



The Clay Connection

Be Safe, check on your neighbors during cold weather

February 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 firefighters. 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 writing and have had pretty good luck, being the only Fire Dept that received a grant in St Clair County (2). 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.

Clay

Clean up Day

We will have a dumpster behind the Water Department located on Muskrat Run, June 1st. 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. We are still working on an electronic recycler to come in.

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

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 background checks and issuing picture ID's. If you see any suspicious behavior, call our police dispatch at 810-794-9381.

Yard Waste Winter Hours

We are on our Winter Schedule for the Yard Waste Yard. It will be open Saturdays only from Noon to 4 PM. It will return to Summer hours April 15th. 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.