

# AUGUSTA NEWS

Enhancing Public Understanding and Community Involvement

Spring/Summer 2004

Augusta Charter Township Newsletter

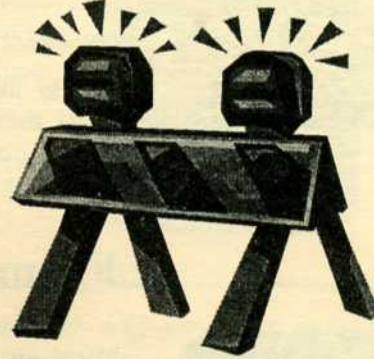
## Roads - From the Trustees' Desk...by Bill Manty

Augusta Township experiences problems with gravel roads breaking up during the spring thaw. The breakup is the result of moisture trapped in the road surface that cannot drain downwards because the ground beneath is still frozen. Until the lowest ground thaws through, no drainage of the road structure will take place. The upper two or four inches of dry road surface will flex as it floats on the mud below.

Eventually this crust is punctured by a wheel and the vehicle

drops in, coming to rest on its frame. In March 2003, 125 vehicles were trapped this way in the southeast corner of the township.

Why were some sections of the road good and other parts right next to them so bad? The frost penetrates deeper through dense hard packed roads than through loose soils. Water makes the ground more dense. Where more water is present in the road surface, expect to have deeper frost and more problems with mud in the spring.



The frost in a road can go two feet deep compared to only a few inches in grassy land. Our roads "thaw through" last com-  
*(Roads, Continued on page 8)*

## From the Supervisor's Desk...by Kathy Jackson

**Spring Clean Up  
2004  
Is  
Saturday  
May 15th**

It's getting to be that time of year again! The third Saturday in May is just around the corner.

Over the past three years, your Spring Clean-up volunteers have unloaded and disposed of more than 2,000 cubic yards of scrap and trash, upwards of 3,000

tires, over 2,000 gallons of oil and antifreeze, and evacuated approximately 100 refrigerators.

As you can imagine, this event takes months of preparation, \$10-15,000, and a giant effort on behalf of all volunteers. More  
*(Spring Clean Up, Continued on page 2)*

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## Spring Clean Up...

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than 30 companies and countless individuals donate their time, money, and services each year to make this event happen.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mich-Con (now DTE), Hankansons, Inc.,

Mitchel's Storage, and Big T Contracting. We would be hard pressed to accomplish this task without you, and it has been my privilege to work with you each year.

I look forward to seeing everyone again this year.

If you have any ques-

tions, please feel free to contact:

Kathy Jackson 461-9270  
Lynda Dew 461-0983  
Bill Manty 461-0171

**Township Hall Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## From the Treasurer's Desk...by Bill Babut

### Michigan State Revenue Sharing Update:

Possibly you have heard or read about cuts in State Revenue Sharing (SRS) for cities and townships in Michigan due to state budget deficits. After much debate, the state legislature and Governor Jennifer Granholm agreed on a 5% reduction for fiscal year 2004 - 2005. This is in addition to the 8% cut in SRS from 2003 to 2004, which we have already endured.

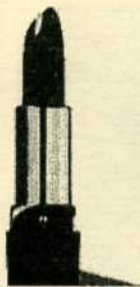
Question: How does it affect Augusta Township? During 2003-2004 fiscal year, SRS comprises approximately 63% of our township revenue for operations. Clearly, the reductions in SRS impact our community.

The good news is that the Township Board has been vigilant and shown restraint and discipline with regard to our budget. Now for the bad news, our roads have

been hit the hardest by cuts in SRS (see lead article by Trustee, Manty). While many communities are devastated by the cuts in SRS, Augusta Township remains solvent, and continues to operate within budget.

For further info please contact me or my Deputy Treasurer, Janice Blair, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. or call (734) 461-6117.

**"Remember  
May 1<sup>st</sup> is  
the deadline  
for filing  
Homestead  
Affidavits  
for tax year  
2004."**



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