

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S CORNER
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SIMSTWP.ORG

THE ELECTION GOING FORWARD ...The August 2nd election was a logistical success with very few operational or technical issues and for Sims Township, that was a home run for sure! Previous elections over the last 6 years saw us handling, what could be described as, multiple mini disasters from computer and printer failures to hiccups with the tabulator and final count, which saw us having multiple visits by the I T folks from the county on several occasions. For this election, no county support was required, and we were able to reconcile election results in short order. Thank You to all who volunteered and made that 17-hour day a memorable success. Now it's onward and upward to the Grand Finale in November ...!

SPRUCING UP OUR YARD ... You may have noticed, or will soon notice, that the brush on the south side of the hall has been seriously thinned out, to the extent that the only thing that remains standing are the beautiful trees. Our next-door neighbor had contracted with a company from Lincoln that used a special machine to clean out the woods between his house and the hall and we benefited from that. At the same time, our staff met with the same contractor and had the field behind the hall cleaned out as well, so the entire area has taken on a park-like appearance. The new exterior look, coupled with all the office upgrades kind of indicates that we are trying to be really good stewards of township property!

TRANSFER STATION NEWS ... We have been in contact with Consumers Energy regarding getting electrical service to the Transfer Station and have received pricing from their Engineering Department in the amount of \$24-26,000. We have also received lease pricing from Republic for a re-furbished electric compactor and are waiting on a price from a company called Speed Tech to retro-fit our gas powered compactor with an electric motor. The purpose for these upgrades is to improve our efficiency and reduce disposal cost to the greatest extent possible. We also want to eliminate hauling and handling gasoline by our employees from Kelly's store/station. Another benefit is to reduce the number of 8-yard blue boxes in the yard from 22 to 8 or 10 as that trash cannot be obviously compacted and we lose space and are paying for air. The goal is to have two electric compactors available that will be able to handle the majority of household waste

that comes through our yard. As a nice-to-know piece of information, our gas-powered compactor is believed to be the only one in Michigan in operation as the majority of trash compaction is done by electric motors and from an environmental perspective, it just makes sense. The S-W boards will discuss the matter further within the next few days. There is a desire by some to have curb-side pick-up, but for that to happen, our annual disposal fees would have to be increased to at least \$175 - 200.00/year and currently, we are at \$60.00/year.

AND FINALLY ... The Pursuit of Happiness

There was once a group of 100 people attending a seminar on personal development. In the middle of their talk, the speaker stops and decides to run an impromptu group activity. He hands out a balloon to each attendee and tells them to write their name on it. The balloons are then collected and placed in an adjacent room. The speaker then instructs the 100 attendees to enter that room and, within 5 minutes, find the balloon with their name on it. Pandemonium breaks loose as they charge in, pushing and colliding with each other as they desperately search for their name. The 5 minutes pass and nobody succeeds. The speaker then tells each person to pick up any random balloon and give it to the person whose name is written on it. Within a few minutes everyone has their balloon back. He then said, "What just happened with those balloons is exactly what happens in our search for happiness. We frantically look for it all around us, not knowing where it is." "Yet our happiness lies in the happiness of others. By giving them their happiness, you get yours." **Moral of the story:** Happiness and fulfillment rarely come from selfish pursuits, but almost *always* come from doing good deeds for others. By helping others, we help ourselves.