
Oakfield Township Outlook

Summer 2021

10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. 49341
Phone: (616) 754-5679 Fax: (616) 754-0989
Office Hours Mon. – Thur. 8-12 noon & 1-5pm on Tues. & Wed.



From the Supervisor:

Please be advised that tickets are being issued to home owners that have junk vehicles or trash laying around on their property. In an effort to keep our Township looking nice please keep your yards picked up. Enjoy your summer!

Oakfield Township Supervisor, *Greg Dean*



The Treasurer's Desk:

We hope you are having a great spring/summer. It is almost time to send tax bills once again, so we wanted to send out some reminders.

2021 SUMMER TAXES ARE DUE JULY 1 AND PAYABLE UNTIL 5:00 PM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 WITHOUT INTEREST.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Check or money order is 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 pay with the exact amount.
- The township is now accepting credit card payments. These can be paid online, in person, or over the phone. **There will be a fee for using this service.**
- For your convenience, you are able to pay your taxes online using a credit card or e-check. Click on the link on Oakfield Township's website. **Again, there is a fee for these services.**
- 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.

- Oakfield Township office hours are Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Tuesday & Wednesday from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM. The township office is closed on Fridays.
- We will be open 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 for tax collection.

AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE YOUR TAX BILL, CHECK THE FOLLOWING:

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 (PRE)

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 PRE 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.

SUMMER TAX DEFERMENT

Qualifying seniors may apply for a summer tax deferment. 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

Please read and review your bill for accuracy. Is your name and address correct? Is your PRE 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 find any discrepancies on the bill or have any questions, please contact us immediately via phone (616)754-5679 or email info@oakfieldtwp.org or treasurer@oakfieldtwp.org.

THE LAST DAY TO PAY TAXES WITHOUT INTEREST IS SEPTEMBER 14th, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

*Betsy N. Koett, Treasurer
Amy Christensen, Deputy Treasurer*



Clerk’s Corner:



COVID-19 Guidelines: As of right now, when coming into the offices in person a mask is required. Also, we are currently not renting out the Township Hall. However, if you are interested in a future date please contact us in the event that we are able to open it back up for rental.

Prepare now for the upcoming election year in 2021! We will have an election in only August and November this year. ALL registered voters are now eligible to vote absentee if you have met the photo ID 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 a permanent 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 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!

*Sue Trainer, Clerk
Ashlee Vanderkooi, Deputy Clerk*



ASSESSOR

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

If you receive a Tax Bill and are no longer the owner of the property, please give us a call so we can get a Tax Bill to the new owner.

The due dates for Principal Residence Exemption are June 1 for current year summer taxes and November 1, for current year winter taxes. It's a savings for property owners that purchase between June 1 and November 1 and live in a school district that collects non homestead in the winter.

VETERANS: if you have not received your VA exemption for 2021 please file an affidavit with the assessor's office prior to July 20, 2021. In order to qualify for a Veterans Exemption from property taxes you must have a letter from the VA stating that your 100% Disabled or at least 70% disabled and unable to work as well as a completed and signed VA disability

Affidavit. VA disability affidavits are available at the Township Hall or on our website at www.oakfieldtwp.org

Finally, as of January 1, 2014 transfers of ownership between immediate family members are exempt from uncapping. If you sell property to a blood relative to the first degree, e.g. your mother, father, brother, sister, son, or daughter (either biological or adopted), the Taxable Value will remain capped. Please remember to check the appropriate box on the Property Transfer Affidavit.

*Matthew J. Smith
Oakfield Township Assessor*



Fire Department:

When doing your yard cleanup, if you plan to burn brush, leaves, or any other yard waste, you must have a burning permit. Permits are easily obtainable, simply by calling the Fire Station and speaking with the Fire Chief, providing the dates you will be burning and type of materials you plan to burn.

Please check the sign in front of the Township Hall for the daily Fire Danger Classification to help with your decision on when to do your burning.

If you have any questions about these items, please feel free to call me at any time and I will be glad to provide you with more information.

Sincerely,
Samuel Peterson, Fire Chief

Firefighters' Auxiliary Newsletter

We are looking for new members. We have 4 meetings per year, along with a couple of fundraisers and community projects. Our next meeting is June 2 at 6 PM at the fire station. Please consider joining us. For more info, please contact Molly Seekamp at mseekamp1408@gmail.com.

COVID-19 prevented us from holding our annual Chili Cook-off. However, we are planning one for winter 2022. More details will be available as we approach that time.

We had another successful spring flower sale. Thank you to all who purchased from us. The flower baskets, from Kraker Greenhouse of Allendale, are always lush and beautiful. Funds from this sale are used for purchasing extra items for the department, such as white board and supplies, dress uniform shirts and radio straps.

We continue to sponsor our blood drives in partnership with Versiti Blood of Michigan. The dates for the remaining blood drives for 2021 are July 7, September 1, October 27 and December 29. Each donation had the potential to save 3 lives.

To sign up online, go to
<https://donate.versiti.michigan.org/donor/auth/signin>.

Any questions? Contact Molly Seekamp at
mseekamp1408@gmail.com.



Oakfield Historical Commission

Have you missed it?

The Oakfield Museum has been closed since October 2019! It was closed for that winter as usual – and we thought it would open the next May. But then it was COVID lockdown and the museum has yet to reopen.

What if the museum never reopened?

What if all those wonderful artifacts and exhibits were never seen again by visitors? What if local school children had no place to come to learn more about their own community and how it began? Would they never learn about the important White Swan School and the many teachers it produced? Would they never hear about the Gleaners, who built the museum building way back in the early 1900s so they would have a place for their meetings and for community events like dances, oyster suppers and other fun?

Would they never see how the piano was brought up from downstairs for the dances? How would they know about sorting beans or winnowing hay or spinning honey? Where will people go to research information about Oakfield people of long ago – where they came from, how they lived, who their families were, what happened to them? Whatever happened to the railroad that used to come through Harvard? What about the railroad that would have come right near the museum? How did Wabasis Lake get its name? How important was the Podunk Mill? Where did people go to vote before the township hall was built on M-57?

The Oakfield Museum needs YOU!

Not just as a visitor, but we need people to get involved so the Museum can reopen. The Museum is operated by an Oakfield Historical Commission of seven Oakfield residents. They usually meet four times per year along with several non-resident volunteers who have historical connections to Oakfield Township. However, NEW people are needed who are interested in Oakfield history, enjoy meeting people and willing to offer their time and talents to keep the Oakfield Museum the wonderful source of enjoyment that it is. If YOU live in Oakfield Township, the museum is YOUR museum – and it needs YOUR involvement. Call Sharon Bouck at 616-754-4553 and ask her what you can do to help! And if you're wondering The museum is located on Podunk Road, about ¾ mile south of M- 57 or accessible off Lincoln Lake Road on 13-Mile to Podunk. It's looking lonely without any visitors or interest. Please help us make it smile again!

FLASH!!! The Oakfield Museum will be open the LAST SUNDAY of June, July, August and September from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Please come and visit!



Meeting Schedule:

Township Board of Trustees:

7:00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month

Planning Commission:

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

Zoning Board of Appeals:

7:00 p.m. 4th 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

Sue Trainer, Clerk

Betsy Koett, Treasurer

Trustees: Bryan Porter, Pamela Riker, Ken Rittersdorf, and
Chad Sowerby

Assessor- Matthew Smith

Tuesday 8 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm

Wednesday 8 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm

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