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# Oakfield Township Outlook

Winter 2017/2018

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



## From the Supervisor:

The township has completed the Lappley Avenue paving project. We had budgeted \$429,000.00 for the project and came in \$89,858.38 under budget. The next road project that will be started will be 16 Mile Road from the Courtland Township line, one mile east to Harvard Road. This is a cost shared project with Spencer Township. The budgeted cost to Oakfield Township will be \$225,000.00 which is a great price for one mile of new pavement. The 16 Mile Road project will be built and paved in the summer of 2018.

Now that the new bridge has been completed on 13 Mile Road over Wabasis Creek we have started the preliminary engineering for 1.5 miles of 13 Mile Road from Podunk Road west to Wabasis Lake

Road. This road project would be started in the summer of 2019 and be built in two sections over a two year period; we would start at Podunk Road and work to the west. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 616-754-5679.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Greg Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor



## Clerk's Corner:

If you are a Greenville School resident and you voted in the Special election on November 7, 2017, you were one of the first to use the new voting equipment! As a voter, your experience will be the same. Everyone in the state received new tabulators that are faster and more up to date. We are excited to share this new equipment with all of Oakfield's residents in the upcoming August 2018 election!

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 2018!*

Linda VanHouten, Clerk  
Bonnie Rausch, Deputy Clerk

## 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.

**2017 WINTER TAXES ARE DUE DECEMBER 1 AND PAYABLE UNTIL 5 PM ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2018 WITHOUT INTEREST AND PENALTY.**

### 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 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, Marla, 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, 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 WINTER TAXES WITHOUT INTEREST IS FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5 PM.**

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



## **Dog License New or Renew**

- **NEW DOG:** Dog 4 months of age or older, newly acquired dogs or new residents must license within 30 days. Proof of purchase or new residency is required.
- **RENEWAL:** License expires with the dog's rabies vaccination.
- **1 OR 3-YEAR LICENSE:** Dependent upon if your dog was given a 1 year or 3 year rabies vaccination by your veterinarian.
- **IN PERSON:** Obtain license in person at the Kent County Animal Shelter, Kent County Treasurer's Office, the Humane Society of West Michigan, or numerous city and township offices. One-stop shopping is available at several local veterinary clinics if your dog needs an updated rabies vaccination and a dog license.
- **QUESTIONS:** Contact Animal Control at (616) 632-7300. [www.accesskent.com/DogLicense](http://www.accesskent.com/DogLicense)

### **Standard Rates**

<b>Type of License</b>	<b>1-Year License**</b>	<b>3-Year License**</b>
Intact (Un-Sterilized) Dog	\$26.00	\$78.00
Spayed/Neutered Dog	\$17.00	\$51.00

### **Senior Citizen Rates (62+, must provide birthdate)**

<b>Type of License</b>	<b>1-Year License**</b>	<b>3-Year License**</b>
Intact (Un-Sterilized) Dog	\$20.00	\$60.00
Spayed/Neutered Dog	\$10.00	\$30.00



## Assessor's Desk:

The State of Michigan has set the 2018 CPI at 1.021 which is an increase in taxable value of 2.1%. The Residential Assessments for 2018 will be increasing by 4%.

Please check your Tax Bill for correct spelling, addresses and legal descriptions.

Property values are not decreasing, the market is improving.

When a property is purchased at a discounted rate, either from a Bank, Mortgage Co., or short sale, the buyer should beware that the assessed value will not be lowered to Sale Price.

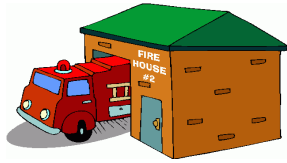
The equalization process does not allow Assessors to lower or raise values to Sale price. The taxes that you will be paying could be higher than the previous owner. Please check with the township before you purchase property to find out the future taxes.

The State of Michigan has made it possible for 100% Disabled Veterans to receive an exemption from Property tax, they no longer have to have the Adapted Housing Grant, they only need to be 100% disabled or 100% unemployable. Form is available at the Township Hall.

Also another change to help tax payers, if you sell property to a blood relative to the first degree, mother, father, son, daughter, it does not uncap the property, this went into effect Jan. 1, 2014.

Happy Holidays

Marla M. Platt, Assessor



## Fire Department:

Well, we have reached another winter in the great State of Michigan. Along with the change in seasons comes a change in the amount of daylight we have each day. Which brings to mind something that everyone could lend a hand with. When we go out on a call, we sometimes have trouble finding the address we are looking for, especially in the dark.

If everyone would take the time to ensure you have visible house numbers at the end of your driveway, it could shorten the amount of time it takes to find you in an emergency, and sometimes every second counts!

If needed we can assist with reflective address signs, they are available for a nominal fee of \$15.00 and can be ordered either at the Township Hall, or the Fire Department, and all proceeds go to the Fire Department Auxiliary.

Best Regards,

Chief Peterson

## Fire Auxiliary Commission:

Dates for our future blood drives are:

December 14, 2017

March 29, 2018

July 3, 2018

September 27, 2018

December 13, 2018

All blood drives are held in the Fire Barn from 3-7:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments can also be scheduled in advance through Michigan Blood or by contacting Molly Seekamp at 616-754-5125.

There are also two ways to sign up online.  
[www.Miblood.org](http://www.Miblood.org), click on donate and  
[www.Donate.miblood.org/donor/schedules/zip](http://www.Donate.miblood.org/donor/schedules/zip)



## Oakfield Historical Commission

The Oakfield Museum is now closed for the winter and will reopen the first weekend of May in 2018 for the annual “Spring Into the Past” tour when all members of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network are open the same days and hours for visiting convenience.

Oakfield Museum welcomed 160 visitors in 2017. This included three classes of second graders from Lincoln Heights School who visited the museum as part of their curriculum. Each class comes separately and is divided into four smaller groups who rotate as the museum docents tell about exhibits and artifacts in parts of the museum. Most fascinating things to the students include dial telephones, the voting machine, old typewriters, the dishwasher patented in 1887, the hole in the stage floor where they raised the piano for special upstairs events and the Gleaner “ballot box” where they learned what the term “black-balled” means. They also enjoy the one-room schoolhouse experience, but don’t think much of the dunce cap or the pail-and-dipper drinking system!

This year township cemetery records are being verified and updated as museum volunteers and township clerks visit the three cemeteries to verify burials. Many gravestones date back to the mid-1800s and are very fragile and difficult to read, if they can even

be found! Names include whole families of the early pioneers of our township who often lost several children at the same time because of epidemics and such. Graves of all Veterans have an American flag in remembrance of their service to their country. Flags on veterans’ graves have been removed for the winter but will be replaced by the township before Memorial Day. Township sextons and caretakers work hard to keep our cemeteries looking neat and well kept. Oakfield Cemetery (Wellman/Stultz Roads) and Horton Cemetery (M-57 and Lappley) are completed. White Swan (12-Mile and Nugent) should be completed next year. Museum folks also shared some historical information with clerks as they worked and all had a good time together.

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.

The museum is always seeking people with an interest in the history of Oakfield or just history-lovers in general, to be a part of the volunteers of the museum. Residents of Oakfield township are eligible to be on the Historical Commission, but other volunteers are welcome to attend meetings and help with museum duties. It’s amazing the things one can learn about our own community both past and present! Appointments can also be made to do genealogical research at the museum during its open season. Call the Boucks at 616-754-4553 for information!

Come visit the Oakfield Museum next year and see all the interesting history of Oakfield Township! We’ll be looking for YOU!



## Meeting Schedule:

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

7:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
(Exception: March board meeting will be held March 20, 2018).

### ***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- 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