

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

JANUARY 2021

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Final Thought First ... We hope the Holiday Season brought a time for many moments of reflection on the challenges overcome and the loved ones we cherish. The events that unfolded at the U.S. Capitol last week were unfortunate as violence typically begets violence and in the case of what happened, is unacceptable and has no place in our society or our democracy. We serve people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse political beliefs and we expect vigorous debate that is civil and respectful, and violence has no place. The events of the past year have left many troubled and we hope all can reach out to friends and relatives for encouragement. Our community and our nation have faced many challenges throughout our history. We have endured. We will endure this, also. We will learn. We will grow. Let us embody our community values of civility and respect for others as we each do our part for our township and our nation. The Sims Board and Staff wishes all a blessed New Year that brings good health and new beginnings!

Outbreak of Gypsy Moth ... Northern Michigan – Arenac, Iosco, Ogemaw - and many more communities are experiencing several hotspots of gypsy moth infestations, particularly attacking oak, poplar and birch trees. The presence of these caterpillars is not only a nuisance, but their presence causes severe defoliation of the trees as they eat the leaves. These infestations are cyclic in that they stay around for a year or more and then disappear and in the last year, they have reappeared. Since we had not had any problems for several years, the board in 2018 reduced the millage to half from one mill. We are asking the voters to reinstate that half mill back to 1 mill in the May 4th election to combat this latest infestation. If that millage passes, we will be in a position to do aerial spraying in 2022. In the meantime, homeowners can take action by installing sticky bands of duct tape, for example, around the tree in about 3" swaths of overlapping bands, sticky side on the bark and apply a small amount of petroleum jelly and apply it across the center of the tape. The caterpillars will congregate below the sticky tape where they can easily be targeted with a soap and water spray or removed with a putty knife and collected in a bucket of soap and water. Repeat daily. Other ideas

can be found on-line or contact Michigan State University Extension for their packet on "Gypsy Moth in Michigan, Homeowner's Guide." Please vote on May 4th.

Water Meter Installs ... Miehls Mechanical has installed 740 meters since September as part of our Township-wide meter replacement program, which means there are approximately 380 remaining to be installed. There is a slow down for meter installs currently as there are many families that leave for the winter months and return in April-May, so we cannot get to those meters as most are inside the home. Our water plant operators, Bruce and Keith, have helped out tremendously in assisting the Miehls tech with locating some of the pits and we appreciate their help. We hope to have all meters installed by June 1, 2021.

Board Meetings. ... Since we are prevented from having in-person meetings, all of our township meetings such as Sims Township, the Fire Board, the Cemetery and Transfer Station and the Sims-Whitney Utilities Authority are by Zoom. If anyone would like to join in the conversation of any of these meetings, send us your email and we will send you the link and password and you will be able to connect with any meeting you select. It's a difficult way to conduct business, but it's all we can do for now.