
Oakfield Township Outlook

10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. 49341. 754.5679 Fax 754.0989 Office Hours Monday thru Friday 8-12 noon, also 1-5pm on Wednesday

From the Supervisor:

I hope all of you had a great winter and are looking forward to a great summer full of fun for you and your family. I will start on the subject of roads. The Township Board has decided to suspend the paving of any roads for the next four years. The Townships' goal is to overlay every gravel road in the Township with 6" to 8" of Limestone gravel. This is a great gravel product that packs in like concrete and holds a dust layer better than gravel. Over the last three years we have done about 12 miles of Limestone overlays in the Township and we are very pleased with the results. We just completed 4.75 miles of overlay this spring and as soon as the Road Commission finishes shaping the overlays the people that live on these roads will definitely have a better road to travel. The spring of 2011 will bring 5 more miles of Limestone overlays. I will let you know what roads will get the overlays in the fall news letter. The total Limestone overlay cost for the Township this year was \$185,240.00, the cost for 2011 will be \$196,240.00.

I would also like to let you know that Oakfield Township for the third year in a row was the number Three Township in Kent County for road improvements and funds spent on roads. Not bad considering we collect the lowest millage rate of any Township in Kent County.

The Township Board also spent funds this year to drill a new 8" well at the Township Hall to fill the Fire Department Trucks with water to fight fires at a cost of \$30,000.00. We also spent \$8,500.00 to install a new restroom and furnace at the Oakfield Museum on Podunk Rd.

In closing, I would like to say that the Township Board continues to practice sound fiscal responsibility and will continue a

pay as you go system and will not borrow funds or spend down our reserves.

I hope all of you have a great summer.

Greg Dean
Oakfield Township Supervisor

From the Zoning Administrator:

A frequently asked question by Oakfield residents is whether they need a permit to build a small shed on their property. The answer is yes. Even if the structure is too small to require a building permit you do need a zoning permit. These permits can be obtained from 8:00AM to noon any week day at the Township Hall. Also I am in the office from between 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM Tuesday and Thursday.

Any structure you build must meet the zoning setback requirements for the zoning district you live in. The cost of these permits is \$35.00. Failure to acquire a permit can result in a tripling of the fee as of July 1, 2010. Zoning permits are also required for agricultural buildings even if building permits are not required.

Please call Tuesday or Thursday evenings if you have any questions.

Willard Konyndyk
Zoning Administrator

The Treasurer's Desk:

Summers is here and time to send the summer tax bills.
We are often asked:

- 1) Do we accept credit card/debit card payments? **NO.**
We accept cash (but do not recommend it), check or money order payments.

- 2) Do we accept payments after the late date if the envelope is post marked on or before September 14th? We **DO NOT** **accept post marks**, and if we do not receive payment by the due date it will be a late payment.

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.

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE 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 % 100.0000”.

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, Marla, at 754-5679. The exemption reduces the School Operating Tax for **Cedar Springs** and **Rockford** School Districts on the **summer** bill and reduces the School Operating Tax for **Greenville, Belding** and **Rockford** School Districts on the **winter** bill.

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 confirmation 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 A PENALTY IS SEPTEMBER 14th, 2010.

We hope you have a great summer.

Larry and Sue

Clerk's Corner:

Cemeteries:

We need to thank our local boy Scouts for placing our Veteran's flags again this year, Thanks for all of your work!

I'm sure some of you have noticed the new fencing at the Oakfield Cemetery. There were some problems over the past winter with driving down Wellman and running onto the west side of the cemetery. The last incident just missed taking out the well.

The Township board decided to install the fence to prohibit the driving on the cemetery lawn.

You have probably noticed over the past couple of weeks we've been doing some clean up. Some trees have been trimmed up and some bushes have been pulled. Please remember, you are not to plant anything in the cemeteries. Decorations that have been placed that are against the rules will be disposed of.

There were some calls regarding Veteran markers over the Memorial weekend. I will mention it again as I do every year; If you know of a veteran that does not have a veteran marker, please let me know and I will take care of it. If I don't know I can't place a marker.

Elections:

This will be a very busy election year. The Primary is August 3rd, and the General is November 2.

You will notice we will be using laptop computers for our Poll Books and Precinct Lists. This should speed up the process at the polls on Election Day. We will have the ability to scan in your driver's license and automatically have your file come up.

The Absent Voters Applications have gone out. If you need one please call the office and request one be sent to you. An application has to be completed for EVERY ELECTION Remember the application we use for this set of elections is a **DUAL** application; it

is good for August and November, ***make sure you check both boxes to receive both ballots.***

The State has decided we should offer Ballots by e-mail, starting with the August election. There are quite a few rules.

1. You must be Military, or a military family member, if not military you must be overseas.
2. You must request the AV ballot via e-mail.
3. You must print off the ballot, follow the instructions, vote it and mail it back regular mail, in time to be counted on Election Day.

We'll see you at the Elections...

Linda & Evelyn



Fire Department:

New Well:

OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP PUT IN A NEW HIGH CAPACITY WELL FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. Our main source of water in the past has been lakes, rivers and streams. Using these sources in time will damage the pump in the fire truck which could cost up to 7 or 8 thousand dollars to repair. Our main source of water will now be the new well and we will supplement with the secondary sources being lakes, rivers and streams in the case of a major fire. Because the sand and small stones will eventually plug the hose nozzles when time is critical and lives are at stake, we will replace tankers then with the well water to keep equipment clean. Also, in winter when temperatures are cold, the well is readily available in a warm environment. This well will pay for itself in just a few years.

BURNING PERMITS:

Burning permits are still obtained thru the fire chief. The following rules apply: No burning at night. Burn only paper and wood. You must have a hose or some other water supply handy. Burning trash is prohibited.

Small camp fires in a fire pit do not need a burning permit.

Have a safe summer

Mickey Davis, Fire Chief

From The Assessor:

The housing market has improved slightly in Michigan. There are more Arms length transactions on the open market than in the previous year, but still a significant amount of foreclosures and sales by Mortgage Companies and Banks.

There was an overall decline in Assessments for tax year 2010. 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 with 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), and go to Treasurer, Forms. If you ever have questions please call on Monday, Wednesday or Friday during normal business hours
Have a safe summer.

Marla M. Platt
Assessor

Historical Commission:

OAKFIELD PIONEER HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

WE'RE OPEN! Now that winter is over and our renovations are complete, the Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum is open again for the summer from 2 to 4 pm the second and fourth Sundays of each month through October 10. We cordially invite everyone to come and learn about the heritage of YOUR township and community.

OUR VISITORS! We enjoyed hosting three classes of second graders from Lincoln Heights to share information about Oakfield township as part of their curriculum on community. Teachers and students alike were surprised at all the unique things they saw and learned – YOU will be surprised, as well, so come and take a look! We also had 21 people visit during the recent “Spring Into The Past” weekend tour of area small museums!

INFORMATION PLEASE: We want to know more about the Pioneer families who settled in Oakfield township from the beginning and their families who may still live in the area. If you have a direct line connection to an early family, please let us know so we can add your information to our files. If you seek information about your family, please visit – or call for an appointment so we can help you search through our archives of birth, death and cemetery records, as well as other helpful documents.

DON'T THROW IT AWAY! If you have items of interest, perhaps from clearing out homes of loved ones, but hesitate to cast them aside, please contact us to see if they might be a fitting donation to our museum exhibits. Your family “junk” might be a treasure for the museum! (We especially seek information, documents or artifacts to expand our exhibit about the Gleaners Arbor, for whom the museum building was originally built!)

COME AND JOIN US! We want to share our excitement about the history of Oakfield township and encourage you to become a member of the Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Society which meets third Thursday monthly at 10 am at the museum. Membership dues are \$10/individual or \$12/couple. SPECIAL OFFER right now includes half price membership for new members and a FREE HOUR of genealogical assistance by appointment!

The Oakfield Museum is located at 10300 Podunk Avenue, ¾ mile south of M-57. For information about any of the above or to make appointments for special tours or research, contact Judy Gager (874-6271) or Sheryl Tisdell (874-8434)

