



# The Clay Connection

Think Spring!!! Watch out for wildlife on our roads!

April 2019

## Higher Water

We will probably have higher water this year. I talked to the Army Corps of Engineers that project our water levels; they claim if we have average rainfall this year, our water levels will be 4 inches higher. It is up to property owners to protect their property. The township can provide free sandbags, we are attempting to get free sand from dredged material from the river but have not worked out the details as of yet. I have attempted to get more law enforcement on the river to enforce the 200/600 ft wake laws. We have put up large no wake signs and buoys where we were allowed to do so. We will have small no wake signs available for canals.

## Officer Recognized

Office Brian Dowell was commended for outstanding job performance. With his quick actions, he was able to retrieve \$8,500 that was fraudulently taken from an elderly lady. She was contacted that she won a new car and \$8.5 million, and needed the money in advance for licensing fees. Officer Dowell tracked the money to a bank in Toronto Ohio, was able to freeze it before it was being exported to Jamaica. Clay police was able to return all the funds to its proper owner. Lesson learned, if it is too good to be true, it usually is not true. Good job Officer Dowell and Clay Township Police.

## Operation Safe Zone

I would like to remind our residents of the initiative to help citizens reduce on-line fraud such as purchases from Craigslist. Residents can come to the Clay Twp PD lobby to finish their exchange of merchandise and money feeling safe. For larger items, the exchange can be done in our parking lot, just let the dispatcher know that you are making an exchange. It will all be on video tape with our security cameras.

## Security & Welfare Checks/Property Checks

Going away for a weekend or an extended stay? Contact Clay PD and request a property check while you are gone. 810.794.9381

## Clay

## Clean up Day

We will have a dumpster behind the Water Department located on Muskrat Run, June 1st. (and June 2nd on Harsens Island at Browns field) from 8 am. to 4 pm. We will be accepting all junk except for hazardous materials. Bring us your tires, appliances, lawnmowers or whatever you have. The Clay Fire Department will take **hazardous materials** across the street including old needles, oil-based paint and chemicals any time of the year. For latex paint, pop the lid off and add some dirt/sand and let it dry then dispose in your regular trash.

## No Water Rate Increase

Reviewing our water rates and budget going forward, there will be no water rate increase this year. Also proud to say, we have about the lowest water rates in the county. Unless something unforeseen happens, we should not have to raise the water rate for a couple years going

forward. We will have to raise the sewer rates again this year, we still have infrastructure issues and higher operating costs. In 2 and 3 years, we will be retiring much water debt. At that time, we will have to make plans on replacing the water main along M-29 from Nook Rd to St Johns Marsh. Hoping to do this without increasing rates, by rolling our debt over and our existing rates pay for it.

## Yard Waste Summer Hours

We are on our winter schedule for the Recycling Waste Yard. We will return to summer hours April 16th. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2 pm-6pm and Saturday & Sundays from 9 am-5 pm If anyone wants free wood chips ask the water department.

## HI Nature Park and Kayak Launch

We just received a DNR Trust Fund Grant to purchase 9 acres of property on Harsens Island. We will have a walking trail, a handicapped Kayak Launch provided by County Parks & Rec, a 20 foot high observation tower looking over the marsh and other amenities.