



# The Clay Connection

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!!

January 2019

## FEMA Grants to help our Fire Dept.

The Clay Township Fire Department received two FEMA grants this year. We received over \$104,000 to pay for vehicle exhaust systems in both the mainland and Harsens Island stations. MIOSHA requires us to have the exhaust systems in a fire station where people are working. The island station never had a system in place and the mainland station is in disrepair and needs to be replaced. We just approved the bids for the project and work will start soon. We will also have a better maintenance program in place so this system will last for years to come. We also received a grant of over \$484,000 to pay for the SCOTT Packs breathing apparatus for

the firemen. These are the breathing masks and tanks they wear so they are safe going into a smoke filled environment. We included Algonac and Marine City fire departments in this grant so they also took advantage of the FEMA money. Our packs would have been expired next year. The new packs have a shelf life of 15 years and actually may be extended another 5 years. Some of our masks also have thermal imaging built in. This thermal imaging technology helps firefighters to see hot spots and locate downed victims in a smoke filled environment.

We have been very aggressive in grant searching and have had pretty good luck. We have written another FEMA grant for a new fire truck costing about \$585,000 that we are hopeful to receive. We should receive the results in March.

Both of these grants have helped us to maintain our budget but more importantly, keep our first responders and citizens safe.

We are always looking for ways to provide the best services we can while savings taxpayers money and giving good value back to our residents.

## Beware of Scams

There has been an increase in phone and mail scams. If you receive a call from someone stating they are from the IRS, credit card or utility companies, **BEWARE.** They probably are not! Do not give them any of your personal information. The IRS and most companies will not call you or send you emails. They will also try to bait you with free trips, telling you to pay the tax and misc charges. **IF IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS NOT TRUE.** Also, Clay is reviewing our peddlers application, we will be doing back ground checks and issuing picture ID's. If you see any suspicious behavior, call our police dispatch at 810-794-9381.

### Snow Birds

Leaving this winter? You should do a couple things before you leave. Have the water dept shut off the water to your home at the road. Also, sign up with the Police Dept. Property Protection Program. Do these things for your peace of mind.

### Shake your Mailboxes

Hard to talk about snow but it is easier to fix them now instead of the dead of winter. Shake your mailboxes to make sure it will withstand the pressure of the snow from the snow plow this winter. The county only covers damages if the truck hits your mailbox, not if the snow hits it.

### Safely dispose of your drugs

Bring in unwanted prescriptions to our Police Dispatch-24/7. This will prevent them from being consumed or distributed accidentally or illegally. **DO NOT FLUSH THE DRUGS,** we need to keep them from our waterways.

### 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.