

## **MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE CHANGES FIREWORKS LAW November 2018**

Since 2013, Michiganders have endured commercial-grade fireworks blasting in their neighborhoods for 30 days each year. Pet owners and parents complained that the noise scared their dogs and woke their sleeping children. Now, a package of bills passed by the Legislature will provide relief. **House Bills 5939** and **5941**, sponsored by Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Park Twp.), and **HB 5940**, sponsored by Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville), are now Public Acts 633, 634 and 635 of 2018. Here are some of the highlights as they might pertain to Crystal Lake Township:

### **Limits Fireworks Usage to 12 instead of 30**

The new laws reduce the days in which consumer fireworks can be used to just 12 days a year. Under PA 634, local units of government cannot regulate the use of consumer fireworks on the following days after 11 a.m.:

- Dec. 31 until 1 a.m. on Jan. 1
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on both days
- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. each day
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. each day

### **Violation Fines Raised**

Local units of government may regulate the use of fireworks outside of those hours and can impose a civil fine for each violation. Currently, fees are limited to \$500 for each violation, but the new law doubles that limit to \$1,000—half of which must go to the local police departments for enforcement.

### **No-Burn Ban**

PA 633 allows fire chiefs as well as the governor, Department of Natural Resources or state fire marshal to enforce a no-burning restriction in case of drought or other weather conditions. Once a fire condition is downgraded, the ban must be lifted within 24 hours, and the public must be informed.

### **Selling without a Certificate**

If a person sells fireworks without a consumer fireworks certificate, that person would be responsible for a civil fine under PA 633, rather than a misdemeanor as under current law. The new law addresses fees and processes for individuals with such a certificate.