
Oakfield Township Outlook

Summer 2019

10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI, 49341. (616)754-5679

Fax (616)754-0989

Office Hours Monday 8-12 pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 8-12 & 1-5 pm,
Thursday 8-12 pm



From the Supervisor:

The Township has started the construction on 13 Mile Road between Wabasis and Podunk. This paving project will be a two year project and will be completed in the Fall of 2020. At that time the Township will decide which road will be next on the list for paving. With that said, I hope all of you have a safe Summer.

Greg Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor

Zoning News & Notes:

Now that Spring is upon us it is time to take stock of your property conditions. While cleaning up, be sure to dispose of yard waste. Also, a reminder that unlicensed motor vehicles are not allowed to be stored in yards or behind barns or garages. While I don't patrol the Township seeking out these vehicles, once one is reported I am duty bound to contact the property owner and note that it must be disposed of or placed within a structure, such as a garage or pole barn.

Additionally, property owners that are planning to construct additions of other structures must come into the office and apply for a Zoning Permit prior to starting construction. The area where the structure is to be placed should be staked out so I can inspect the site for zoning and placement approval. It is imperative that the structure meets the setback restrictions of Oakfield Township. Please also note that accessory buildings such as pole barns and/or garages cannot be placed on property that does not have a residence on the property.

Roger Mason, Zoning Administrator



Clerk's Corner:



Prepare now for the upcoming busy election year in 2020! ALL registered voters are now eligible to vote absentee if you have met the photo ID requirement rule when you registered to vote.

Absentee voting is a method of voting in which you can receive and mark the ballot before Election Day.

- Absentee voting applications are available 75 days before each election. Ballots are available 45 days prior to each election
- Submit an application for a ballot to your Township Clerk's Office.
- We will issue a ballot to you once we have your application processed and ballots are available.
- You can review the candidates and proposals and mark your vote(s) at your leisure.
- Once you have made your selection(s) on the ballot, seal it in the return ballot envelope. The ballot envelope has to be signed by the voter ONLY.
- The Clerk's Office must receive the ballot no later than 8 pm on Election Day.

- The absentee voting process can take place in person, by mail, or by using the drop box.
- The Absent Voter Processing Board will count the absentee ballots on Election Day. YES, they do get counted!

If you want to vote absentee in future elections, we can add you to an absent voter list.

We will mail an application to you before each election. If you want to vote absentee in that election, complete the application and return it to the Clerk's Office. If you'd rather vote in person at your precinct or not at all, you may dispose of the application.

In order to be placed on the Absent Voter list, you may do one of the following:

1. Complete the Absent Voter list form.
2. Call the Clerk's office at 616-754-5679
3. Email a request to clerk@oakfieldtwp.org (include your name, address and date of birth).

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



The Treasurer's Desk:



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

2019 SUMMER TAXES ARE DUE JULY 1 AND PAYABLE UNTIL 5 PM ON SEPTEMBER 16 (AS THE 14 IS ON SATURDAY), 2019 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 & Thursday 8am-noon, Tuesday & Wednesday 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm. The township office is closed on Fridays. We will be open 9am-5pm on Monday September 16, 2019 for tax collection.

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, Matthew Smith, 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, 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 16th, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

Larry D. Parker, Treasurer and Betsy Koett, Deputy Treasurer

Assessor's Desk:



Please check your tax bill for correct spelling, addresses and legal descriptions.

Disabled Veterans who are 100% disabled and/or 100% unemployable are now eligible for an exemption from property taxes and no longer need to apply for the Adapted Housing Grant. Please submit a Veterans Exemption Affidavit and a copy of your VA letter to the township Assessor between January 1st and March 1st in order to apply. Applications must be made annually.

As of Jan. 1, 2014; if a property is transferred between parents and offspring that transfer will no longer result in an uncapping of the property's taxable value.

Parcel information can be found on our website oakfieldtwp.org or at accesskent.com by selecting Property Search under the Online Services menu.

Matthew J. Smith
Oakfield Township Assessor

Fire Department:



Happy beginning of summer. I would like to use this space to give you, our residents, an update on our department since the inception of our Fire Millage.

Since approval of these funds the department has been able to do some critical updating of equipment that will make both our Township and our firefighters safer. Here is a rundown so far:

- A new pump was added to our Tanker truck, giving us the ability to pump water directly off the truck, essentially making it a rolling Fire Hydrant.
- New Laundry Equipment was purchased bringing us up to NFPA standards to remove carcinogens from our turnout gear, making our firefighters safer.
- New SCBA (self-contained breathing Apparatus) units were purchased to replace 15 year old units. These are the air packs that must be worn at fire calls.
- New boots, helmets, and gloves were able to be purchased to replace old and worn gear.
- Video equipment was purchased to facilitate better classroom learning.

I would like to thank the Township residents for approving these funds as they go a long way towards making our department a better, safer place.

We are also currently looking for new Firefighters, if this something you have an interest in, please stop in and meet with me. I will be glad to give you all the information.

Thank You for this opportunity to serve you,
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.

Michigan Blood- This will be our third year welcoming Michigan Blood to Oakfield Township for blood drives. Our last drive was held on March 6th and we had our biggest turn out yet. Dates for this year are May 23, July 25, September 26 and December 4. Please consider coming in to donate as blood is always in need.

Chili Cook Off- Our 2nd annual Chili Cook Off took place on January 12 and was well attended. We had 10 delicious entries to be enjoyed this year resulting in a good profit for the auxiliary. Work on perfecting your recipe for next year and be ready to enter this fun contest.

Spring Flower Sale- We held our 4th annual flower basket sale in April and were able to deliver beautiful baskets in time for Mother's day. The fire fighters and auxiliary made record sales this year with 202 baskets sold for a profit of over \$1100.

Profits- The profits made by the auxiliary are put to good use each year. We purchase gifts for the residents of our area adult foster care homes. The residents really enjoy the gifts delivered to them by our fire fighters. The auxiliary purchases dress uniform shirts for each new fire fighter that joins our team. We also use our profits to provide a snack box when the department is out on calls.

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 at (616) 754-5122, the price is \$15.

Events for this Year:

May 23 Blood Drive
June 2 Fire Fighter Picnic
June 18 Regular Meeting
July 25 Blood Drive
September 17 Regular Meeting
September 26 Blood Drive
October 31 Halloween Open House 6-8 pm
December 3 Regular Meeting
December 4 Blood Drive

Any questions feel free to call Jasmine Dombrowski,
secretary at (616) 824-9829



Oakfield Historical Commission Update:

The Oakfield Museum is open 2nd and 4th Sundays in June through September from 2-4 pm.

In years gone by, many folks cut items from the newspapers and pasted them into scrapbooks, often pasting the articles right over the pages of a book they had read. These scrapbooks can be gold mines of useful information to genealogists and historians. If you find such a gem in the belongings of your family or ancestors, DO NOT throw it out! If you personally don't want it, share it with family members or donate it to an area library or museum. Pages can be photographed and digitized, then indexed so names and subjects can be located easily by others.

A local resident recently acquired several wonderful scrapbooks, with news items dating back to the 1890s. They're full of obituaries, wedding and anniversary announcements, news of social events, comings and goings of residents and much other information. Perusing the scrapbooks, we learned about...

-A Tornado in Oakfield in 1896! It started in Courtland Township and went into the southwest corner of Oakfield, affecting the farms of Elsby, Childs and Tower. "When it struck the Childs' house the family were preparing for bed. They had no warning of the coming danger until the roof was flying in the air."

-Social events in summer of 1894 were held to raise funds for the Oakfield Centre Chapel:

..."At EH Jones' it was ice cream against the heat and ice cream took the lead and kept it all through the merry evening...\$29.50 was raised." (Love their description!)

-A meeting of the Oakfield and Courtland Pioneer Club was "held at the pleasant home of the venerable E.J. Wellman, a resident of Oakfield for over 57 years." After a fine dinner, minutes of the club showed that four members had died during the year.

-Yule Mail Reminder: All Christmas cards, sealed or unsealed must have 6 cents postage affixed this year. Effective Jan. 7, 1968, the third class rate for greeting cards, including Christmas cards was raised from 4 cents ...to 6 cents."

The Oakfield Museum, located on south Podunk Road, is open the second and fourth Sundays of June through September from 2 to 4 pm. It is a treasure trove of more historical news and artifacts for you to discover. It also has scrapbooks of interesting Oakfield news items through the years, as well as death and tax records, school items and much more for family research.

IF YOU HAVE SCRAPBOOKS or other memorabilia, let the Historical Commission know so they can see if they are important to Oakfield history. We can even scan items for our use and return the original to you. Better yet, get involved in the history of Oakfield Township and the museum. We would welcome volunteers to help organize, clean, record, digitize, index, and many other needs! Call Sharon Bouck, 754-4553 for more information.



Hope to see you at the museum!



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. 4th Tuesday 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- Matthew Smith
1-5 pm Monday, 8-12 & 1-5 pm Tuesday, 1-5 pm Wednesday

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