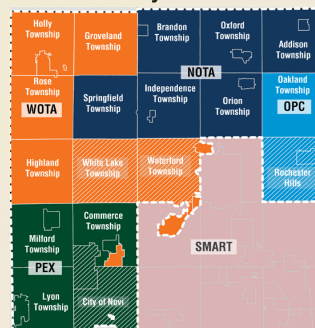
**SAVE THE DATE AND CELEBRATE.**

Sponsored by: **OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

Beauchamp Water Treatment Solutions,  
Lowries Landscape and Wellbridge of Clarkston.



### Oakland County Transit Providers



**Questions? Contact:**  
Eli Cooper, Manager  
OaklandCountyTransit@oakgov.com  
248-975-9876

### Oakland County's 1st Community Transit Master Plan

Oakland County is developing a Community Transit Plan (CTP) to enhance public transportation services, supported by the County's new transit millage. This plan will assess current services provided by various local transit providers, as shown on the map. The plan also includes strategies and recommendations to make transit easier to use across cities, villages, and townships in the County.

To learn more about the plan and its recommendations, you can watch a recording of the presentation at  
[www.oakgov.com/community/oakland-transit/community-transit-plan](http://www.oakgov.com/community/oakland-transit/community-transit-plan)

- Takeaways from presentation:
- Review transit service goals
  - Coordinated dispatch and communication across providers
  - Summary of what we've heard from the community and transit users
  - Short and long term service options

Scan the QR code to take the survey!

