

Oakfield Township Outlook

Summer 2024

**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

David Howard, Pamela Riker, Ken Rittersdorf, Chad Sowerby



From the Supervisor:

There is a survey available on our website for your opinion on what the Master Plan should include for the future of Oakfield Township. Please take some time to fill it out.

The Macclain Street paving project will continue in July and should be completed by fall. The following roads will be resurfaced this summer: Harvard Road from M-57 to 16 Mile, Ramsdell from 13 Mile to M-57, Swem Street from Harvard to Ramsdell, and Wabasis from M-57 to Sandy Bottom.

Again, 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 are out writing tickets for junk and trash. Please clean up!

Greg Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor

Oakfield Township 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



The Treasurer's Desk:

You will be receiving your 2024 Summer Tax Bill on or around July 1, 2024. Because September 14 is a Saturday, these taxes are payable until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2024 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 2 elections scheduled for 2024. The first election is the State Primary on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. The 9 days of Early Voting for this election will start on Saturday, July 27, 2024 and end on Sunday, August 4, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The second election will be the General Election (Presidential) on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The 9 days of Early Voting for this election will start on Saturday, October 26, 2024 and end on Sunday, November 3, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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. Anyone who has already submitted a request doesn't have to send another one.
- 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. Unless someone has assistance with their ballot then that person also needs to sign in the space provided.
- The Clerk's Office **MUST** receive the ballot no later than 8 p.m. 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 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.

Enjoy your Summer!



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



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, let us know 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 December 31, 2024.

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 2024 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 2024 covers all residential and agricultural properties from Ramsdell to Lincoln Lake between 10 Mile and 12 Mile Roads.

Matthew J. Smith
Oakfield Township Assessor
Marissa Brunette
Oakfield Township Deputy Assessor

Oakfield Historical Commission

Have you ever wondered how the township of Oakfield got its name? Do you know what the name Wabasis means in English? Or who created the cement arch at the White Swan cemetery? How did Wellman Road get its name? These and many other questions can be answered with a visit to the Oakfield Museum on Podunk Avenue, south of M-57.

The museum will be open the first weekend in May for the annual "Spring Into the Past" event of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network. More than 25 member museums will be open Saturday, May 4th from 11 am to 5 pm and Sunday, May 5th from 1 to 5 pm. Theme this year is "Notable Names: Prominent People and Public Places".

Come and visit and learn about the early settlers in Oakfield, where they got their grains ground, why the Oakfield Union Church was built, who carved its cornerstone – and many other interesting facts about Oakfield Township history.

Pick up a Tri-River tour booklet at any museum, or download a copy from commoncorners.com. A handy map in the center can be used to plot a tour of several area museums on the same day!

After this event, the museum will also be open the 4th Sunday of June, July, August and September from 2 to 4:30 pm. Come and bring your family and friends. Get involved!

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



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? Wait, we didn't have snow this year, so that can't be the case. Which brings me to this idea: The amount of snow that didn't come this year has been wreaking havoc on the amount of moisture in the ground, which makes things exceptionally dry this year. 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, 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

2024 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 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and the upcoming dates are as follows:

May 8, July 3, September 4, and December 30

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 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

- 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