

Augusta Township is Working to Improve Street Lighting

**We Will Need Some of You to Help
by Completing a Survey on
Lighting This Summer**

The Augusta Township Board is hoping to convert the existing High Pressure Street Lighting in both the Villages of Willis and Whittaker to LED and to install additional LED street lighting in the eastern corridor of Willis Road from McKean to Rawsonville Roads. Supervisor Brian Shelby and Trustee Cath Howard have been working with both DTE and the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) to develop a plan and to apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist in paying for some or all of the costs of this project. The primary purpose of this lighting project is to improve our street lighting, pedestrian safety and overall pedestrian accessibility.

The Township in conjunction with OCED will be sending a brief survey to residents in the specific areas of the villages of Whittaker and Willis that are part of the lighting district in July 2019. The information we are seeking is required to meet the eligibility criteria for this funding. The information will be anonymous and confidential. It is very important that if you are in the survey area and receive a survey that you participate and return the survey as requested. This could play a critical role in our being able to qualify for this grant.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project and helping to improve our community!!!

Funding Opportunity for Owners of Small Agricultural Tracts to Preserve Their Farmland

As of 2019 Augusta Township’s Farmland and Open Space program will have collected sufficient funds from special millage revenue to take advantage of \$50,000 in Federal Matching funds for purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on farmland. This opportunity is made possible through a partnership with the Ann Arbor Greenbelt’s Protecting Farms and Water Quality in Southeast Michigan Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The agricultural conservation easement pays the property owner the difference between the parcel’s sale value as developable land and its sale value for agricultural purposes only. In exchange, a conservation easement is attached to the property that preserves it as farmland in perpetuity. The 50/50 matching funds available would allow for up to a \$100,000 sale.

At today’s prices, this grant is insufficient to purchase large tracts. However, smaller tracts would be affordable. This could include rented fields or a small specialty or hobby farm.

Interested property owners may obtain application papers from the Augusta Township Hall. Submitted applications will be forwarded to the Farmland Preservation Board for evaluation, using criteria in the Augusta Township Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance (Ordinance no.05-01) which can be viewed on the township website. Applications will be evaluated and recommendations will be forwarded to the Augusta Township Board of Trustees for action.

The Farmland Preservation Board meets at the Township Hall on the second Thursday of each month from 6-8 PM. Residents interested in this opportunity are encouraged to attend. Your Board looks forward to your questions and comments about this program.

Attention: All Augusta Residents

The Board is looking into options for a community park and police protection. Your Input is requested. Please complete and return the following survey to the Township Hall.

- 1. The township board passed a motion to designate the 3.3 acres of land owned by the township that is located on the north side of Willis Road, east of Whittaker, as open space. Would you be interested in the township board developing this site for community functions and activities? Yes No

Comments _____

- 2. The township board would like to know if the residents would support a millage to acquire a dedicated police force (not necessarily using the Washtenaw County sheriff personnel) for a police presence in our community for township protection and safety. Would you be in support? Yes No

Comments _____

Please detach and return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope or other manner.
Your comments and thoughts are valued and appreciated, attach additional sheets if needed.