
Oakfield Township Outlook

Winter 2020/2021

10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. 49341
Phone: (616) 754-5679 Fax: (616) 754-0989
Office Hours Mon. – Thur. 8-12 noon & 1-5pm on Tues. & Wed.



From the Supervisor:

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Oakfield Township Supervisor, *Greg Dean*

Zoning News & Notes:

Due to COVID – 19 we are unable to get into the courts for any enforcement of Zoning.



FROM YOUR TREASURER:

We hope you are enjoying your fall and that you have a safe winter. It is time to send tax bills once again and we wanted to review a few key issues.

2020 WINTER TAXES ARE DUE DECEMBER 1, 2020 AND PAYABLE UNTIL 5 PM ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 WITHOUT INTEREST AND PENALTY. STARTING MARCH 2, 2021, TAXES MUST BE PAID AT THE COUNTY.

Payment Options:

Check or money order preferred. Please write legibly and include parcel number(s) and telephone number. Payments made through your Bank Bill Pay DO NOT arrive at the township on the date you pay them. Please allow enough time for mailed payments to reach the township before the deadline. **POSTMARKS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS ON-TIME PAYMENTS.** If your check is not honored by the bank, the tax is considered unpaid and will be restored to the tax roll without further notice. If paying with cash, please bring exact change. *Credit or debit cards are not accepted.* Tax collection hours are Monday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. - noon,

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m.- noon and 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
The township office is closed on Fridays. However, we will be open
8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2020 for tax collection.

**THERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS TO CHECK
WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR TAX BILL.**

ESCROW ACCOUNTS FOR TAXES

If your taxes are paid from an escrow account, your copy of the tax bill should state under the “**Escrow Message**” (top left corner) that your bill has been sent to your mortgage company or the tax service that services your mortgage company. If this message does not appear on your tax bill, **you** are responsible for paying. You should contact your mortgage holder and resolve the problem.

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION

Look in the top section of your bill under “Tax Detail” to verify you have the 100% Principal Residence Exemption (PRE). If you qualify, and the exemption is in place, the tax detail portion of your bill will state “PRE % 100.000”. By State of Michigan standards, you must own and **occupy** your home on or before June 1st of the current year and November 1st for the winter. It must be the only property for which you have filed. If you think you qualify for a principal residence exemption and don’t have it, please contact our assessor, Matthew Smith, at (616) 754-5679. The exemption reduces the School Operating Tax for **Cedar Springs** and **Rockford** School Districts on the **summer** bill, and **Greenville, Belding,** and **Rockford** School Districts for the **winter** bill.

REVIEW YOUR TAX BILL FOR ACCURACY

We would again encourage you to read and review your bill for accuracy. Are your name and address correct? Is your principal residence exemption up to date? If you have moved and still own the property, please notify the Township of your change of address.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TAXES EVEN THOUGH YOU DON’T RECEIVE THE BILL BECAUSE OF A WRONG MAILING ADDRESS. We strive to keep all information current, but

with continued activity of sales, building, and parcel splits, errors can occur. Some changes take time to clear through the system, so if you have a question on your parcel, please call our office for conformation of status.

IF YOU WANT A RECEIPT, PLEASE ENCLOSE BOTH PORTIONS OF THE TAX BILL WITH YOUR CHECK AND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. WE WILL RETURN THE TOP PORTION.

**If you find any discrepancies on the bill or have any questions, please contact us immediately. The phone number is (616) 754-5679.
THE LAST DAY TO PAY TAXES WITHOUT INTEREST & PENALTY IS FEBRUARY 16th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Postmarks are **NOT** accepted as on-time payments. Unpaid taxes are delinquent March 2nd and must be paid at the county.

Betsy N. Koett, Treasurer and Amy Christensen, Deputy Treasurer



Clerk's Corner:

Well 2020 was certainly a year full of challenges but the good news is we made it through!!

The election schedule for this year should be much lighter. However, if you feel more comfortable voting contactless you may want to consider voting absentee ballot.

Due to the passage of proposal 3 in 2018 you no longer need a reason to vote absentee. This means anyone can request an

absentee ballot and/or be placed on the permanent absentee ballot list. Drop by or give us a call and we will be happy to take care of that for you!

2021 Election Dates:

May 4 ~ Consolidated

Aug 3 ~ Consolidated

Nov 2 ~ Consolidated

If you plan on visiting us in person at the Township Offices you are required to wear a mask to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please let us know if we can answer any questions for you or be of any help.

*We hope you have a safe and healthy holiday season!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Sue Trainer, Clerk

Ashlee Vanderkooi, Deputy Clerk



ASSESSOR

Please check your Tax Bill for the correct homestead exemption status, spelling, addresses, and legal descriptions. If you receive a Tax Bill and are no longer the owner of the property, please give us a call so we can get a Tax Bill to the new owner.

VETERANS: Please file your VA letter along with the State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption (form 5107) with the assessor's office prior to the March Board of Review on March 8, 2021 in order to receive your tax exemption for 2021.

Finally, Oakfield Township offers an exemption from property taxes if your household income is below the federal poverty guidelines. If you believe you qualify for exemption from property taxes for 2021 due to poverty/low income, contact me as soon as possible in order to begin the application process. You will be required to provide copies of your state and federal income tax returns or Michigan Department of Treasury form 4988 for all members of your household.

Please feel free to contact me at the township office with any questions regarding the veteran's exemption, the poverty exemption program, or any other assessing related matters.

Matthew J. Smith

Oakfield Township Assessor

assessor@oakfieldtp.org

(616)754-5679

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00



Fire Department:

Greetings from your Fire Department

If you're planning to burn brush, leaves, or any other yard waste, you must have a burning permit. Permits are easily obtainable, simply by calling the Fire Station and speaking with the Fire Chief, providing the dates you will be burning and type of materials you plan to burn.

Take a look at the new sign in front of the Township Hall, we are now able to post daily Fire Danger classifications to help with your decision on when to do your Burning.

If you have any questions about these items, please feel free to call me at any time and I will be glad to provide you with more information.

Sincerely,

Samuel Peterson, Fire Chief

Fire Auxiliary Commission:

The Auxiliary is a small group that actively supports the firefighters of Oakfield Township. We organize fundraisers and give our support when needed at fire scenes by providing snacks water and sometimes coffee. We meet four times a year for about an hour and a few other times throughout the year for activities. There are currently open positions on the auxiliary if you are interested in becoming part of our group.

A look at what the auxiliary has done this year

Auxiliary Annual Picnic- A gathering of our firefighters and their families. This cook out is a special time enjoying food and

games to show our appreciation to the firefighters for all their work, dedication, and sacrifice.

Halloween Open House- Our Station was open for drive thru trick or treating on Halloween night. We had many visitors come to enjoy a quick visit despite things having to be a bit different due to COVID-19 restrictions this year. Treats of donuts, cider, coffee and candy made this a spectacular event.

Appreciation ceremony- October 15th we celebrated our appreciation for our Firefighters. Chief Sam Peterson was presented with a plaque from his crew for his years of dedication as their chief. Each of the firefighters were also presented with a gift bag of items from the auxiliary as a thank you for their service as well. Cake and ice cream were enjoyed by all.

Upcoming events

Versiti Blood Donation- 2021 will be our fifth year welcoming Versiti Blood (formerly Michigan Blood) to Oakfield Township for blood drives. Our last drive was held on October 28th and we had a wonderful attendance.

Dates for 2021 are Mar. 3, May 5, July 7, Sept. 1, Oct. 27, and Dec. 29 from 2:00 – 7:00. Please consider coming in to donate as blood is always in need.

Chili Cook Off- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are cancelling the Jan Chili-Cook-Off. We hope to reschedule, but will keep you posted.

Flower Baskets- Watch for information in the spring for our annual hanging basket fundraiser.

Get beautiful flowers and support your local fire department.

For Sale- Make sure in the time of need your house number can be clearly seen. If you would like to purchase a reflective house number sign contact the department (616) 754-5122 the price is \$15.



OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Oakfield Museum has been closed all of 2020 due to the pandemic. Hopefully, it will be able to open in the spring. The township Historical Commission that oversees the museum includes seven Oakfield residents who usually meet four times per year, but have not been able to meet this year. Several volunteers usually also help to maintain the museum and seek historical connections to Oakfield Township. Not so in 2020!

With the school situation this year, we also missed seeing our usual second graders from Lincoln Heights who came to the museum every year as part of their curriculum. We always enjoyed their fascination with the dial telephone, the voting machine, old typewriters and the dishwasher patented in 1887. They would chuckle about the hole in the stage floor where the piano was

raised in the old days for special upstairs dances and other events. They liked “voting” with the Gleaner “ballot box” that taught them what the term “black-balled” means. They also enjoyed the one-room schoolhouse experience, but didn’t think much of the dunce cap or the pail-and-dipper drinking system!

This year, with limitations on indoor funeral gatherings, more graveside remembrances have been held. Genealogists often seek photos of their ancestors’ gravestones, so most of them in our three township cemeteries have been photographed in recent years for that purpose. Many gravestones date back to the mid-1800s and are very fragile and difficult to read, if they can even be found! Names include whole families of the early pioneers of our township who often lost several children at the same time because of epidemics and such. Graves of all Veterans have an American flag, in remembrance of their service to our country. Township sextons and caretakers work hard to keep our cemeteries looking neat and well kept.

The museum is always seeking artifacts that have a direct connection with Oakfield township, so as you downsize, have estate sales, or whatever, please let us know if you have something unique to our township history. If you have an interest in the history of Oakfield or just history in general, come and be a part of the volunteers of the museum. Residents of Oakfield township are eligible to be on the Historical Commission, but other volunteers are welcome to attend meetings and help with museum duties. It’s amazing the things one can learn about our own community both past and present! Appointments can also be made to do genealogical research at the museum during its open season. Call Sharon Bouck at 616-754-4553 for any information!

Come visit the Oakfield Museum when it opens again and enjoy its interesting history of Oakfield Township! We'll be looking for YOU!



Meeting Schedule:

Township Board of Trustees:

7:00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month

Planning Commission:

7:00 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of the month. Meets quarterly, additionally as needed.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

7:00 p.m. 4th Tuesday of the month as needed.



**10300 14 Mile Road
Rockford, MI. 49341**

Phone: 616-754-5679

Fax: 616-754-0989

Web Site: oakfieldtwp.org

Oakfield Township Board of Trustees:

William Greg Dean, Supervisor

Sue Trainer, Clerk

Larry Parker, Treasurer

Trustees: Bryan Porter, Pamela Riker, Ken Rittersdorf, and
Chad Sowerby

Assessor- Matthew Smith

Tuesday 8 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm

Wednesday 8 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm

Zoning Administrator - Roger Mason

6:00 to 7:00 pm Tuesday

9:30 to 11:00 am Saturday

Building Inspector- P.C.I.

8:30 am to 10:30 Tuesday and Thursday

Fire Chief- Sam Peterson

8 am – 4 pm Monday – Friday

Burn Permits: Fire Barn 754-5122