

# Oakfield Township Outlook

## Winter 2022

**10300 14 Mile Road  
Rockford, MI 49341**

Phone: (616) 754-5679

Fire Department Phone: (616) 754-5122

Website: [www.oakfieldtwp.org](http://www.oakfieldtwp.org)

### **Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Supervisor – William Greg Dean**

**Clerk – Sue Trainer**

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Treasurer – Betsy Koett**

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Assessor – Matthew Smith**

Tuesday and Wednesday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Building Inspector – P.C.I.**

Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Fire Chief – Sam Peterson**

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Trustees**

Bryan Porter, Pamela Riker, Ken Rittersdorf, Chad Sowerby



### **From the Supervisor:**

A portion of Stacey Street east of Lincoln Lake Avenue will have intermittent closure for approximately 3 weeks in November and December starting on Monday, November 7. Stacey Street runs right next to Horseshoe Lake and forms part of the dam/levee that holds up the lake.

Earlier this year, the Kent County Drain Commissioner's engineer observed significant water flow through the road embankment, which is a sign of potential failure of that embankment. Given recent dam failures in the State (Edenville, Boardman Dam, etc), the Drain Commissioner's office and the State's Dam Safety Office determined that repair work should be completed as soon as reasonably possible.

Road closure barricades will be placed at the intersections of Stacey Street and Lincoln Lake Avenue and Morgan Mills Avenue to minimize thru traffic. Complete closure will only be located right near the lake from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. as needed.

Any questions regarding the work should be directed to Joel Morgan, the Kent County Drain Commissioner's engineer at 616-632-7914 or at [joel.morgan@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:joel.morgan@kentcountymi.gov)

*Greg Dean  
Oakfield Township Supervisor*



### **From the Assessor:**

Please check your tax bill for correct homestead exemption status, spelling, addresses and legal descriptions. If you receive a tax bill and are no longer the owner of the property, please call us, so we can get a tax bill to the new owner.

VETERANS: Please file your VA letter along with the State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption (form 5107) with the assessor's office prior to the March Board of Review on March 13, 2023 in order to receive your tax exemption for 2023.

Finally, Oakfield Township offers an exemption from property taxes if your household income is below the federal poverty guidelines. If you believe you qualify for an exemption from property taxes for 2023 due to poverty/low income, contact me as soon as possible to begin the application process. You will be required to provide copies of your state and federal income tax returns or Michigan Department of Treasury form 4988 for all members of your household. Please feel free to contact me at the township office on Tuesdays or Wednesdays with any questions regarding the poverty exemption program or any other assessing related matters.

*Matthew J. Smith  
Oakfield Township Assessor*



### **The Treasurer's Desk:**

You will be receiving your 2022 Winter Tax Bill on or around December 1, 2022. These taxes are payable until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 without interest and penalty. Starting March 1, 2023, delinquent taxes must be paid at Kent County. Please read the back of your tax bill for more detailed information.

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



### **Clerk's Corner:**



We'd like to thank those who voted in the August primary. The November general election looks to have a great turnout. We are currently unaware of any elections for 2023; however, there could possibly be a county wide or school election in May or November.

*Sue Trainer, Clerk  
Ashlee Vanderkooi, Deputy Clerk*

## **Oakfield Community Blood Drives**

Oakfield Township continues to sponsor our blood drives in partnership with Versiti Blood of Michigan. Each donation has the potential to save 3 lives. To sign up online, go to

<https://donate.versiti.michigan.org/donor/auth/signin>.

The blood drives run from 1:30-5:00 p.m. and the upcoming dates for are as follows:

- Wednesday, December 28, 2022
- Wednesday, March 8, 2023
- Wednesday, May 10, 2023
- Wednesday, July 5, 2023
- Wednesday, September 6, 2023
- Wednesday, November 1, 2023
- Wednesday, December 27, 2023



### **Fire Department:**

Please make sure you are keeping your chimneys clear of soot and creosote. Also, wood stoves should be cleaned regularly.

When doing your yard cleanup, if you plan to burn brush, leaves, or any other yard waste, you must have a burn permit. Permits are easily obtainable. You can do one of the following:

- Call the Fire Station and speak with the Fire Chief, providing the dates you will be burning and type of materials you plan to burn.
- Fill out the burn permit application online at [www.oakfieldtp.org](http://www.oakfieldtp.org) in the Fire Department under the Departments & Services tab.

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:**

Recently we had a Halloween costume giveaway. We hosted it for three Saturdays in October and had a good number of families who stopped by to get costumes. We made \$52 in donations from the giveaway, which has been added to the Fire Auxiliary fund.

### **Calendar of Events:**

October 31<sup>st</sup> - Halloween Open House (6-8pm)  
November 6<sup>th</sup> – Firefighter Family Picnic  
November 17<sup>th</sup> – Firefighter Appreciation Night  
December 6<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Meeting (6:30pm)  
February 25<sup>th</sup> – Chili Cook-Off (2-6pm)

### **Make A Difference**



## Oakfield Historical Commission

The Oakfield Historical Commission and Museum will be taking a Winter break until April 2023. Our meetings will resume then as well as the open houses. We continue to open our doors to new members, township residents who have interest in township history, maintaining our history through the museum, and becoming involved in keeping our doors open. You are needed!



### Meeting Schedule:

***Township Board of Trustees:***  
7:00 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.

## **Who do I talk to if I have a question about...**

- Commercial property zoning or questions, special use questions, or general township questions/concerns? **Supervisor Greg Dean**
- Combinations or splits of property, Principal Residence Exemption (PRE), Property Transfer Affidavit (PTA), Veteran's Exemption, Poverty Exemption, assessed value of my property, or name/address changes? **Assessor Matthew Smith**
- FOIAs, notarizing documents, or cemeteries? **Clerk Sue Trainer**
- Elections, absentee voting, or Scram Lake billing? **Deputy Clerk Ashlee VanderKooi**
- My tax bill, special assessments, or escrow questions? **Treasurer Betsy Koett**
- Hall rentals, ball field reservations, or dog licenses? **Receptionist Amy Christensen**
- Burn permits or reflective address signs? **Fire Chief Sam Peterson**
- Zoning, building any structure (house, addition, pole barn, fence, etc.) on my property, or permits for building, electrical, mechanical, or plumbing? **Professional Code Inspections (PCI)**  
**616-877-2000**