



January 2025 “in the loop” e-newsletter update

➤ **Update Regarding Township Video Viewing Now on YouTube**

Dear Residents, We are excited to announce a change in how you can access Dexter Township videos. Instead of Livestream, all videos will now be available on our official YouTube channel! This allows you to watch meetings and other township content at your convenience. Visit our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@DexterTownship>

- **RECYCLERS** – We are seeking a volunteer to assist with the film project on Fridays! Please help us keep the project running by donating approximately – we need you. It’s simple, remove the film from the orange bin in the Township parking lot and transport it over to Chelsea High School – anytime at your convenience on Fridays, it takes about 1 ½ hours per week to complete. Please send the office manager (Samantha Edwards) a message at (officemanager@dextertownship.org) to ask questions or volunteer.



THIS SIDE GRAPHIC DISPLAYS ITEMS **NOT** TO BE PLACED IN THE ORANGE BIN AT THE TOWNHALL PARKING LOT

✓ FILM VOLUNTEERS asked us to share this graphic in continuing efforts to educate residents on what type of materials to put into the orange box film recycling box in the Township parking lot.

✓ Please remember to “bag your bags” - this is a great help to the

volunteers when emptying the box

✓ As stated above, we could use additional volunteers to keep this project moving forward and help Chelsea High School reach their goal – please volunteer by emailing officemanager@dextertownship.org

✓ Also, if you request paper bags or use reusable totes at the grocery store, and you can help reduce the overall plastic waste volume

- **Metropark Pass Program Summary (by Samantha Edwards)**- At the October 15th Board of Trustees meeting, a motion was approved to allocate up to \$75,000 for the Metropark Pass program. This initiative ensured that each Dexter Township homeowner would be eligible to receive one pass per household. Starting October 16th, details about the program were shared via multiple channels, including Dexter Township’s eNewsletter (In the Loop), the township website, The Sun Times, and distributed flyers. The winter 2024 Township newsletter, delivered in December, also included instructions on how to obtain pass. However, due to delays with resident’s receiving the winter 2024 newsletter (caused by sorting facility issues in Detroit), the submission deadline for the program was extended to midnight on December 22, 2024.

The survey for requesting a pass officially closed on December 22, 2024 and a total of 1,690 surveys were submitted, of which 1,494 were approved. Rejections (197) resulted primarily from non-resident submissions or unapproved duplicate, triplicate, or quadruple requests. Additionally, 48% of passes were requested by seniors (over 62 years old) and 52% were requested by adults (under the age of 62). The first mailing of passes was sent on January 2, 2025, with 1,227 passes distributed. A second mailing followed shortly after, with 260 additional passes sent. Additionally, seven passes were provided directly to residents.

- Program Costs: • First Mailing: \$37,005 Second Mailing: \$9,634 = • Total Cost: \$46,639

Overall, the program has been a success, with residents expressing gratitude and appreciation for this initiative. Participation also increased by nearly 11% (10.59%) in its second year. While the program’s management required significant effort, including verifying addresses, identifying, and resolving duplicate requests, and maintaining accurate records, the benefits have been well-received by the community. Thank you to the staff of Hudson Mills for working with us and our residents during this process, it is appreciated!

If the Board chooses to continue the program for a third year, it is recommended to:

1. Notify residents earlier (via the summer/fall newsletter).
2. Open the survey period sooner (beginning of September) to avoid holiday related delays. Mail 2026 passes in November 2025

➤ UPDATE from Fire Chief, Doug Armstrong:

The Dexter Area Fire Department (DAFD) is eagerly anticipating the delivery of a 2023 Ford/Lifeline Rescue Ambulance, expected in February 2025, and will initially be stationed at the Dexter Township Fire Station. It will be available to respond to emergencies in Dexter Township, Webster Township, and the City of Dexter.

The acquisition of this new Rescue Ambulance is in response to increasing wait times for Huron Valley Ambulance services, which currently covers all of Washtenaw County. During times of high demand or multiple simultaneous emergencies, DAFD will now be able to transport patients to local hospitals, improving transport response times.

In addition to its life-saving capabilities, the Rescue Ambulance will provide vital support functions by serving as a shelter from the weather for auto accident victims, offer a safe space for firefighters to cool down or warm up between long work sessions at emergency scenes, and allow firefighters to change into water rescue suits before engaging in water-related emergencies.

➤ **Dexter Township Supervisor Report**

January 13, 2025

DAFD

At the DAFD meeting in December the DAFD Board made several major decisions, including voting on the next DAFD budget. During that process it was decided to fund the a fully staffed model of 18FT firefighters. Though this model comes at a higher cost, it will increase preparedness and parity of staffed fire stations amongst the three participating municipalities. In addition to passing the financial plan, new officers were elected and Trustee Karen Sikkenga was selected to be the new Chairperson of the DAFD Board.

Hiring a full-time DPZ

We have posted and started collecting application materials for a full-time Director of Planning and Zoning. As the board likely recalls, we have operated under an interim structure for the past few months since the departure of our previous Zoning Administrator. This has meant elevated hours for our consultants and a greater cost for the Township. I've reduced the amount of time the consultant is in the office in an effort to cut costs, but the hiring of a full-time DPZ will greatly reduce our reliance on our planning consultant's time and that reduction in consulting fees is reflected in the 2026 budget book. Initial interviews with applicants will start before the end of January.

Meetings

I've recently met with the City Manager and Mayor of Chelsea to begin building relationships with our surrounding communities. I've also been scheduling meetings and conversations with members of the Township's various boards and committees to get to know all of the volunteers who help keep our Township running. If you're a Township volunteer and haven't heard from me to schedule yet, keep an eye on your email!

Photography Contest

I'm in the beginning stages of planning a photography contest for the Township. As the office remodel has finished. I'm looking to highlight resident photos of areas within Dexter Township. I've seen some truly incredible photos posted in various Dexter Township Facebook groups and can't wait to announce more details in the coming months.

➤ **Dexter Township Clerk's Report – January 2025**

Election Status:

Dexter Community Schools is entertaining having a Special Election for a school bond. This election would most likely occur during the spring – May 2025 - which would include Dexter Township Precinct #1 and Dexter Township Precinct #3D. Because this election would take place on an off year (special election), the school would be responsible for the reimbursement to all of the municipality's costs incurred to open and run the precincts to host the election, that fall in the Dexter Community School District.

If a special election is indeed verified to occur Dexter Township is not constitutionally subject to host early 9-day voting, the language in the Proposal 2 Law states 9-day early voting is not mandate for off year elections only for even year State and Federal Elections. Dexter Community Schools will be voting on weather to have a 2025 special election January 27, 2025, I will email all Trustees the outcome of their decision.

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board Meeting Summary:

During the Farmland and Open Space Preservation meeting this past January 2, 2025, Mr. Lonik discussed avenues of how to apply for grant funds and who to apply to. The Board discussed the properties that are currently being considered for preservation. There was discussion about the importance of the Board being more involved with the potential landowners who have interest in preservation; the idea is having the FOSP Board build trust and relationships with Dexter Township. Last month members of the Board were invited to walk a property that was being considered for preservation, seeing the land verses printed ariel photos was appreciated. Hopefully we can continue this process.

Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority Board Summary: The Board voted on the yearly fiscal year budget. Mr. Williams gave the yearly summary of the amount of recycling / revenue the WWRA took in for the year. Dexter Township continues to have the highest amount of recycling with 1,095 containers being processed for the 2024 year which increased by 73 containers from year 2023. Discussed what grants to apply for along with ideas of how to make glass and cardboard more cleanly recycled (possible separate bins?). December 2024 there were 583 tons of recycling processes = \$68,523,50 with 132 tons of glass processed for the entire 2024 calendar year. Currently there is no buyer for glass.

➤ **Broadband Update: (submitted by Trustee Karen Nolte)**

Good news accompanied with a few challenges on this front. First the good – this project is moving along well with the McKinley and Waterloo areas now being serviceable. This finalizes the connection of 62 homes in this area. Additionally, Spectrum and MEC have over built the area and crossed over township lines, at their own expense. Dexter Township was awarded to both Spectrum and Mercury for the buildout of our township. Last month Mercury defaulted on their award, leaving residents in the southwest portion of our township vulnerable. Replacement funding is not available until BEAD funding maybe available in mid-2026. The Township is lucky that Spectrum and MEC over built in the SW of our township and have been able to fill in many of the unserved homes since the default.

We do have three areas left in the township, designated unserviceable. Below is a quick summary of the three locations.

- 1) A road off Waterloo – surprising enough we have not had any request for connection on this road and more exploration is needed to determine need, number and costs of connections. Future updates can be provided as more information is acquired
- 2) A small section of homes off Hankerd – this area is not connected due to permits, easement and DNR issues. There are possibly two methods to resolve. One method is being addressed at the time of this writing and hopefully will resolve this neighborhoods challenge. A second method is under discussion if the first does not work. The projected cost to complete if the second option is required is approximately \$10K. (Since the BOT meeting, the Director of the DNR signed off on the easement permit (THANK YOU)– and work will begin to make this neighborhood “serviceable” in the very near future)
- 3) The third neighborhood is off McKinley, an area in the SW corner directly affected by Mercury defaulting on their award. This neighborhood requires \$12K funding to get fiber up a hill to their homes. I would like to discuss with the Board and purpose next month, our ability to access these funds from either the cellular connectivity line in the capital project fund or general funds to connect this neighborhood to help their families and bring us closer to our overall goal.

As a foot note: when we originally received our ARPA funding, we discussed putting aside a limited amount of dollars for broadband for just this type of issue. We opted not to do so and put the full ARPA funds toward local roads, while using some general funds for sewer system updates (approx. \$27K less than expected) to protect our ARPA funds. This occurred when discussion of the possibility of having to return unspent funds to the Federal government was in play. I believe we had in the range of \$70K originally earmarked for broadband reserves. These residents are caught in a quagmire between fiber companies, Mercury defaulting on their award, poor home positions,

and funding, due to no fault of their own and they need assistance. Please direct any questions to knolte@dextertownship.org

➤ **Single Hauler Project Update (submitted by Trustee Karen Nolte):**

At a meeting, last week between the Director of Washtenaw Public Works, Matt Naud the consultant from Recycling.com and myself, the RFP was finalized. Matt will be making alterations, and the RFP is expected to be submitted to vendors within the next two weeks. Per the RFP, the Township will be responsible for earmarking a Project Manager for this project.

Below is the schedule that we developed and spoke about at the last BOT meeting. Of course, all future actions are dependent on the type of bids that are returned by the vendors.

Dexter Township Recycling PROJECTED RFP SCHEDULE

DISTRIBUTION OF RFP	January 2025
PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING https://recycle.zoom.us/j/5729217408?omn=83540862866&from=addon	January 29 2PM
QUESTIONS SUBMITTAL DEADLINE	February 7, 2025
PROPOSAL DUE DATE	February 28 5:00 PM
EVALUATION	March 2025
PRESENTATION/INTERVIEWS OF SHORTLIST IF NEEDED	March 2025
SELECTION/NEGOTIATIONS	April 2025
TOWNSHIP INTRODUCTION	April 15, 2025
TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZATION	May 20, 2025
CONTRACT PREPARATION AND EXECUTION	June 2025
BEGIN TRANSITION ACTIVITIES	June 2025
BEGIN CONTRACTED OPERATIONS	August 1, 2025

Please direct questions on the Single Hauler project to knolte@dextertownshipmi.gov (Thank you)

➤ **SHORT TERM RENTAL Committee Update – submitted by Trustee Alicia Abbott**

The short-term rental committee has now completed two meetings. The first meeting was in December 2024 and was an organizational meeting. The January 2025 meeting was the meeting where the survey questions were created for the residents of Dexter Township to answer in a blind survey. More information on the survey will be presented at the February 12, 2025, meeting at 6pm in the Township Hall. We hope to see you there.

Below are the upcoming meetings: February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM and March 5, 2025 at 6pm.

Please feel free to come and speak to the committee during the Public Comments period of each meeting. This committee is spending a great deal of time in thoughtful consideration of the Short-Term issue as it pertains to the operators, the neighbors, and the users. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Please direct any questions or comments to aabbott@dextertownship.org Thank you!

➤ **Warning Siren Update (submitted by Samantha Edwards)**

Dexter Township's warning siren maintenance provider, West Shore Services, reported that the new federal signal universal controllers for all 16 warning sirens were shipped on December 1, 2024, and the installation date will be in March 2025. As a reminder to the board, this new equipment will allow Washtenaw County to directly trigger our sirens and would allow for future integration to the county's proposed two-way monitoring system. More updates on the warning sirens will be provided in the following months.

➤ **Dexter Area Fire Department Board Report to Dexter Township Board of Trustees**

January 13, 2025 Submitted by Trustee Karen Sikkenga

The Dexter Area Fire Department approved its 2025 Budget at the December 2024 meeting, at a total cost of \$3,9M. The major policy decision we approved is to increase the number of firefighters from 15 to 18. Eighteen firefighters is sufficient to staff all three fire stations 24/7, while 15 firefighters (the current level) means that during the night shift, only one firefighter is on staff. Two firefighters ensures more rapid response with a navigator and a driver, allows fire suppression to begin immediately upon arrival, and enhances firefighter safety while on duty. Protocol is for fire suppression activities to wait until at least two firefighters are present (with some exceptions).

In addition, the 2025 budget includes a contribution to a capital fund to support the amortized cost of apparatus over time. The Board is moving toward a capital cost budget model similar to Dexter

Township's, wherein the Fire Chief has identified our future cost for fire apparatus and we are setting aside funds each year to support these future costs.

Last year, budget increases were required to support the terms of the Collective Bargaining agreement, which will result in a 50% pay increase over three years to align DAFD salaries with benchmark entities. Although budget increases have been greater than incremental for the last couple years, DAFD has now accomplished its major operational goals and large budget increases are not anticipated going forward.

Dexter Township's share of the cost is anticipated to be \$1,304,540 in 2025. Our Fire Fund revenue for FY26 is forecasted at \$1,292,444, which is \$12.1K less than our DAFD FY2025 costs. However, the State of Michigan provides revenue for fire suppression on its lands. I applied for about \$14K in fire suppression funds from the SOM for Dexter Pinckney Recreation Area and University of Michigan lands, and with this in mind, we may not need to use any balances to offset our Fire Fund costs. A reminder, though, that the CBA and full staffing costs are anticipated to outstrip our Fire Fund revenues over the five years of the approved millage. Webster Township has a Public Safety millage that provides flexibility for all public safety activities (Police and Fire) and Dexter Township may wish to consider this in future. Also a reminder that our fiscal year begins in April; our FY26 costs will be higher than the \$1.3M share; our proposed FY26 Fire Fund budget is \$1.4M.

The DAFD interlocal agreement provides that the participating entities are responsible for capital costs within their area, including the fire station and fire hydrants. The DAFD board and staff are grateful to Dexter Township for supporting the department's efforts to improve water access for our residents, especially in light of the tragic loss of life and property unfolding now in the Los Angeles area.

I was appointed Chair of the DAFD Board at the December 2024 meeting. I have been meeting with DAFD board members, the Fire Chief, and other stakeholders, and I will be touring the three fire departments to create a plan for the year of my term of office. Stakeholders have brought up a variety of matters such as suggestions for changes to the board packages, opportunities to improve the interlocal agreement, and opportunities (created by the construction of the new Dexter City fire station) to standardize the leases of the three participating entities. Members of the Board of Trustees and the public are encouraged to contact me if you have any requests or suggestions for priorities and activities by the DAFD, at ksikkenga@dextertownship.org

- Attached is a report from the Huron River Watershed Council for January 2025 – please review and learn more about our waterways and volunteering

As always, if you have any questions or comments please feel free to reach out to any of the seven Trustees or simply drop an email to info@dextertownship.org and it will be directed to the proper person for answering.

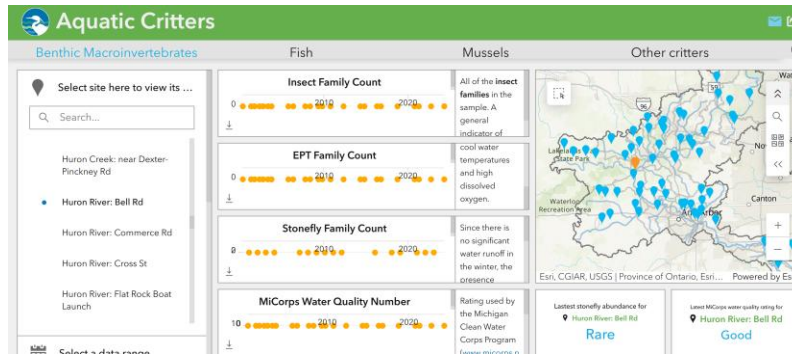
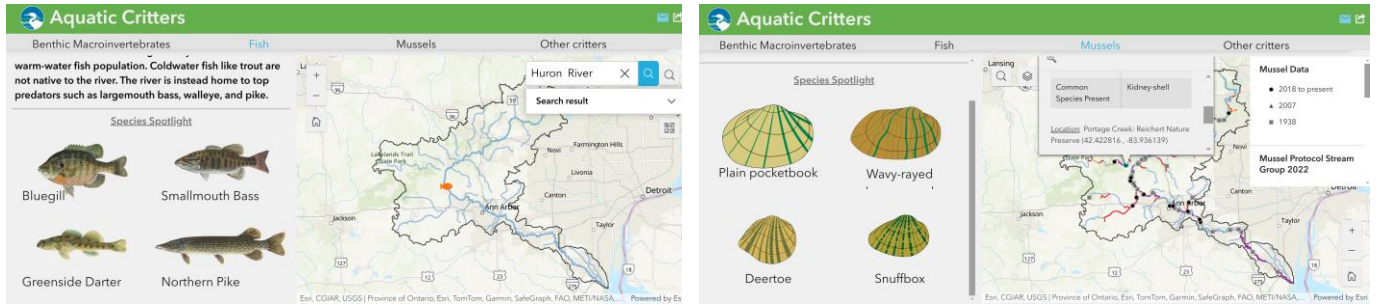
Stay warm and take care

Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) Update

January 2025 Report to Dexter Township Board of Trustees

1. See HRWC Data Collection Results and Maps at <https://tinyurl.com/57uh7yj6>

Examples below are Huron River sites in Dexter Township



2. Sign up now to volunteer at a stonefly search on January 18, 2025

VOLUNTEER FOR OUR 2025 MACROINVERTEBRATE COLLECTION EVENTS!

Macroinvertebrate collection will continue in 2025 for our 33 year in a row. If you enjoy spending time outside, and wish to see a new creeks and rivers around Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, and Livingston Counties, then this is the activity for you. [Click here!](#)

Stonefly Search 2025 is Saturday, January 18th 2025. Learn more and register at hrwc.org/stonefly.

3. HRWC is hiring a marketing manager www.hrwc.org/jobs

Please let me know if you would like more information.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Bade

Dexter Township Representative to HRWC