

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BELDING, MI
PERMIT NO. 102

Otisco Township
9663 W. Button Rd.
Belding, Michigan 48809



Mandy Lewis of Otisco Township and friend Teila Bauer are getting some exercise and enjoying a beautiful day on the Otisco Nature Trail.

OTISCO TOWNSHIP

9663 W. Button Road
Belding, MI 48809

SUMMER NEWS LETTER 2014



THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE: Laura Staats

The Otisco Township Cemetery Committee recently met and toured both the Smyrna and Otisco Cemeteries. We found them both in relatively good shape. We discussed repairs of broken, upset headstones and toppled grave markers. We will check the cost of repairs.

There are also graves that do not conform to Cemetery rules. The committee is asking you to please review the rules and make adjustments to gravesites by (Labor Day—Sept. 1) or the Cemetery Committee will authorize the adjustments to grave-sites so they are conforming.

These are the Cemetery Rules (per ordinance) for Smyrna and Otisco Township cemeteries.

Otisco and Smyrna Cemetery Rules:

1. Open Daylight Hours Only
2. All plantings including Dwarf Plantings & Urns must be in line with monuments for mowing ease
3. Placement of foundation for monuments will be done by Ralph VanOcker the cemetery Sexton
4. No loose stone, brick, landscaping timbers, or fencing on grave-sites
5. Water at Cemetery NOT safe for drinking

TOWNSHIP HALL OFFICE HOURS
SupervisorMom-Tues 9-12 & 1-4
Clerk.....Mon-Th 9:30 –1:30
Treasurer.....Tu-Wed-Fri 10-4
Assessor.....Wed 9-12
Zoning.....Mon-Wed 9-5 Fri-9-1
PHONE 616.794.3506 —FAX 616.794.7083
www.otiscotwp.org

from the desks of



ASSESSOR: Judy Lindberg

My regular office hours will be from 9:00 A.M. to Noon on WEDNESDAY.

Should you have questions or concerns dealing with your assessment, doing a split, combination or demolitions — feel free to contact me at the township hall.

Once again check the PRE (principle residence exemption) on your assessment notice. This is very important to the amount of tax you will pay. If you don't see 100% next to the PRE and you feel you deserve it, please contact me to get the form to have the PRE applied.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Eric Griffin

Now that the cold harsh weather has come to an end, the building season is upon us. Please remember that prior to the construction, development or razing of any use, structure or building, or the moving of any structure or the restoration and structural improvement (other than normal repairs and minor improvements) of any existing use or structure, or the conversion from one use to any other use, a zoning compliance permit shall first be obtained. If you have any questions about how to go about obtaining a permit, or if you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also blank application permits as well as the zoning ordinance are available at otiscotwp.org under the planning & zoning tab.
Have a safe and wonderful summer !

THE PLANNING COMMISSION: Ben Oatley

If you have any ideas as to what you would like to see happen in our township please contact someone at the Hall or come to a Planning Commission meeting. Meetings are held at the Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M

ATTENTION RESIDENTS !!

Primary Election—August 5 —last day to register July 7
General Election — Nov. 4 — last day to register Oct. 6

The clerks office is in the process of updating all the registered voter files and is hoping to have them totally completed by the November election. If you receive a voter ID card and have already received one this year please use your most recent one. Absentee applications are available at the hall.

It's time for summer clean-up so get your 2014/2015 vouchers until March 31, 2015. After that date the 2015/2016 vouchers will be available. We are fortunate to have this service. Bring your ID.

Don't forget recycling at the township hall the fourth Saturday of each month between 9 A.M. & 12:30 P.M. An insert is included in this newsletter with all the recycling do's and don'ts and dates they will be at the hall.

Adorio Technologies has given us a large discount on the creation of our new web page due to the length of time it took to get it up and running. They more than compensated us for the inconvenience.

The township audit is taking place now and results will be forthcoming in another month.

Laura Staats is working on a design for a Township flag. Upon its completion we will include it in our township newsletter for all to see.

Smyrna Summer Celebration August 9, 2014

Schedule of Events:

Pancake Breakfast.....8AM-10AM
Car/Tractor/Truck/Cycle registration.....9AM-11AM
Farmers Market.....9AM-3PM setup 8AM
Craft Sale.....9AM-3PM setup 8AM
Hot Dog & Brat Lunch.....11AM-1:30 PM
For More Info Call: Maryann Reeves @ 616.794.1388
OR Laura Staats @ 616.794.4313

from the desks of



SUPERVISOR: Paul Reeves

NEWSLETTER JULY 2014

COUNTY ROAD MILLIAGE PROPOSAL

This is information I received from the Ionia County Road Commission.

2014 Ionia County Road Improvement Ballot Proposal

On the August 5th ballot Ionia County is proposing 2 mills per year for 6 years to repair and improve paved and gravel roads and bridges. The millage would provide approximately \$3.1 million annually. The cost to taxpayers is \$100 per \$50,000 in taxable value annually.

Why is the County asking for money for road repairs?

Simply put, there is not enough money being generated to repair and maintain our County road and bridge system. Identified repair and improvement requirements for county roads currently exceed revenues available from current funding sources. Currently, only 5% of the roads in Ionia County are rated as "good".*

Don't my property taxes already pay for County roads?

There are currently no county property tax monies going to roads. Funding for county roads in Michigan is provided through the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). The MTF divides approximately 6 cents per gallon of gasoline purchased in Michigan among the 83 county road agencies in the state. The state legislature has voted in favor of only one increase in the gas tax since 1984, an increase of 4 cents in 1997. Since 1997, costs to maintain and improve county roads have risen continuously.

If approved, how will the additional money be spent?

The Road Commission will assess roads and identify sections in need of repairs. This assessment will factor in the current traffic volumes, safety concerns, surface condition, and the road's importance to local commerce. This plan will guide Road Commission spending of the millage funds. A portion of the funding will also go to the cities of Belding, Ionia, and Portland along with the several villages in the county for road and bridge repair projects.

*Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating System (PASER)

Vote August 5, 2014

How will the county select road and bridge projects?

- By law, the Ionia County Road Commission is required to perform a physical inventory of their road and bridge system annually.
- This inventory process allows an agency to make decisions for their transportation network with the best information they can collect.
- The process enables good stewardship and transparent decision processes.
- The initial plan is focused on inner-county corridor projects that address poor surface condition, safety, and traffic volumes in multiple townships.
- The Road Commission board and staff will prioritize projects based on PASER ratings, safety, and traffic volumes and function.
- A list of projects will be published annually in local news publications.

Please visit www.ioniacountyroads.org for a list of all primary road corridors, their PASER rating, average daily traffic (ADT), and estimated cost of repairs.

If this passes? The board would have to talk about continuing all, part or none of the two mills we are already paying.

Be Sure to vote August 5th 2014.

Paul

CLERK: Lynda Sower

This past winter was a hard one so now its time to enjoy the sunshine. I would like to encourage everyone to check out the nature trail that now goes through our township. The trail is great for walking, jogging, biking or just family time together. It's a great way to enjoy nature close to home.

The clerks office has been busy arranging training for NEW Election Inspectors this month. My deputy and I went to a county wide election training and were enlightened to the fact, in the not so far off future, elections will be run primarily electronically. I needed a few more computer savvy inspectors to get trained. They went to training in Ionia June 18th & 19th. We are welcoming 6 new ones. All of our other regular inspectors need to be re-certified every 2 years and this is the year for them to be re-certified. Their training will be held July 14 at the Otisco Township Hall from 2:00PM to 5:00PM this year.

Please check out the recycling insert. It will answer a lot of questions.

Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. You are invited to join us and find out all that is happening in YOUR TOWNSHIP. We welcome your input. Give me a call if you need information or assistance I can help with. Call -794.3506

Have a Sun Shiny Summer !!

TREASURER: Janet Breimayer

Please remember that you may defer your taxes if you meet one of the following criteria:

1. Annual household income of \$40,000 or less.
2. 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 yrs. or older at the time of death.
3. Paraplegic, Hemiplegic or Quadriplegic.
4. Eligible service person, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower
5. Blind person
6. Totally and permanently disabled
7. Agriculture deferment

Remember deferment does not mean you don't have to pay taxes, it only means you can defer summer taxes until winter and pay both by Feb.14 2015 I am in the office Tues. Wed. & Fri. 10AM to 4PM. Taxes can be paid with a personal check, cashier's check or paypal. **Have a Great Summer.**