

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | July 15, 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Grant funding to help fight blight

Townships have until Aug. 5 to apply for grant funding to help pay for blight elimination. The Michigan Homeowner Assistance Nonprofit Housing Corporation, in conjunction with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, extended the deadline for grant



funding from the \$11.7 million received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund. Communities with populations of 50,000 or less are eligible to receive anywhere from \$250,000 to \$1 million, while communities with populations greater than 50,000 can receive anywhere from \$1 million to \$5 million. The funding is meant to help spark private investment and development, and in order to be eligible, a local unit of government must work in partnership with a local land bank or existing blight partner in the state.

Email address needed on auditing report

The Michigan Department of Treasury now requires townships to provide an email address on its Auditing Procedures Report. A new question on the report asks for a primary email address for the local unit contact. This must be an email address for the local unit, not the local unit's certified public accountant. If your township does not yet have an email address, one should be obtained and entered on the report, as it will be used to communicate with the local unit.

First infrastructure commission

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Members-only Website](#)
[Training](#)
[Answer Center](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[MTA Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[NATaT](#)
[MTA Webcasts](#)
[MTA Publications Catalog](#)

UPCOMING MTA EVENTS

**[Cemeteries: Challenges & Solutions](#)
**[Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning](#)
**[MTA On the Road Regional Meetings](#)

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

* [Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seaber & Kaufman, PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

listening tour stop coming next week

Got ideas for improving Michigan's infrastructure? RSVP to attend the first stop of the Governor's [21st Century Infrastructure Commission's](#) listening tour next week. The commission will host a meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21, at Grand Valley State University L. William Seidman Center - Charles W. Loosemore Forum Room, 50 Front Ave. SW, Grand Rapids. This is the first of three listening tour stops designed to



gather input from Michigan residents on the current state of Michigan's infrastructure, the infrastructure system citizens envision, and how the state can work with residents to close the gap between the two. The input gathered will help shape the commission's final report and recommendations, which is due to the Governor by Nov. 30, 2016. Attendance will be capped at 150 people, so [RSVP](#) today to secure your spot.

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

* [Ted Hartleb Agency](#)



Still time to file ACA returns

If your township hasn't yet filed its Affordable Care Act (ACA) information returns, there may still be time to do so without a penalty. Large employers were required to submit Form 1094-C and 1095-C to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by June 30 as part of the ACA employer mandate. However, the IRS recently announced employers wouldn't be penalized if they made "legitimate efforts" to register with the agency and file the forms, and as long as they submit the forms "as soon as possible." However, the IRS did not define what constitutes "legitimate efforts" or "as soon as possible."

Bill provides more local control of fireworks



Townships in highly-populated counties would have more control over whether their residents can buy or use fireworks within their jurisdiction. [HB 5784](#), sponsored by Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica), was introduced this week and could be considered when the House returns from its summer break. If enacted, the bill would ban the ignition, discharge, use and sale of consumer fireworks in counties with a population of at least 600,000. However, local units of government within those counties would have the option to adopt an ordinance allowing the use or sale of

fireworks. This change would put more control back in the hands of local units of government.

Hot zoning issues examined at MTA's August workshops

Join MTA for the summer's hottest workshop series, *Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning*, coming to four locations next month. Topics include:

- Tailor your zoning ordinance to address medical marijuana.
- Learn how the Religious Land Uses and Institutionalized Persons Act impacts local zoning decisions.
- Examine zoning preemptions for wireless towers, DAS antennas and more!
- Identify when zoning regulation is limited by the exclusionary rule.
- Learn the ins and outs of using special uses and variances.

Download the brochure [here](#) or register [online now](#).

Input needed on proposed changes to solid waste law

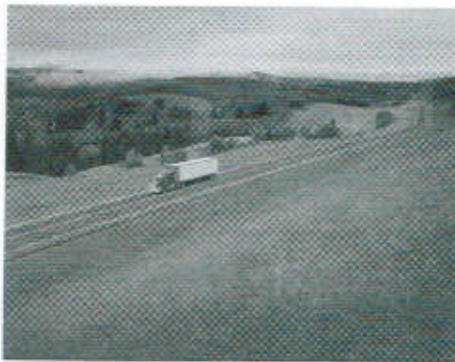
Township officials will have the opportunity to provide input on changes to the state's solid waste management laws at a public hearing on Wednesday, July 20, in Lansing. [Draft recommendations](#) were released earlier as a result of the efforts of a workgroup that included MTA. The draft recommendations would require that waste facilities receive approval through either a host community agreement or resolution before being sited. Notice would also need to be provided to adjacent communities, and any concerns raised would need to be considered. Anyone can provide input on these recommendations at the public hearing from noon to 3 p.m. on July 20 at the Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. Written comments can also be submitted to SeymourV1@michigan.gov or the Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection, Solid Waste Section, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, MI 48909-7741. Legislation will likely be introduced to amend Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to reflect the recommendations.

Investing in Michigan Communities summit coming this month

Learn about pressing policy issues in municipal finance at the [Investing in Michigan Communities](#) summit next week. MTA is a partner in the free event set for Tuesday, July 19, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Kent County Courthouse, fifth floor conference room, 180 Ottawa Avenue NW in Grand Rapids. Those who attend will hear insights into finance issues from Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Executive Director John Weiss, Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, and other industry experts. Email Gayle McCrath at mccrathg@gvmc.org to confirm your attendance.

Energy emergency extended for truck drivers

An extension of Michigan's energy emergency means truck drivers can continue to transport and deliver fuel for increased hours until Sept. 9. This extension, ordered by Gov. Rick Snyder this week, will help to ensure that fuel is available and affordable throughout the summer and over Labor Day weekend. Typically, truck drivers have a certain number of hours and



consecutive days in which they can operate a commercial motor vehicle in Michigan and any other state they must drive through to get supplies. The original energy emergency was largely due to a shutdown of the West Shore Pipeline in Wisconsin, which remains closed for the foreseeable future.

Federal update for week of July 11

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships' [e-newsletter](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.
