

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS
OCTOBER 2020
simstownship.org

MAKE VOTING A PRIORITY ...

You still have time to fill out an application and pick up a ballot at the Township Hall. The Hall will be open on Saturday, October 31st from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Between now and Nov 3rd, the Hall will be open M – Th, 10 -4.

ARENAC COUNTY VOTES CAST IN THE AUGUST PRIMARY BY % ...

City of Au Gres, 43.22%, Omer, 43.78%, City of Standish, 31.36%, Adams Township, 41.97%, Arenac Township, 35.51%, Au Gres Township, 43.21%, Clayton Township, 28.23%, Deep River Township, 37.86%, Lincoln Township, 35.65%, Mason Township, 32.01%, Moffatt Township, 45.81%, Sims Township, 47.59% **[The Winner!]**, Standish Township, 35.32%, Turner Township, 39.68%, Whitney Township, 40.74%.

NEW TOWNSHIP HALL WINDOWS ...

A Wallside Windows crew arrived on 9/25 at 8:30 and completed installing all 12 energy-efficient windows by 1:30. These windows will definitely be a huge improvement over the aluminum window frames that were removed and we would hope to see an energy savings and greater comfort level, especially during the winter months, where previously, the winds blew easily through and around those old windows. Also, we will receive an energy credit of about \$20 per window from Consumers Energy. The cost of the windows was about \$5800.00 installed.

ROCK ISLAND DIGITAL SIGN ...

Our new digital sign is working well in it's future island setting of rocks and we hope it continues to serve us well for many years. It's quite an improvement to the overall look of the hall combined with the new windows. We'll continue to make incremental improvements to the Sims Hall property in the time we have remaining. As you recall, the sign was made possible by a grant from the Saganing Tribe in Standish and was part of their bi-annual 2% distribution to the townships within Arenac County. We are definitely both thankful and grateful for that program and for what it has done for the communities, including the schools, in Arenac County. Without that program, I believe all the townships and schools would be struggling to keep up and that program gives all of us in Arenac County a huge boost. Please continue visiting the Casino, as your losses are actually helping others in a big way!

SHORT TERM RENTALS (from Township Law E-Letter 9/2020)

Short-term rentals (“STRs”) are generally considered owners and renters of houses listed on such sites as Airbnb, HomeAway and VRBO. The issue has gained significance in many communities throughout the country, creating hotly debated discussions over whether these uses are already allowed throughout various residential districts. And, if they are not allowed, whether a township should adopt regulations allowing them. The battle over STRs reached the highest court in Michigan in June 2020. The court system, however, is not the only area where STRs are being contested. Legislation has been actively introduced to preempt local control on the issue, and many groups are working with their local officials on developing ordinances that apply to STRs. There are no easy answers and no easy ordinances that can be put in place and not trip us up somehow. The debate continues. An issue that is problematic, is yes, we can and have put ordinances in place, but unfortunately, we cannot enforce those ordinances with the police staffing and patrol hours we currently have in place, as enforcement would be sporadic at best.

FINAL THOUGHT ...

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives, so enjoy and appreciate and don’t forget the kindness part!