



The Clay Connection

Live your life with faith, courage and enthusiasm!

October 2024

Park Upgrades

The upgrades to Clay Park are now complete, featuring exciting new pirate ship-themed play-scapes and an all-access soft play surface. The previous playscapes have been generously donated to Browne's Field on Harsens Island. This project was made possible by a \$584,000 Spark Grant, with Clay Park being one of only 27 recipients out of over 600 applicants.

Additionally, a bid will be conducted for \$174,000 worth of fitness equipment funded by St. Clair County ARPA funds. This plan includes 17 exercise stations focused on strength, balance, and core workouts, which will be strategically placed along the walking path to enhance outdoor fitness opportunities for both children and adults. These improvements will greatly benefit both Clay Park and Browne's Field!

Clay Township is constantly looking for grant opportunities to save real tax dollars but still provide amenities to our community.

H.I. Algae Treatment Plant

The H.I. Algae Treatment Plant is making significant progress, as the discharge permit has been secured from EGLE, and site preparations are set to begin soon. Timely ordering of components will commence shortly, allowing us to lock in current prices despite rising costs, with some items having a lead time of up to 40 weeks.

Phase 1 of this project is fully funded by a \$2,000,000 State MEDC grant. This plant will not only boost the economy of Harsens Island but also enhance the water quality of our river. These steps are crucial for effectively managing costs and timelines as we move forward.

Clean Up Weekend

We added a second Clean up weekend. It is Sept 21 on the mainland located on Muskrat Run, behind the Water Department building. On Harsens, we will be at Browne's Field on Sept 21 and 22. Bring us your appliances, lawnmowers, or whatever you have. The Clay Fire Department will take the **hazardous materials** including old needles, oil-based paint and chemicals any time of the year. Tires must be off the rims.

Bluebill Bridge Replacement

Construction on the bridge replacement project began last month. The contractor has installed a temporary bridge to facilitate traffic. This temporary bridge will allow for one-way traffic controlled by a traffic light, with weight restrictions matching those of the existing bridge.

The completion date for the bridge replacement is around October 26. The total project cost is \$716,000. Thanks to Federal, State, and County grants and funding, the Township's share will only be \$14,840. This includes \$113,920 in County funding and \$604,200 from State and Federal sources, resulting in a significant savings of \$701,160 for Clay Township taxpayers. Without this funding, the Township would have to bear the entire cost of the bridge.

Bayview Shores Bridge

The first bridge on Bayview Shores is scheduled for replacement in 2025. We are seeking \$100,000 in matching funds from the County, with estimated construction costs at \$250,000. We are waiting for permits from EGLE, and once we have a design, we will pursue additional funding to assist the Township. Since the Township has no dedicated road tax, all road work is funded through our general fund.

Clay Community Garden

The community garden aims to create a space where residents can come together to grow produce, fostering community spirit and providing fresh food options. **Core volunteers** are needed to help with planning the layout of the garden, organizing other volunteers, and guiding the project's progress. Also, looking for **general volunteers** to assist with various tasks, donate materials, services, and provide support to the project. The location is across from Danny's at M-29 and Helene. To volunteer, reach out to Artie Bryson: supervisor@claytwpmi.gov or call the Twp. Office.

COLONY TOWER

It's wonderful to see such a historic site being maintained and refreshed, preserving its legacy for future generations. The Colony Tower has received essential structural repairs, ensuring its longevity. The painting process involved the removal of loose paint, followed by sanding and preparation, which has now been completed. Cement restoration of the base will start soon with a local contractor. All paid for by local captured ARPA funds.