
Oakfield Township Outlook

Summer 2017

10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. 49341. (616)754-5679
Fax (616)754-0989
Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 8-12 noon, also 1-5pm on
Wednesday & Thursday



Clerk's Corner:

Thanks for coming out to vote at the special school election on May 2, 2017. We do not have any elections coming up for this summer. If you would like to sign up for absentee voting for future elections please read the list below to see if you qualify.

You can receive an absentee ballot if:

- You are 60 years of age or older
- You expect to be absent from the community the entire time the polls are open on election day

- You are physically unable to attend the polls without assistance
- You cannot attend the polls because of religious beliefs
- You have been appointed a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where you reside
- You are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Call or stop by and we will add you to the absentee list if you meet one of the above requirements.

If you have signed up for absentee ballots, prior to each election an application postcard requesting the ballot will be mailed automatically to you. Once the signed application is received and verified by the Clerk, your ballot will be mailed. The Clerk must have a signed application for **EACH** election.



Have you ever checked out Oakfield Townships 3 cemeteries? Stop by and take a look! We are proud of the many veterans that have served our country. Look for the flags! It is interesting to see the rich history we have here in Oakfield Township. A huge thank you to all who have served and are serving!!

Horton Cemetery on the corner of 14 Mile & Lapple
Oakfield Cemetery on Wellman & Stultz
White Swan Cemetery on the corner of 12 Mile & Nugent



Enjoy your Summer!
Linda VanHouten, Clerk
Bonnie Rausch, Deputy Clerk

The Treasurer's Desk



We hope you are having a great summer. It is time to send tax bills once again and we wanted to review a few key issues.

2017 SUMMER TAXES ARE DUE JULY 1 AND PAYABLE UNTIL 5 PM ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 WITHOUT INTEREST.

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.* Township Office hours are Monday & Tuesday 8am-noon, Wednesday & Thursday 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm. The township office is closed on Fridays.

THERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS TO CHECK AS SOON AS 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 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, Marla, at 754-5679. The exemption reduces the School Operating Tax for **Cedar Springs** and **Rockford** School Districts on the **summer** bill.

QUALIFYING SENIORS MAY APPLY FOR A SUMMER TAX DEFERRMENT. This will defer payment of the summer tax until the winter taxes are due. Please contact the Treasurer’s office for more information.

REVIEW YOUR TAX BILL FOR ACCURACY

We would again encourage you to read and review your bill for accuracy. Is 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, LEGAL SIZE 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 IS SEPTEMBER 14th, 2017.

Larry D. Parker, Treasurer
Betsy Koett, Deputy Treasurer



Assessor's Desk

Please check your Tax Bill for correct spelling, addresses, legal descriptions and Principal Residence Exemption %.

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.

Just a reminder for everyone, if you own vacant land in Oakfield Township and you change your mailing address please let the Assessor know your new address, we have a lot of returned mail every tax season.

Remember Veterans you need to be 100% disabled or 100% unemployable with a service related disability to be exempt from Property tax on your homestead only. Form is available at the Township Hall.

If you sell property to a blood relative to the first degree, you or your spouse's, mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter etc. It does not uncap the property; this took effect Jan. 1, 2014. Please remember to check the appropriate box on the Property Transfer Affidavit.

Have a safe summer!

Marla M. Platt, Assessor

Fire Department

Greetings from your Fire Department.



We have made it through another winter in Michigan. That means we are now into the warm months where we are able to get outdoors and enjoy everything Michigan has to offer. Our area contains many lakes for fishing, boating and swimming. We also have great camping areas to enjoy, and many wooded areas. Unfortunately, many of these things we enjoy, also contain many things we don't enjoy, including Mosquitoes, Ticks, Bees, Ants, and many other warm weather pests. Ants and house flies can contaminate food. Stinging insects send more than 500,000 people to the emergency room each year. Mosquitoes are carriers of the potentially fatal West Nile virus, as well as other illnesses that are becoming more prevalent across the U.S., such as the Chikungunya virus. Be sure to use a good Mosquito repellent, and if allergic to bee stings, make sure to have your Epi-pens handy.

This is also the time of the year when we are clearing our yards of all the fallen brush and debris that accumulated over the winter. When doing your cleanup, if you plan 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.

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



Oakfield Historical Commission Update

Spring and summer brings warmer weather – AND the opening of the Oakfield Museum after its winter rest. First event of the season the first weekend in May is always the “Spring Into the Past” open house of the member museums of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network, including our Oakfield Museum. There were over 50 visitors at our museum for the event May 6 and 7.

This year’s Tri-River theme is “Fashions through the Ages” and we are displaying a variety of garments from many ages, including a Civil War era dress, a wedding gown, and other fashions, as well as some unique undies. Along with the garments are a variety of fashionable accessories such as gloves, nylons, jewelry, hats and shoes. M’lady never looked so lovely!

On the practical side, a “Caring for Fashions through the Ages” display ranges from washboards to a rocker washer to manual wringers. A copper tub for heating water, a clothesline, pant stretchers and a myriad of irons rounds out the collection. We think people of today shouldn’t complain about doing laundry after seeing what the pioneers had to go through!

Continuing to stretch the fashion theme, we also feature unique hairstyling items, from curling irons, home permanents, hair combs

and clips and a grotesque-looking electric hair curling machine! Several personal grooming items for the men are also displayed, as well as an old-time barber chair.

The Oakfield Historical Commission includes seven Oakfield residents who meet four times per year. Present members are Clair and Sharon Bouck, Ed and Alice Jackson, John Frueh Jr, Steve Tower and Carolyn Balko. Several volunteers also help to maintain the museum and seek historical connections to Oakfield township.

If you’re a genealogist, we encourage you to check out the many historical archives in our research area. Birth and death certificates, school records, and other documents may help you trace your Oakfield ancestors and solve a brick wall in your research.

Come during open hours or private research time and visits can be arranged by calling the Boucks at 616-754-4553.

The museum will be open the second and fourth Sundays of June through September from 2 to 4 pm. Come and visit the museum and see our fashionable collections! It’s located on Podunk Road, about ¼ mile south of M-57 or accessible off Lincoln Lake Road on 13-Mile to Podunk. Bring the kids, too!



Meeting Schedule

Township Board of Trustees:

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

Planning Commission:

7:00 p.m. 3rd Tuesday; March, June, September,
December

Additionally if needed.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

7:00 p.m. 3rd Wednesday of each 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

Linda L. VanHouten, Clerk

Larry Parker, Treasurer

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

Assessor- Marla Platt

8 am – 12 pm & 1-5 pm Wednesday & Thursday

Zoning Administrator – Roger Mason

6:00 to 7:00pm 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