

# Oakfield Township Outlook

## Spring 2025

**10300 14 Mile Rd  
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 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### **Supervisor – Darcia Kelley**

Tuesday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### **Clerk – Sue Trainer**

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### **Treasurer – Betsy Koett**

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### **Trustees**

David Howard, Pamela Riker, Ken Rittersdorf, Chad Sowerby

### **Assessor – Matthew Smith**

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

### **Fire Chief – Sam Peterson**

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### **Building Inspector – P.C.I.**

6581 Belding Rd, Suite 101, Rockford, MI 49341

616-407-4980



### **From the Supervisor:**



With the coming of spring, we look forward to the warmer weather, new beginnings of planting and spending time outdoors. Back on November 20<sup>th</sup> I began serving as your township Supervisor. I count it a privilege and an honor to be able to work in this capacity for Oakfield Township. My door is always open if you want to come in to talk and give your ideas on how we can work together to continue making Oakfield Township a great place to live. We value our businesses and neighborhoods; our homes; our schools; our natural surroundings; and the many other community services that better our quality of life.

The Township Board and I have been working on the 2025 budget and making many decisions, including those on road maintenance and improvements. MDOT has also made plans to rework M57 this summer from Morgan Mills to Ramsdell. The following roads are a part of the 2025 Chipseal program: Heintzelman (M57 to MacClain), Harvard (Swem to South), MacClain (Lincoln Lake to Montcalm), 12 Mile (Lincoln Lake to Morgan Mills) and Morgan Mills (M57 to 12 Mile). I have road maps here in my office if you would like more detailed information.

In closing, please remember that if you are going to build a new structure or add onto a structure on your property, you must get the proper zoning and building permits before you start. We also encourage everyone to take time this spring to clean up your yards and remove all junk and trash.

*Darcia Kelley, Oakfield Township Supervisor*



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



There is one election scheduled for 2025. It is Greenville Public Schools Millage election on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. There will **not** be 9 days of Early Voting for this election.

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.
- If you want to vote absentee in any upcoming or future elections, submit an application for a ballot to our office. A voter can now submit a single application requesting to receive an absentee ballot for every election.
- 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 you 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 must be signed by the voter **ONLY**.
- The clerk's office **MUST** receive the ballot no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- The absentee voting process can take place in person, by mail, or by depositing it in our new Absent Voter Ballot Drop Box, which is right outside the front door of Oakfield Township Hall.
- The Absent Voter Processing Board will count the absentee ballots on Election Day. **YES**, they do get counted!

If you are going to be at a different address, other than your permanent residence address for any election and you would

like an absentee ballot sent to you, please make sure to get your alternate address and days that you will be there to the Clerk's office a month or so ahead of the election. Ballots and other election related mail does not get automatically forwarded.

*Sue Trainer, Oakfield Township Clerk*

*Barb Kaaikala, Oakfield Township Deputy Clerk*



### **From the Assessor:**



**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 December 31, 2025. It is preferable to have these submitted before the summer tax bill goes to the printer in mid-June.

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 2025 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. 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.

Finally, our reappraisal district for 2025 will start with all residential properties on Angel Lake, Deer Lake, Little Blue Lake, and Morgan Lake, as well as Hidden Ponds, Holmden Estates, and Lindy Farms.

*Matthew J. Smith*

*Oakfield Township Assessor*

*Marissa Brunette*

*Oakfield Township Deputy Assessor*

### **Oakfield Historical Commission**

The opening of the Oakfield Museum after its winter rest will be the first weekend in May for the annual **“Spring Into the Past”** open house. The event takes place **May 3 and 4**.

Booklets about ALL the Tri-River Museums are available at Oakfield Museum and all member museums.

**The Tri-River theme for 2025/2026 is “Tracing Our Routes: Roads, Rivers, Rails and Trails”** - It's part of the America250MI celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America. Although Michigan wasn't a state back in 1776, there were people living here and history shows how others moved westward into our territory until Michigan became what it is today.

**“Tracing Our Routes: Roads...”** - The Oakfield Museum is on Podunk Road (a novel name) where the community of Oakfield Centre/Podunk was also located, including the famous Podunk Mill that used power from Wabasis Lake and Wabasis Creek to grind corn and its famous buckwheat. A historical sign now marks the location of where the mill stood, and the museum just north up the road has many artifacts of the mill on display.

**“Tracing Our Routes: Rivers...”** - The aforementioned Wabasis Creek eventually flows into the Flat River, which was a major river for lumbering and river travel back in the day. The river is still popular for folks in kayaks and canoes paddling from Greenville to Belding area on warm sunny days. (The museum also has information about the noted Chief Wabasis and his supposed treasure!)

**“Tracing Our Routes: Rails...”** - The Harvard community was booming when the railroad from Saginaw to Muskegon came through, as evidenced by an advertising sign of many Harvard businesses you can see in the museum, but when the railroad ceased, the town nearly ceased over time as well. (Right near the museum, the Grand Rapids and Greenville Railroad was to have

passed, but due to the absconding of funds by its officers it was never completed.)

**“Tracing Our Routes: Trails...”** - Many Native Americans traversed the trails in Oakfield Township over the early years to visit our numerous lakes and woods (oak?) for good fishing and hunting. Many of today's roads, especially the curvy ones, follow where early trails were first cut through. Remnants of early campfires and arrowheads have been found here.

**Come and visit the Oakfield Museum** the first weekend in May: **Saturday, May 3 from 11 to 5 and Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 5** to learn more. After that, the museum is open the **fourth Sundays of June through September from 2 to 4 pm**. Members of the Historical Commission will be on hand to share information.

**You can help** welcome visitors and make decisions about keeping our history alive by calling Sharon Bouck, 616-754-4553 for more information.

### **2025 Oakfield Community Blood Drives**

Oakfield Township completed 6 years of holding blood drives in 2025. During that time, we have held 35 blood drives, collecting a total of 629 units. Each unit has the potential of saving 3 lives. For more information about donating in future drives, contact Molly Seekamp at 616-754-5125 or [mseekamp1408@gmail.com](mailto:mseekamp1408@gmail.com).

To sign up online, go to <https://donate.versiti.michigan.org/donor/auth/signin>. The blood drives run from 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and the upcoming dates are as follows:

**May 7, July 2, September 3, October 29, and December 30**



### **Fire Department:**

Spring is in the air, and after a long winter, ideas turn to...burning! That's right. See all those tree branches and limbs that have fallen over the winter? Maybe all the leaves that were hidden by the snow? Think about the following before lighting your fire: please do not burn on windy days, always be sure to have water close by, and most importantly, always obtain a burn permit before lighting the fire.

As a reminder, it is not lawful to burn trash, construction lumber, anything containing rubber or plastics, old furniture, tires, etc. Though this is not an exhaustive list, it gives you a basic idea.

*Samuel Peterson, Oakfield Township Fire Chief*



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



You will be receiving your 2025 Summer Tax Bill on or around July 1, 2025. Because September 14 is a Sunday, these taxes are payable until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2025 without fees or penalties. Please read the back of your tax bill for more detailed information.

*Betsy Koett, Oakfield Township Treasurer*

*Amy Christensen, Oakfield Township Deputy Treasurer*

### **Oakfield Township Meeting Schedule:**

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

6:30 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 Darcia Kelley**

- 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 changes?

**Assessor Matthew Smith**

- Reappraisal field work, address changes?

**Deputy Assessor Marissa Brunette**

- FOIAs, notarizing documents, or cemeteries?

**Clerk Sue Trainer**

- Elections or absentee voting?

**Deputy Clerk Barb Kaaikala**

- Tax bills, special assessments, or escrow questions?

**Treasurer Betsy Koett**

- Scram Lake billing and payments, hall rentals, ball field reservations, or dog licenses?

**Deputy Treasurer/Receptionist Amy Christensen**

- Burn permits or reflective address signs?

**Fire Chief Sam Peterson 616-754-5122**

- 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) 616-407-4980**