

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS
SEPTEMBER 2023
SIMSTWP.ORG

ISAAC IS MOVING ON TO GREENER AND/OR DIFFERENT PASTURES ...

Jill, Noreen and Ann Marie organized a going away/Birthday celebration for Isaac on Monday, 9/11. Isaac has been with us for a little more than six and a half years and has served Sims Township very professionally in that time. What I appreciated was we have never received a complaint from anyone during that time. As you may know, law enforcement frequently seems to get a bad rap for this, that or the other, and in Isaac's case, there have been no "bad raps." You certainly won't hear anyone at Sims Township Hall talk about the craziness of "defunding the police" as we like all our officers that not only serve us locally, but includes those in Arenac County, City and State as we need them all! Isaac is moving on to another opportunity within the Sheriff's Office in Standish and we wish him well.

His 31st birthday is coming up on 9/27, so since he is officially starting his new assignment on 9/18, our Staff decided to include a Birthday Celebration, complete with cards, cake and candles, which, by the way, Isaac showed another of his skills in blowing out all the candles the first time! We were pleasantly surprised that three deputies plus the Sheriff showed up at the luncheon as well, and Ann Marie put on quite a spread. We have yet to meet our new officer and hope we can introduce him at our monthly board meeting on 9/19.

OPERATING ORV'S AND GOLF CARTS IN SIMS TOWNSHIP ...

There are many within Sims Township that drive ORV's and golf carts on the roads, but there are rules that need to be followed. Arenac County has an ORV Ordinance but no Golf Cart Ordinance. Sims Township follows the Arenac County ORV Ordinance, but we have our own Ordinance adopted in 2019 that governs golf cart use. The basic difference between the two ordinances is that the ORV Ordinance allows speeds up to 25 mph where golf cart speeds are limited to 15 mph. ORV's require a helmet while golf carts do not require a helmet. The age to operate an ORV is age 12, but for golf carts is age 16 and the operator must have a valid driver's license, and this is stipulated also in the State of Mi Vehicle Code,

Act 300 of 1949. Also, a golf cart must have DOT approved seat belts, front and rear lights, a rear-view mirror on the driver's side plus an interior rear-view mirror and a slow-speed triangle on the rear, a horn, mechanical or electrical and a windshield. Neither ORV's or golf carts are to be driven on sidewalks and must be driven to the far-right side of a roadway and travel in the same direction as normal vehicle traffic. Neither ORV's nor golf carts are to be operated on main trunk roads like US23 or I-75. Several residents have been stopped recently by the Arenac County Sheriff for "safety infractions" of one type or another or improper operation. I have reviewed our golf cart ordinance with our legal counsel, and we are revising it to clarify or tighten it up a bit. These changes are based on the State of Mich Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949 as discussed previously and it's all being done in the interest of safety and security. We are finding that many parents are allowing under-age children to operate ORV's and golf carts on our roads, and this is not allowed and it's not safe. As soon as the board approves the ordinance revisions, we may be doing a special mailing to our residents, since there seem to be so many with both types of vehicles and many seem to be unaware of the rules.

FINALE ...