

mt@-newswire

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www.michigantownships.org

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Please note: Due to preparations for MTA's 2009 Annual Conference & Expo, Jan. 28-30 in Detroit, this is the only issue of *mt@-newswire* that will be sent in January. The next issue you will receive will be sent on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Public comment sought on DNR strategic parks plan

The [2009-19 Strategic Plan](#) for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division is available for public comment. The plan incorporates 12 goals that address both parks and recreation programs through long-term goals and short-term actions. Among the goals are to establish and maintain long-term funding; improve, upgrade and maintain facilities as part of a management practices plan; make partnerships a priority; expand universal access to parks and boating facilities; and support emerging public recreation activities. Comments may be submitted until Jan. 30 by e-mail to DNR-RecreationFeedback@michigan.gov.



Don't miss out! Register for MTA's Annual Conference & Expo today!

The 56th Annual MTA Educational Conference & Expo, Jan. 28-30, 2009, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, is fast-approaching. Don't miss your chance to be part of the hottest thing happening in January!



Here are some important reminders and deadlines:

- Regular rates are in effect until **Tuesday, Jan. 13**; after that date, attendees must register on-site. Save time by [registering online](#) today! Or [download](#) the Conference registration brochure.
- Learn more about MTA's new [pre-Conference tracks](#) on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Each full-day event offers targeted content, lunch and networking opportunities.
- Don't forget to register your [auditors](#) and [attorneys](#) for their respective institutes.
- Register your township to be part of the 2009 Parade of Flags, held Wednesday, Jan. 28, during the Conference's Opening Session. Click [here](#) for more information on the Parade, or e-mail [Jenn](#) to register. Registrations must be received by **Monday, Jan. 12**.
- Don't forget the "card shower" MTA is hosting for retiring MTA Member Information Liaison Evelyn David. A "mailbox" for cards will be available at Conference near the MTA Booth.



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MTA seeks volunteers for review of laws affecting townships

The MTA Legislative Department is conducting a comprehensive review of state laws relevant to townships to identify areas that are ambiguous, incomplete or outdated, and target them for revision. We would like to include township officials in the review process, which is expected to begin in mid-February. The review should involve no more than three meetings, much of which can be done via conference calls and other electronic means. If you would like to participate, please contact David Bertram by Feb. 6, 2009, at (517) 321-6467 or david@michigantownships.org.

MTA ushers in 2009 with new Web design

Be sure to check out the new look at www.michigantownships.org. MTA's Web site now includes a more contemporary format, with new features designed to provide easier accessibility, better navigation tools and greater functionality.



New interactive components--including MTA's social networking site, *Community Connection* (see below for more information)--will be incorporated later this month. Please be patient as MTA and our partners, LIAA and Higher Logic, work through the transitional phase of launching our new site, and kindly report any use problems or broken links to us by e-mailing tammie@michigantownships.org. We trust that you will find this site to be of great value in the year ahead!

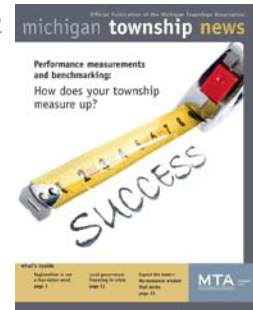


Be part of the MTA online community

MTA is in final preparations to launch *Community Connection*, an online networking site for township officials, later this month. This new social media site will provide you the opportunity to connect with officials from across Michigan to share valuable information and sample documents, offer innovative solutions and generate exciting ideas. Click [here](#) for details.

2008 Michigan Township News article index now online

The [2008 Michigan Township News \(MTN\) article index](#) is now available online. This comprehensive listing is a compilation of key articles that appeared in MTN in 2008, allowing you to quickly pinpoint and locate the issue and page number for each article. Articles are broken down by topic.



MTA hosts Board of Review Training at 15 sites in February

To assist board of review members, alternates and township supervisors in preparing for 2009 board of review sessions, MTA is hosting 15 afternoon *Board of Review Training* workshops next month.



Concurrent sessions will be offered at each location to allow participants to choose the appropriate level and topics of interest. The advanced session is geared to experienced board of review members, while the basic session acquaints newer board of review members with statutory duties and requirements.

Save money by registering before Jan. 16! [Register now](#) or download a registration brochure [here](#).

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