

Oakfield Township Outlook

Summer 2023

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

Phone: (616) 754-5679

Fire Department Phone: (616)754-5122

Website: www.oakfieldtwp.org

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday 1 p.m. – 5 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. – 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:

Enjoy your summer!



Greg Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor



The Treasurer's Desk:

You will be receiving your 2023 Summer Tax Bill on or around July 1, 2023. These taxes are payable until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023 without interest. Please read the back of your tax bill for more detailed information.

*Betsy Koett, Oakfield Township Treasurer
Amy Christensen, Oakfield Township Deputy Treasurer*



Clerk's Corner:



There are no elections on the schedule for 2023 as of right now.

The passage of Proposal 2 is bringing about many changes to the election process. We are still waiting on actual guidelines from the State of Michigan on the process for implementing these changes. At this point, what we do know is that there will be 9 consecutive days of early voting running from the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election for (8) hours each day for Statewide and Federal elections. Also, prepaid postage will be included on all absent voter ballot applications and absent voter ballots. We will try to keep you updated as changes come about on the Township website www.oakfieldtwp.org.

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. 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 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 must 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.



Enjoy your Summer!

*Sue Trainer, Oakfield Township Clerk
Barb Kaaikala, Oakfield Township Deputy Clerk*

2023 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 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and the upcoming dates are as follows:

July 6, September 6, November 1 and December 27



From the 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 who 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 2023, please file an affidavit with the assessor's office prior to July 18, 2023. In order to qualify for a Veterans Exemption from property taxes, you must have a letter from the VA stating that you are 100% disabled and the nature of your disability is total and permanent. You may also qualify with a disability rating of 70% - 99% disabled if you are designated as unable to work. All applications must include an Affidavit for Veterans Exemption (Form 5107). 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:

We have reached another summer in Oakfield Township and there are so many things to do. First is all the yard work, such as cleaning up leaves, sticks, and the dreaded tree limbs that came down in the ice storm. Then what do we do with these items? Many people choose to burn their yard waste and that is an acceptable method. Here is the proper way to do it:

1. Make your pile away from other trees on an open area of ground, preferably with little to no vegetation growth.
2. Select a nice day with little to no wind.
3. Obtain a burn permit from the Fire Department.

This can be done several different ways:

- by calling the Fire Department at 616-754-5122
 - by filling out the burn permit application online on the township website at www.oakfieldtwp.org
 - by texting your request directly to the Fire Chief at 616-318-3405
4. Be sure you never leave the fire unattended and always have a water source close by.
 5. Make sure your burn pile does not contain any illegal to burn items, such as plastics, rubbers, old building materials or treated lumber, etc.

By following these simple steps, you can help ensure that the fire doesn't get away from you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Fire Department.

Samuel Peterson, Oakfield Township Fire Chief

Oakfield Historical Commission

Our museum open houses start on Sunday, June 25 and are on the last Sunday of each month. We are always looking for volunteers to help host during the 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. time. If you are interested in greeting visitors and sharing our township treasures during this time, call Sharon 616-754-4553.

Oakfield Township Historical Commission:
Steve Tower, Ray Salyer, Sharon Bouck,
Ed and Alice Jackson, John Frueh, Carolyn Balko



Meeting Schedule:

Township Board of Trustees:
6:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month

Planning Commission:
7:00 p.m. 3rd 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 or absentee voting?

Deputy Clerk Barb Kaaikala

- My tax bill, special assessments, or escrow questions?

Treasurer Betsy Koett

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

Deputy Treasurer/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