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# Oakfield Township Outlook

Winter 2018/2019

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10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. 49341  
phone: (616) 754.5679 Fax:(616) 754.0989  
Office Hours Mon. – Thur. 8-12 noon, also 1-5pm on Tues. & Wed.



## From the Supervisor:

The township has completed the 16 Mile Road paving project that we did on a cost share with Spencer Township. Things went well and it was completed within the amount that we budgeted. In the Summer of 2019, the Township will start the 13 Mile Road paving project between Podunk Road and Wabasis Ave. This will be a very costly project so we will have to spread the project over a 2 to 3 year time frame. I will let you know which end of 13 Mile we will be starting at in the Summer (June) Newsletter. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Greg Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor

## Zoning News & Notes:

During the past 2 years your Zoning Administrator has been busy with new building Zoning permits as building continues to be fast paced. This part of Zoning is only one aspect of the activities of your Zoning activities.

Also we have been enforcing the Zoning Ordinances in the areas of trash and unlicensed inoperable vehicles. Over 150 vehicles have been removed for the township since November 2017.

We have had to issue citations on 5 occasions for violation of our Zoning Ordinances which were resolved through 63rd District Court action. These citations were for trash/ inoperable vehicles, building without obtaining proper permits, and using residential property as dump site.

These court actions resulted in ordering the property owners to bring their property into compliance with our ordinances. In all cases these property owners were given from 30 to 60 days to comply prior to the issuance of a citation.

Please, when given notice of a violation on your property bring it into compliance with the ordinance violation within the allowed time frame.

Also when you wish to build or add an out building to your property please visit the Township Zoning Administrator to obtain the proper permits. My hours are:

Tuesday evenings 6:00PM to 7:00 PM

Saturdays 9:30AM to 11:00 AM

Wishing you a very happy Holiday Season.

D. Roger Mason

Zoning Administrator



## The Treasurer's Desk:

We hope you are enjoying 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.

**2018 WINTER TAXES ARE DUE DECEMBER 3, 2018 AND PAYABLE UNTIL THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2019 WITHOUT INTEREST AND PENALTY. WE WILL BE IN THE OFFICE 8-5 ON DECEMBER 26, 2018 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2019. UNPAID TAXES GO TO COUNTY MARCH 1, 2019.**

### 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 8am-noon, Tuesday and Wednesday 8am-noon & 1pm-5pm, Thursday 8am-noon. 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, 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, and November 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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.

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.

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



### Clerk's Corner:

Thank you to all who came out to vote in 2018! We had record turnouts in both the August primary and the November midterm! We are currently unaware of any elections for 2019.

However, there could possibly be either a county wide or school election in May or November.

Have you heard about the new Driver's License / ID? It is called the REAL ID. If you fly domestically and do not have a passport, you will need to have this type of updated driver's license, by October 1, 2020. We have information available here in our office or you can get information at the Secretary of State's office or visit their website at [www.mi.gov/sos](http://www.mi.gov/sos). Stop in and see us or give us a call if you have any questions!

*Merry Christmas and Happy 2019!*

Linda VanHouten, Clerk  
Bonnie Rausch, Deputy Clerk



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://oakfieldtwp.org) or at [accesskent.com](http://accesskent.com) by selecting Property Search under the Online Services menu.

Matthew J. Smith  
Oakfield Township Assessor



## Fire Department:

Once again we find ourselves at the Winter solstice. It is a beautiful time of the year with the trees covered in snow, icicles hanging everywhere, and children building snow men.

It is also a very dangerous time of the year. As we start to fire up our Furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, pellet stoves... you get the idea, we need to remember some safety checkpoints.

1. Make sure the smoke detectors in your home are in good working order. If you don't have smoke detectors, please contact my office, we can install them for you at no charge.
2. Check that all Carbon Monoxide detectors are in good working order, this is definitely not something you want to find out too late about.
3. Check Chimney pipes for creosote buildup and clean, or have cleaned as needed throughout the season to prevent chimney fires, and also prevent backup of carbon monoxide into the home.

Your Fire Department is here to assist with problems, but we would much rather meet you under good circumstances.

Keep your home safe this season, and stop in and meet us over a cup of coffee any time.

Chief Peterson

## Fire Auxiliary Commission:

The Auxiliary finished out the summer by hosting a picnic for the firefighters and their families. Everyone had a great time playing horseshoes and sitting around talking, while the kids played on the swings and slide.

Our fall mum sale was another success of a fundraiser. It was our second year and we sold more plant than last year. Special thanks to Andrew Orszula for chairing this event.

We were supposed to have a blood drive in September, however, Michigan Blood cancelled it due to lack of employees. We currently have one scheduled for December 6. This was originally scheduled for December 12. Please consider donating blood. The holiday season is a busy time in Michigan hospitals and they will need more blood than usual.

The Halloween Open House was a lot of fun this year. We had lots of cute trick-or-treaters and their parents come in. Special thanks to Klackles for donating their delicious cider and Meijer for donating the yummy donuts. We hope to see you all again next Halloween.

We will, once again, be taking Christmas gifts to the residents of the 3 Adult Foster Care homes in our township. We do this as a community service project and the resident appreciate the gifts and having our firefighters, along with Santa, go visit them. We have been doing this for many years. Last year we added frozen turkeys as a special treat and will do it again this year. Funds for this come from our spring flower basket sale.

Mark your calendars for our Chili Cook-off on January 12. More info will be posted on our Facebook page, as we get closer to that date. Last year we had 9 different chili's to taste and all were delicious.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

December 6 – Blood Drive

January 12 – Chili Cook-off

Spring 2019 – Flower Basket Sale



## Oakfield Historical Commission

These seven township residents have a mutual interest in the history of Oakfield Township and want to share that interest with others through the Oakfield Museum and other activities. Though several live in historic homes or have ancestors locally that go way back, that is not a requisite for serving on the Historical Commission! Anyone with an interest in history and a willingness to serve is welcome! We really need more people to be involved with the Oakfield Museum, even just as a volunteer.

**Come and visit and learn more about it!**

**Steve Tower** is president and his ancestors were some of the first settlers in Oakfield! His family home is a Sesquicentennial (150 years) Farm! His parents, Carl and Kate, had a virtual museum in their home and Steve continues to make wonderful discoveries, now that he is living there. At nearly every meeting he brings some artifact that he found in his home.

**Ray Salyer** has been a dedicated volunteer and just officially joined the Commission as vice president. He has also lived in the same home in the township for many years and always has great stories of township folks to relate. He loves talking to visitors when they come to the museum.

**Sharon Bouck** is secretary and enjoys doing genealogy research and digging in to find information. She is the main liaison with the

township office and keeps the group on their toes. (Her husband, Clair, was the former president until his term expired.)

**Ed and Alice Jackson** are members of the board and have lived in the Harvard area for many years, so the history of that area is represented. Ed often brings in unique “what is it” things to share and always has good stories to tell. Ed also maintains the museum building and property.

**John Frueh** is very artistic and also has a myriad of tools, so can do about anything we ask. He created the Oakfield Museum sign as well as the colorful quilt square sign by the museum parking lot. His Wabasis Lake sunrise photos are spectacular! He also assists with maintenance.

**Carolyn Balko** is always willing and eager to help with whatever is happening. Behind her property is where one of the first sawmills in the township was located and she says one can still see remnants of it! She likes helping with displays and exhibits.

There are several other volunteers who help as docents when the museum is open and sit in on commission meetings. Some have township ancestors while others are former township residents who have moved away but still have an interest in township history and museum. We can use a variety of talents, so encourage more volunteers to come and see – and join us!

**The Oakfield Museum is closed for the winter** but will open again May 4 and 5, 2019 for the annual “Spring Into the Past” tour of museums of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network. The theme will be “Getting From Here to There” so come and see how our exhibits display things involved with travel!

**See you next year at the Museum!!!**



## Meeting Schedule:

### ***Township Board of Trustees:***

7:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month

### ***Planning Commission:***

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

### ***Zoning Board of Appeals:***

7:00 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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