
Oakfield Township Outlook

Winter 2021-2022

10300 14 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. 49341
Phone: (616) 754-5679 Fax: (616) 754-0989
Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:00-12:00
Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00
Check out our new website: www.oakfieldtpw.org



From the Supervisor:

We will not be paving any roads in 2022. There are 2 potential road paving projects we will be looking into for 2023. Those projects are as follows:

- Macclain – Wabasis to Heintzelman
- Wabasis – 15 Mile to Macclain

Oakfield Township Supervisor, *Greg Dean*



The Treasurer's Desk:

We hope you are enjoying your fall and that you have a safe winter. You should have received your winter tax bill, and we wanted to review a few key issues.

**2021 WINTER TAXES ARE DUE DECEMBER 1, 2021
AND PAYABLE UNTIL
5:00 PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022
WITHOUT INTEREST AND PENALTY.
STARTING MARCH 1, 2022, TAXES MUST BE PAID
AT THE COUNTY.**

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 Monday, February 14, 2022 for tax collection.

THERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS TO CHECK WHEN 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 arrive on white (instead of colored) paper and state, “A copy of this bill has been sent to your mortgage provider”. 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 1st of the current year and November 1st for the winter. 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 (616) 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.

REVIEW YOUR TAX BILL FOR ACCURACY

We encourage you to read and review your bill for accuracy. Are 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 & PENALTY IS FEBRUARY 14th, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. Unpaid taxes are delinquent March 1st and must be paid at the county.

*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 no longer required. Also, we are currently renting out the Township Hall.

Prepare now for the upcoming election year in 2022!
We will have an election in August and November next 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 an 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 list 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 Winter!

Sue Trainer, Clerk
Ashlee Vanderkooi, Deputy Clerk





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 give us a call 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 14, 2022 in order to receive your tax exemption for 2022.

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 exemption from property taxes for 2022 due to poverty/low income contact me as soon as possible in order 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



Fire Department:

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 by calling the Fire Station and speaking with the Fire Chief, or going to Oakfieldtwp.org and filling out a permit.

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.

Green 911 address signs are available to purchase at the Oakfield Township main office.

Sincerely,
Samuel Peterson, Fire Chief

616-754-5122

Firefighters' Auxiliary Newsletter

We are still looking for new members to join us. It really doesn't involve a lot of time and we try to have fun with what we do. If interested, please contact President Jerri Peterson at 616-232-7557.

This year we were able to purchase new leather straps for the new radios for each member. The straps are really nice and cost almost \$100 each, times 18. We wouldn't be able to make such purchases with our annual flower sale.

We have held 4 of the 6 blood drives and have had pretty good turn outs for all of them. These are put on through Versiti of Michigan.

We have our Chili Cook-off coming on January 15. For more information, please contact Deputy Chief Jason Scholten at 616-824-7045.

Calendar of Events

December

- 01 – Auxiliary Meeting (6 PM)
- 29 – Blood Drive (2-7 PM)

January

- 15 – Chili Cook-Off



Oakfield Historical Commission

OAKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO “CELEBRATE WOMEN” IN 2022

Your Oakfield Museum on South Podunk Road is closed for the winter, but will reopen April 30-May 1 for the annual “Spring into the Past” open house tour of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network, when all member museums including Oakfield, are open that Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. The **“Spring Into the Past”** tour received the Historical Society of Michigan’s State Award for Special Programs/Events in 2021 because of its outreach! Since all member museums are open the same days and hours, visitors can map out several to visit in the same day. Although the tour wasn’t held in 2020 or 2021 because of the pandemic, we look forward to the **2022 tour April 30-May 1** because it brings in many more visitors than would usually come. (See commoncorners.com for more information.)

The theme will be **“Celebrating Women”** and we will be researching to learn about women of Oakfield Township who made a difference in our community and beyond. For instance, from an old obituary: “..(name).. with his young wife took up land in the woods in Oakfield; and in all the trials and labors of clearing up a farm and making a home, he found his chief support and help in his partner and help-meet.”

Do YOU have a story about such a woman? Perhaps Sarah Davis, the first schoolteacher in Oakfield Township, or the many other female teachers in our local one-room schools over the years. It was primarily women who started the first library in the township;

others helped their husbands run their business or store, or helped to farm in the field or barn or even served as township supervisor.

Who was the strong woman in your family? Share their story!

Did you know...? During World War I, women were to fill out information cards for the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense. Oakfield women came to White Swan School or Oakfield Centre and filled out the cards to donate their time, talents and abilities to assist in the war effort. On the cards, they were to circle occupations in which they had experience or training, and underline items in which they wished to give service -- Agricultural, Clerical, Domestic, Industrial, Training, Professional, Student, Public Service, Social Service, Red Cross/Allied Relief, Instruction, First Aid, etc. -- and indicate how much time per week they could volunteer. Many women were already doing defense work in area factories, perhaps even helping to build the celebrated gliders that became famous. Others had to take over the farming or businesses when their husbands and sons went to war in the military.

In 1921, Oakfield Museum was only open four Sundays, but had about 30 visitors, including some who made arrangements for a private tour and even found themselves in school photos from decades ago! What fun to hear their memories! Museum volunteers enjoy sharing stories of Oakfield Township history and wish more people would come to learn and share the history of where they live. It is very exciting and eye-opening!

Get involved in the history of Oakfield Township and the museum. Volunteer to share stories or join the Historical Commission or help organize, clean, record, digitize, index and many other needs! Call Sharon Bouck, 754-4553 to learn more and see how you can get involved. Come and help us **CELEBRATE OAKFIELD WOMEN in 2022!**



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.



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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