

# Oakfield Township Outlook

## Winter 2023

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

Phone: (616) 754-5679

Fire Department Phone: (616) 754-5122

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

### **Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Supervisor – William Greg Dean**

**Clerk – Sue Trainer**

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Treasurer – Betsy Koett**

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Assessor – Matthew Smith**

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 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 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **Trustees**

Bryan Porter, Pamela Riker, Ken Rittersdorf, Chad Sowerby



### **From the Supervisor:**

The road paving projects have gone well this summer. Wabasis Avenue from 15 Mile Road to Macclain Street is done and a small section of Macclain Street has the first layer of pavement. We would have gotten further if the DNR had not shut the project down for the months of May and June to protect blue heron nesting in the construction area. The Macclain Street paving project will continue in the spring, but again, we will lose the months of May and June for another DNR shut down. That project should be done in the fall of 2024. The bridge project over Wabasis Creek on Morgan Mills Avenue will be done sometime in November of 2023.

Oakfield Township has started a Master Plan update, and over the next couple of months, we will be asking for your opinions on what the Master Plan should include for the future of Oakfield Township. You will be able to respond to this on the township website.

Finally, if you are going to build a new structure or add onto a structure, make sure to get the proper zoning and building permits before you start. This will save you problems in the long run.

*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 11, 2024 in order to receive your tax exemption for 2024.

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 2023/2024 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. 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 2023 Winter Tax Bill on or around December 1, 2023. These taxes are payable until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 without interest and penalty. Starting March 1, 2024, 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:**

There will be a Special Election on November 7, 2023 and also elections this winter and spring. The first one will be the Presidential Primary in either February or March. The state hasn't decided the actual date yet. We will post the date on our website and the electronic sign at the township hall once we have it.

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](http://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.
- 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 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 8:00 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!

*Sue Trainer, Clerk  
Barb Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk*



### **Fire Department:**

The winter months are quickly approaching once again. On November 5, remember to set your clocks back one hour and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

This year, I would like to focus on your address. When we respond to an emergency call, we depend on your address being displayed so we can find your home. Many times, in the winter months, snowfall can hide your address signs behind snow piles or drifts, making it difficult to locate your home and adding precious time to our arrival. Please remember to keep your address signs as clear as possible. If you need signs for your home, they can be obtained through Oakfield Township office (and made by Oakfield Fire Department) for only \$15. This is for the green reflective aluminum signs.

Have a safe and happy winter!

*Samuel Peterson  
Oakfield Township Fire Chief*



### **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.

### **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 upcoming dates for are as follows:

- 1:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1, 2023
- 1:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2023
- 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024
- 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024
- 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, 2024
- 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024
- 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 30, 2024

### **Historical Commission**

The Oakfield Museum will be closed October 25, 2023 for the winter. We will open in May with our annual "Spring into the Past".

### **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**
- Elections, absentee voting, FOIAs, notarizing documents, or cemeteries?  
**Clerk Sue Trainer**
- My tax bill, special assessments, or escrow questions? **Treasurer Betsy Koett**
- Scram Lake billing, 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**