

**LOCAL UPDATES FROM ACROSS MICHIGAN**

**Township happenings**

A portion of highway I-94 in Kalamazoo County will be named in honor of former **Comstock Charter Township** (Kalamazoo Co.) Fire Chief **Ed Switalski** under Senate Bill 543 signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. Switalski was struck and killed by a vehicle while responding to an accident on June 13, 2017. “Chief Ed Switalski Memorial Highway” begins at exit 80 on I-94 and ends at mile marker 86. “Michigan’s first responders put their lives on the line daily to help ensure the safety of all Michiganders, and Fire Chief Switalski made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty,” Snyder said. “On behalf of all Michiganders, it’s an honor to recognize his bravery and service by naming this stretch of highway in his memory.”

**Harrison Charter Township** (Macomb Co.) recently debuted a redesigned township website, creating a visually appealing and user-friendly information hub for residents, businesses and visitors.

**Lyon Charter Township** (Oakland Co.) is hosting its 10th Annual Lyon Township Kite Festival in June at James Atchison Park. Kite-flying professionals from all over the world will showcase their award-winning skills choreographed to music. Hundreds of kites take flight on Saturday during the mass ascension. Kids receive a free kite to customize with decorations, and attendees can enjoy live music, games, food, live animal presentations, cars on display and vendors.



**West Bloomfield Charter Township** (Oakland Co.) joined scores of Michiganders and others around the world in congratulating township resident Kyle Mack on his Silver Medal win in snowboarding big air at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Email YOUR Township Happenings to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org). Add MTA to your newsletter mailing list! Mail to MTA, Attn. Jenn Fiedler, PO Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078, or email to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org).

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**SAFETY FIRST**

**Study ranks townships among safest communities in Michigan, nation**

Townships once again topped a recent listing of safest communities in Michigan. The National Council for Home Safety and Security and alarms.org recently released their annual list of the safest communities in every state for 2018. The listing is for communities over 10,000 population.

Of the top 25 communities listed, 19 were townships. As identified in numerous similar lists over the past years, **Grosse Ile Township** (Wayne Co.) was ranked the safest community in the state, with just two violent crimes and 15 property crimes in the latest year for which data is available. Further, noted the group, “These excellent numbers render the town one of the safest in the nation: top five overall.”

**Oakland Charter Township** (Oakland Co.), **Hamburg Township** (Livingston Co.) and **Brandon Charter Township** (Oakland Co.) came in at Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The study noted the low crime rates were “characteristic of communities of their size in The Great Lakes State.”

**Flushing Charter Township** (Genesee Co.), **Independence Charter Township** (Oakland Co.) and **Springfield Charter Township** (Oakland Co.) rounded out townships appearing in the top 10.

To compile its list, the organization reviewed the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics, along with its own population data and internal research.

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