

# ASSESSOR'S DESK

Everyone knows the housing market has not improved significantly in Michigan. The Sales Study completed by Kent County Bureau of Equalization is based on Arms length transactions on the open market from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

The decline in Assessments will be -1% in Agricultural Class, -10% in Residential and Commercial for tax year 2010. These are tentative ratios until 12-31-09 but should hold true.

The State of Michigan has set the CPI (Consumer Price Index) for 2010 to .997 which is the first decline in taxable value since the beginning of Proposal A in 1994, which means those property owners who did not purchase in 2009 or add new construction will see a decrease in Property Taxes of .03% which is 3 tenths of 1%.

There is a new form, L-4640, entitled Conditional Rescission. This form will help those people who purchase a new Principal Residence in Michigan, and because of the market cannot sell their previous Principal Residence. With this new form you can have Principal Residence Exemptions on both homes for up to three (3) years. The previous Homestead must be unoccupied and for sale. For the first year of the Exemption, please file to Assessor by May 1st of that year. For the second and third year it has to be in by December 31st of the previous year. Forms are available at our office or go to the State link on our Web site ([www.oakfieldtwp.org](http://www.oakfieldtwp.org)), and go to Treasurer, Forms.

If you ever have questions please call on Monday, Wednesday or Friday during normal business hours.

Have a safe Holiday season!

**Marla M. Platt**, Assessor

# From the THE FIRE CHIEF

## IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU, WE CAN'T HELP YOU

I can not tell you how many times, while responding to an emergency, the fire or rescue personnel had to guess the address of a resident.

Next time you are driving down your road, take a look and see how many house numbers you can put with a particular house. How visible are they. How easy is it to tell which house they belong to? How about from both directions? Now add the factor, of 2 AM in the pouring rain how visible are the addresses? Are you one of these people who have their mail box grouped with four or five other neighbors? How would emergency crews know which numbers goes with which house?

If you live on one of the 190 plus private roads in the township what address would we be sent to, the one on the private road or one for the main road? Is the private road marked with a sign? Is your driveway marked after we get down the private road?

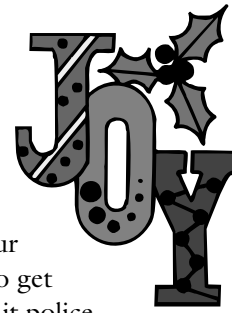
## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

First, I believe it is important that everyone in your house knows how to get emergency help, be it police, fire, or medical. Everyone should remember the phone number to call in an emergency it is 911. Make sure everyone knows how to give directions to your house. If you live on a private road tell the dispatcher what main road the private road runs off, and the nearest cross streets to the private road.

You can purchase numbers from your township office or your local hardware store. Have them so they can be seen from both directions and if your mail box is not by your driveway put a set of numbers at the driveway entrance.

Please don't wait until the emergency happens to do something about this problem.

**Mickey Davis**, Fire Chief



## CLEANING UP FORECLOSED PROPERTY

Over the last several years many residents have called to complain about properties that have gone into foreclosure and have been left unattended and in some cases deplorable shape. Rest assured that Oakfield Township and myself have done everything they can to see that these properties are cleaned up as soon as possible. We have attempted to contact the owners and in some cases even written tickets to the people

listed as owners of the property. These attempts have not always worked because the original owners have six months to redeem the property after foreclosure and remain the legal owners even though in many cases they cannot be found. We have had 100% success in getting the banks and mortgage companies to clean up properties once they actually get legal title. Please continue to call or write and let us know about those properties which are a disgrace to your neighborhood and we will continue to do everything possible to get them cleaned up.

**Will Konyudyk**, Zoning Administrator



# OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP OUTLOOK

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP

WINTER 2009



## 2009 HOLIDAY HOURS

### The Office Will Be Closed:

#### Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2009

#### Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2009

Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

#### Christmas

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2009

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 2009

#### New Years

Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

## COAT DONATIONS

Oakfield Township  
will be accepting  
donations  
of gently used winter  
coats until  
January 15, 2010.

Please drop them off  
at the Township Hall  
during regular business  
hours.

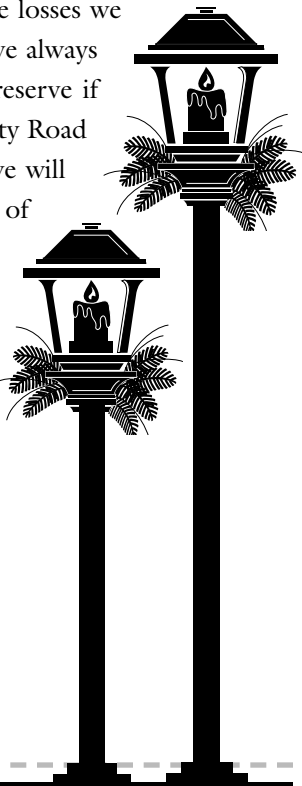
# From the SUPERVISOR

Road projects for the summer of 2009 went well and we came in about \$25,000.00 under budget. The Podunk paving project north M-57 to McClain has been completed also we overlaid 2.75 miles of gravel roads with limestone overlays the roads were **Stacey** between Morgan Mills and Montcalm, **Nugent** between 11 mile and 12 mile and **11 mile** between Lincoln Lake Ave. and Ashley. The Township also applied 3 Dust Layers and I have to say that the gravel roads this summer stayed in pretty good shape.

I would like to go back now to the 2009 summer newsletter. I had stated at that time road projects were up in the air for 2010 and that continued revenue sharing cuts from Lansing were the problem. I had projected that the Township would suffer about a 9% cut in revenue sharing which is a \$31,000.00 loss in revenue. Well, the crushing news has been delivered and we are actually going to suffer about a 20% revenue sharing cut which is a \$73,000.00 loss in revenue, which puts us back to 1977 revenue sharing levels. I hate to tell you this but the news from Lansing just gets worse. Their plans are to cut revenue sharing to Townships even more and to tell you the truth I don't know where the cuts in revenue sharing are going to end. To make matters worse, we have gotten word from Kent County that the county intends to start charging Townships for fire Dispatch. With all that being said their will be no paving of roads in Oakfield Township in the foreseeable future. The Township had planned to overlay 4.75 miles of gravel roads with Limestone gravel in 2010 but due to revenue losses we will reduce that number to 3.75 miles of gravel overlay. We have always budgeted for three dust layers and held a forth dust layer in reserve if we needed it. Due to coming policy changes at the Kent County Road Commission for dust layers and continued losses in revenue we will only budget for three dust layers and there will be no possibility of a forth dust layer in 2010.

I hope all of you can understand we can not bleed our reserves dry. Cuts have to be made due to revenue losses, we can not spend funds we do not have. The key to the problem is sound fiscal management and we intend to do just that, it's too bad they don't try the same approach in Lansing and Washington. In closing let me wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Greg Dean**, Oakfield Township Supervisor



**OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**10300 14 Mile Road**  
**Rockford, MI 49341**  
Phone: (616) 754-5679  
Fax: (616) 754-0989

**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Also 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Wednesday

**Oakfield Township  
Board of Trustees**

Supervisor: William Greg Dean  
Clerk: Linda L. Matz  
Treasurer: Larry Parker  
Trustees: Ken Rittersdorf, Darcia Kelly,  
Roger Mason, Brad Kelley  
  
Assessor - Marla Platt  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
Regular office hours

**Zoning Administrator - Willard Konyndyk**  
5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday

**Building Inspector - P.C.I.**  
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Tuesday &  
Thursday

**Fire Chief - Mickey Davis**  
8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Friday  
Burn Permits: Fire Barn (616) 754-5122

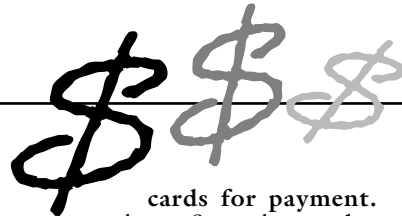
**MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Township Board of Trustees**  
7:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday each  
month

**Planning Commission**  
7:30 p.m., 3rd Tuesday each  
month (as needed)

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
6:30 p.m., 3rd Wednesday  
each month (as called)

*From the*  
**TREASURER**



Just as a reminder to the often asked questions regarding payments. First, **we do not accept credit cards, or debit cards for payment.** We do accept cash (**not recommended**), check or money orders. Second, **we do not accept post marks,** and if we do not receive payment by the due date it will be a late payment. **Interest and penalty start after the 15th of February.** Delinquent taxes are sent to the Kent County treasurer on the **1st of March.**

Summer taxes that were not paid by, or on the due date are subject to a 1% interest per month on the base amount. **1% through September, and October 1st starts a new month.** The interest is calculated from the first day of the month.

**SEPARATE CHECK REQUEST**

1. If you are paying your Summer, and Winter taxes at the same time we would appreciate two separate checks. These are two different accounts.
2. If the sewer bills are being paid at the same time, separate checks are required. These are separate accounts.
3. If a dog license is being paid at the same time as the taxes are being paid, cash or a separate check is required. We are acting as an agent for the Kent County Treasurer, and this is a separate account from the taxes.

Dog license will be delayed until early January. The County animal shelter is revising their fee schedule. The new license will not be available until they send them to us in January. Once received they can be purchased at the Township Hall during the normal business hours ending on March 1st 2010.

There are a few important things to check for as soon as possible after 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 in the "Escrow Information" section that your bill has been sent to your loan company, or the Tax Service that services your loan 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. In some cases a mortgage company hires a tax service to handle the payment of their escrow accounts. If the mortgage company listed on your bill is not correct, please contact your lender to confirm if your account is being serviced by a tax service.

**Are you receiving a PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION? (THIS WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION).**

Look in the top section of your bill under "Tax Detail" to verify you have the 100% Principal Res. Exemption. If you qualify, and the exemption is in place, the tax detail portion of your bill will state "Principal Res. Exemption % 100". This only applies to school operating taxes.

By State of Michigan standards, you must own and occupy your home on or before May 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.

**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 address. We strive to keep all information current, but with the continued activity of 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.**

\*\* If you find any discrepancies on the bill or have any questions, please contact the Treasurer's office immediately.  
The phone number is 616-754-5679. email for the Treasurer is (treasurer@oakfieldtpw.org)

**THE LAST DAY TO PAY TAXES WITHOUT A PENALTY IS FEBRUARY 15TH, PLEASE MAIL EARLY.**

The Treasurer's office is open from 8:00 to 12:00 Monday through Friday and 1:00 to 5:00 on Wednesday.

We hope you have a great Winter, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Sue and Larry*

**CLERK'S CORNER**

**Cemeteries:**

Winter will soon be upon us. I tend to think about buttoning things down for the long haul. Getting things set inside and under cover.

This brings me to the Cemeteries... If everyone could remember to clean up those dead flowers and worn out floral arrangements before snow flies Spring will be a lot less work.

I want to remind everyone there are no decorations other than flowers in a sturdy container on either side of the Headstone allowed. Everything else will be removed and disposed of.

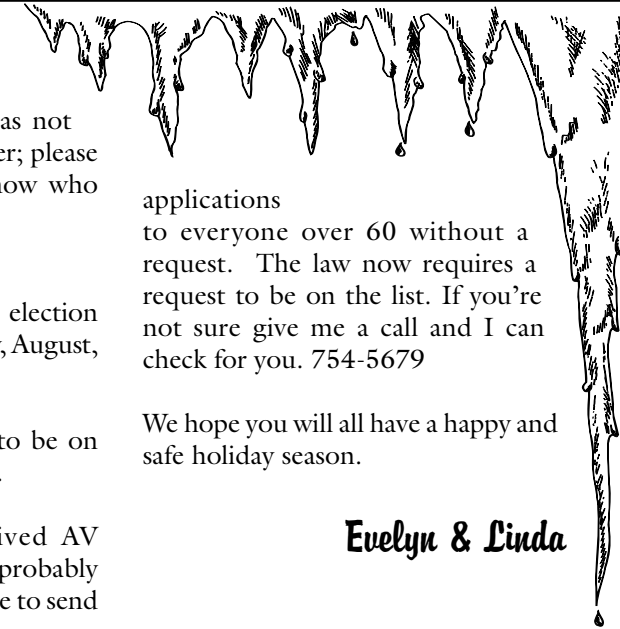
If you know of a veteran that has not been recognized with a flag holder; please call the township and let me know who and where.

**Elections:**

2010 will prove to be a very big election year. There will be elections in May, August, and November.

Remember you have to request to be on the Permanent Absent Voter List.

Those of you that have received AV applications in the past year are probably already on the list. I used to be able to send

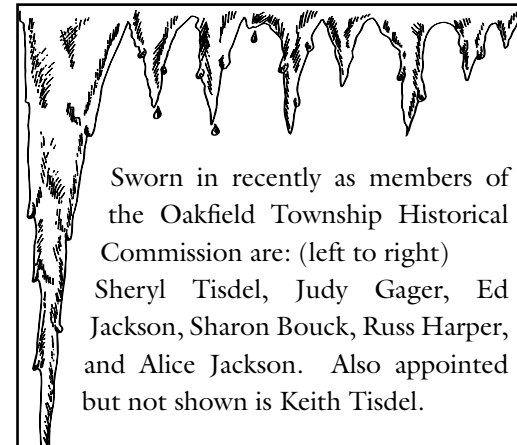


applications to everyone over 60 without a request. The law now requires a request to be on the list. If you're not sure give me a call and I can check for you. 754-5679

We hope you will all have a happy and safe holiday season.

*Evelyn & Linda*

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**



Sworn in recently as members of the Oakfield Township Historical Commission are: (left to right) Sheryl Tisdel, Judy Gager, Ed Jackson, Sharon Bouck, Russ Harper, and Alice Jackson. Also appointed but not shown is Keith Tisdel.



Briefly, the Historical Commission's purpose is to promote public interest in historic buildings, sites and objects and to safeguard the heritage of the township by recognizing and preserving places and items of the township's history.

The Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Society

(OPHS), begun in 1989, has the same goals and will work under the Historical Commission to promote, safeguard and preserve township history and make it available to the public through the Oakfield Museum displays, archives and other events and activities. At present we are working to create a Community Quilt of township history, as well as searching for information about descendents of original families who still reside in the township.

The public is encouraged to become involved by becoming a member of the OPHS, visiting the Museum, and researching the historical archives available. Donations of funds or items of historical significance are always appreciated, as is information about historical sites and buildings in the township.

The Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum is located at 11009 Podunk Avenue, 3/4

mile south of M-57 west of Greenville. The Museum is closed for the season, but will reopen the first weekend of May, 2010 for the annual Spring into the Past tour of area museums.

Contact any of the OPHS officers with questions, information or archives to share.

Judy Gager, President:  
616-874-6271

Sharon Bouck, Vice President  
616-754-4553

Sheryl Tisdel, Secretary  
616-874-8434

Alice Jackson, Treasurer:  
616-754-5713

(Check out our website:  
ophskentmi@yahoo.com)

