

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...



Township Population

| | |
|------|--------|
| 1980 | 10,364 |
| 1990 | 14,533 |
| 2000 | 20,112 |
| 2010 | 25,146 |

Gaines Charter township is a community which places high value on family life, good moral standards, a sense of community and a desire to enrich the lives of all its residents. The goal of the Gaines Charter Township Officials and staff is to provide exemplary service to the residents and businesses within the Township in an active, positive, and respectful manner, and to utilize the resources of the Township in the best and most efficient manner possible.

8555 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

Phone
(616) 698-6640

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(616) 698-2490

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Elected Township Officials...

SUPERVISOR

Don R. Hilton Sr.
1-616-698-6640 ext. 16
E-Mail: don.hilton@gainestownship.org

CLERK

Crystal Osterink
1-616-698-7980
E-Mail: crystal.osterink@gainestownship.org

TREASURER

Laurie Lemke
1-616-698-6640 ext. 14
E-Mail: laurie.lemke@gainestownship.org

TRUSTEES

Eric Fouch
Dan Fryling
Tim Haagsma
Carol VanLaan
Leave a message for trustees
1-616-698-6640
E-Mail all trustees@
kim.triplett@gainestownship.org

*Things to explore
in
Gaines Township!*

Cutlerville

Dutton

Historical Society
2508 100th ST. SE

Library
421 68th St. SE

Kent Trails

**Paul Henry
Thornapple Trails**

Prairie Wolf Park

Board Meetings...

All meetings are held at Gaines Township Offices located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave SE, in the Board Room.

- The **Township Board** meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM.
- The **Planning commission** meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM.
- The **Zoning Board** meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

*Copies of minutes are available upon request.

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing accommodation for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Township Office at 698-6640, a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.



Putting all of the pieces together....

Township Government is Citizen Government...

Michigan's Local Government structure can be a bit bewildering. Michigan's 1,242 Townships govern the vast majority of Michigan's land area and serve over forty-five percent of Michigan's residents. Townships were the brainchild of Thomas Jefferson and were created before Michigan became a state. Andrew Jackson's philosophy of direct democracy further shaped the Township Government structure that services and thrives today.

Townships embody the values of "grassroots government."

In Townships, citizens contribute their talents, skills and ideas to preserve the quality of life and to deliver important programs and services.

Township officials live in the communities they serve and stay in touch with ever changing needs. Limited by law in the amount of taxes they can levy, Township Officials are creative in delivering quality services with the least possible burden to taxpayers.

Efficient. Effective. Accountable. Accessible. Michigan's Township Governments embody America's great democratic principles.

Your Township Government ensures that the community's health and safety needs are adequately addressed. Either through its

own police, fire and emergency medical services departments or in cooperation with other governmental and private organizations, Townships have evolved as the primary provider for essential public safety services.

Balancing private property rights and the impact on the community resulting from land use decisions is a very important township

What Do Townships Do?

responsibility. Township Governments, also, make communities more pleasant places to live by providing leisure and recreational activities.

Townships do not have direct responsibility for roads and drains, but they cooperate with county agencies that have direct responsibility for these services and our court systems.

How are Townships Governed?

The Township Board consists of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and depending on the township's population two or four trustees. Each of these officials have specific duties that contribute to effective

Township Governance.

The elected members of the Township Board adopt an annual budget that determines the scope and character of township services. They, also, adopt ordinances to protect the community's health, safety and welfare. The Township Board oversees township programs and services.

Elected Township Board members also oversee administration of important township functions. The Township Supervisor, besides moderating meetings, also, ensures that assessments on taxable property conform to state laws. The Township Clerk has custody of vital records, accounts for Township finances, and oversees elections conducted by the township. The Township Treasurer collects property taxes for the township, schools, the county and other tax levying entities. Board members, also perform other duties as directed by the Township Board.

Elected Officials Also Administer Township Programs...

Some Townships, also, employ a manager or superintendent to oversee day-to-day operations. Township Boards frequently delegate managerial responsibilities to the Supervisor. Other full-time or part-time department heads provide technical and managerial expertise for the township programs and services.

HOW CAN

you

GET INVOLVED?

Your Township Government welcomes citizen involvement. Many Township programs and services rely on volunteers. Citizens serve on appointed boards or commissions that decide important public issues. Some Townships hold Annual Meetings where electors directly participate in decisions allowed by law.

Democracy is Government by the people. While Township Boards are lawfully responsible for Township Governance, the Township Board needs to hear the perspective and views of residents on many issues. Keeping abreast of Township issues and providing your viewpoint on issues is essential to Township success.



ELECTED OFFICIALS

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2008-2012

Gaines Charter Township is governed by a Township Board made up of seven members. The Township Board acts as the legislative body empowered to enact ordinances, set a budget, and make policy decisions for the general functioning of the Township. The Township Board meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7:00pm, in the Township Board Room located on the upper level of the Township Office Building . All meetings are open to the public.

SUPERVISOR

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Dan Fryling

Tim Haagsma

Carol VanLaan

Trustees can be contacted either by mail to the Township Office or by calling the Township Office and leaving a message for them.

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