

Oakfield Township Outlook

Summer 2025

**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 – 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:



As we welcome another Michigan summer here in Oakfield Township, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the continued pride and care you show for our community. Whether you're planting gardens, fixing up fences, or simply waving hello to neighbors on your evening walk, it's these small moments that make Oakfield such a special place to call home.

Summer in Oakfield brings with it a familiar rhythm – farm fields in full green, kids out enjoying summer break, and long evenings filled with the sounds of crickets and bonfires. It's a season that reminds us why rural living is so deeply rewarding.

A Few Township Updates:

- **Road Maintenance:** Our seasonal gravel grading and dust control are underway. Thank you for your patience as crews work to keep our roads in good condition.
- **Fire Safety Reminder:** Please be mindful of dry conditions during burn season. Contact the fire department for a burn permit any time you are burning.

Keep Oakfield Beautiful – Yard Maintenance Reminder

The township is continuing efforts to address blight and property maintenance in accordance with our local ordinances. Please remember to:

- Remove junk vehicles or unused equipment from yards
- Dispose of trash, brush, and other debris properly
- Store firewood neatly and away from roadways

These small actions make a big difference in keeping Oakfield looking its best and maintaining property values for everyone. If you have questions or need guidance on clean-up resources or township regulations, our office is always here to help.

Looking ahead, we'll continue focusing on responsible growth while preserving the rural character that defines us. I encourage everyone to stay involved – attend a board meeting, share your ideas, or simply lend a helping hand to a neighbor.

On behalf of the entire township board, I wish you a safe, healthy, and joy-filled summer. Thank you for making Oakfield Township the place we're all proud to call home.

Darcia Kelley, Oakfield Township Supervisor



The Treasurer's Desk:



Summer taxes are due on July 1, 2025 and are payable until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2025 without fees or penalties.

You can pay in the following ways:

- Check – Please write legibly and include the correct date, payable to Oakfield Township, matching written and numerical amounts, and signature.
- Money order
- Bill pay – 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.**
- Cash – Please pay with the exact amount.
- Credit card payments – These can be paid online, in person, or over the phone. **There will be a fee for using this service.**
- E-check – These can be paid online. **Again, there is a fee for these services.**

Please read the back of your tax bill for more detailed information.

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



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. 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. Even if your household income is higher than the federal poverty guidelines, you may still qualify for a partial exemption. 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 has started with Hidden Ponds, Holmden Estates, and Lindy Farms and will also include all residential properties on Angel Lake, Deer Lake, Little Blue Lake, and Morgan Lake.

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



Clerk's Corner:



At this time, there are no scheduled elections. We are waiting to hear if there will be one in November.

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

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

Oakfield Historical Commission

If you've ever noticed the "MUSEUM" signs under the "Podunk Road" signs on Lincoln Lake Road and wondered what they mean, we suggest a little road trip down Podunk Road to find the Oakfield Museum! Due to few volunteers, it's only open on the Fourth Sunday of May through September, but Inside, you will discover a whole world of knowledge about Oakfield Township history!

So, what WAS the big white building before the museum was created? Never a school or church, though it looks like those. Perhaps you recall going there a long time ago to vote? Yes, it was the township hall for many years, but that wasn't its original purpose.

The building was built in 1901 to be the meeting hall of the Oakfield Arbor of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. You can see the reproduced AAOG mounted in the peak at the front of the building. The Gleaners were members of the Gleaner Life Insurance Society - a fraternal society that would protect farmers and their families, or others connected with farmers, like millers, veterinarians, etc. They elected local officers and held meetings and other community events.

Many Gleaner artifacts found behind a "secret" door upstairs are on display in the museum. Photos depict the Gleaner officers, both men and women, in their fancy regalia. Members had to be voted on, and if not voted in-- they were "blackballed". Formal rituals and initiations apparently had trials and tests -- ask about the Gleaner goat! In their meeting room upstairs, they also had

community dances and events, including the very popular oyster dinners, when oysters were shipped by train from out east for the occasion.

Gleaners still exist today, though not the Oakfield Arbor. In the past, several area Arbors befriended our Oakfield Museum since it had the Gleaner connection, helping with cleaning, donations and such.

Back in 1931 when the township was seeking a new township hall and the Gleaners were having a hard time maintaining the building due to the economy at the time, an agreement was reached with the township purchasing the building for \$1 but allowing the Gleaners to continue to have their meetings upstairs. It remained the township hall until the new hall was built on M-57 in the late 1980s.

In 1989, a small group of township citizens formed the Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Society and received a life lease to create the present Oakfield Museum. The township still owns and maintains the building and now the township's Historical Commission runs the museum inside.

It's open the 4th Sundays of June through September from 2 to 4 pm. Plan a visit to learn so much more—and maybe even get involved yourself! See you at the Museum!!



2025 Oakfield Community Blood Drives

July's blood drive on the 2nd puts us halfway through our 7th year. Our community has helped save hundreds of lives. We certainly can be proud of that. We are considering extending the hours next year to include some morning appointment times. If you have an opinion about that, please contact Molly Seekamp at 616-754-5125 or mseekamp1408@gmail.com.

If you would like to make an appointment to donate at any of our blood drives, the contact information is included below, or you can contact Molly Seekamp. We would love to have you join us. Call 866-642-5663

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11596880

The blood drives run from 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and the upcoming dates are as follows:

July 2, September 3, October 29, and December 30



Fire Department:

As it continues to get warmer, and you head outside to do yardwork, think about the following before lighting a 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. To obtain a burn permit, do one of the following: call the fire department at 616-754-5122, text the fire chief at 616-318-3405, or click [here](#) to fill out the online form. The link can also be accessed from our website: www.oakfieldtwp.org.

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

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