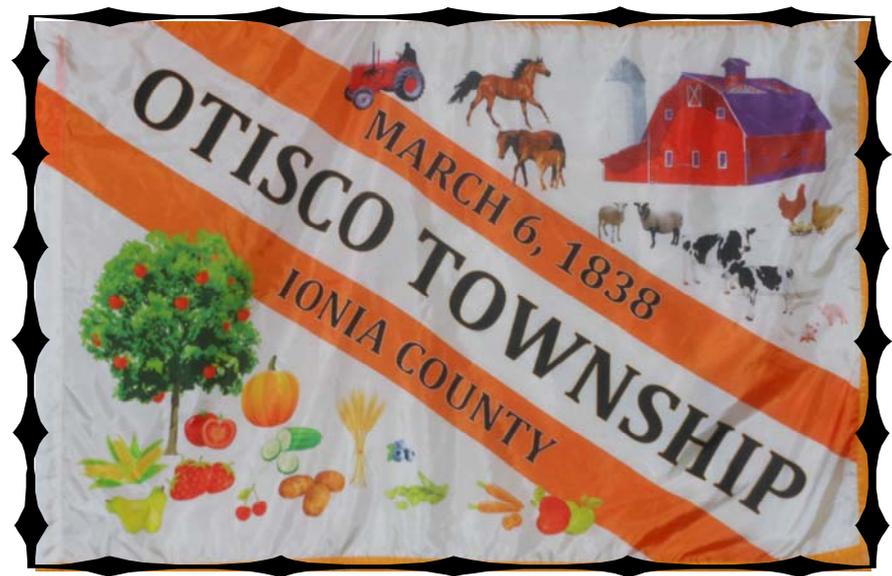


PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BELDING, MI
PERMIT NO. 102

or current occupant

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



❄ The "New" Otisco Township Flag ! ❄



OTISCO TOWNSHIP

9663 W. Button Road
Belding, MI 48809

❄ WINTER ❄
NEWS LETTER
❄ 2014-15 ❄



ASSESSOR: Judy Lindberg

Greetings Fellow Property Owners

Our new Otisco Township flag was created by Otisco resident Laura Staats. Laura was chosen to carry the flag in the opening ceremony of the MTA conference in January. There is a procession of flags representing all the Michigan Townships and Thanks to Laura Otisco Township now has one.

Thank-You Laura for all your work on the flag !

My name is Judy Lindberg, and I am Matt Frain's associate – of Frain and Associates. This is just a friendly reminder that my office hours at the township hall are Wednesdays from 9:00 to 12:00 each week. During that time I am happy to meet with you. I can also be contacted through our township phone number. Please leave a message if no one answers.

The real estate market is always changing, and our annual property assessments reflect this. As the assessor, it is my goal to provide accurate property valuations and work to clearly communicate this to all property owners. With this in mind, I appreciate your time in reviewing the assessment notice that will be coming out at the end of February 2015. In addition, here are a few discussion points that the assessor's office frequently responds to:

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT CYCLE?

1. **PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL:** The assessor worked throughout 2014 to prepare the 2015 assessment roll. The 2015 assessments are based on property values as of "Tax Day" December 31st, 2014.
2. **MAILING OF ASSESSMENT NOTICES:** In mid-February, the assessor's office mails out the 2015 assessment notice to all property owners (enclosed). This gives a preview of the taxable value that the 2015 taxes will be calculated on. Total annual taxes – taxable value x millage rate
3. **MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW:** If a property owner feels their assessment should be reviewed, they can call the township and schedule an appointment to come and meet with the March Board of Review. The Board of Review works on behalf of the property owner to review his or her assessment.
4. **TAXES MAILED:** After the close of the 2015 March Board of Review, the 2015 assessments are finalized and the property values can no longer be discussed. Once those figures are set, the 2015 taxes are billed. The total annual bill is split between the summer (July 1st) and winter (December 1st) bills. The Board of Review comes back and meets in July and December each year soon after the tax bills are mailed. However, the only authority they have at these meetings is to correct clerical errors found once tax bills have been mailed.
5. **REPEAT 1-4:** Once the 2015 Board of Review is complete at the end of March, the assessor begins to prepare the 2016 assessment roll, and the process starts over.

WHAT IS PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION?

If your property is owned and occupied as your primary residence, the "PRE percentage" listed on your assessment notice is listed at 100%. Please review your assessment notice to verify this. A 100% PRE means that you are totally exempt from the 18-mil school operating millage. Note – this is the same millage exemption that agricultural (farm) property owners receive.

from the desks of



TREASURER: Janet Breimayer

Winter tax season is here once again! Please remember to make your check or money order out to “Otisco Township”. Paying your taxes with cash is OK as long as you have the exact amount. I do not keep that much cash on hand.

Remember that taxes are normally due on February 14, 2015. However, since the 14th is on a Saturday, they will be due on February 16, 2015. Please DO NOT wait until the 16th. If you have any questions, please give me a call...Thank-You.

**Have a wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy and
Healthy New Year !**

Jan Breimayer — Otisco Township Treasurer

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Laura Staats

If you are planning a project around your property, please stop by the Otisco Township offices and talk to Marc Larabel, the Zoning Administrator, chances are your project already falls within the zoning guidelines and there will be no need to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals. In 2013 every variance brought before the board was granted.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets a minimum of four times a year, the second Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the Otisco Township Hall. Other meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis. All meetings are open to the public.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Ben Oatley

We are coming along very well on a couple of township issues ...for more information or to offer your ideas please feel free to attend our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS !!

Marc Larabel is our new Zoning Administrator. Marc currently lives in Grandville and comes to us with many years of experience in township Zoning.

Thinking ahead to our next election—if anyone would like to be included on the permanent absentee ballot list please come in to the hall or notify the clerks office. We are encouraging our residents to do this as it seems to be getting harder to get to the polls on voting day. Many residents either have health problems or are working out of town and can't get to the polls during the hours they are open. Our goal is to have the largest voter turnout possible.

The flags in the cemeteries will be taken down and if some ones personal flag was taken please come to the hall and it will be returned to you.

We would like to thank Joan Reeves for taking it upon herself to paint the entrance door to the hall. It needed attention and with the new coat of paint it certainly freshened it up. Thanks Joan !!

April 1, 2015 new Pitch Landfill vouchers will be available. You receive 2 trips per year. This is a nice perk for living in Otisco Township. Also don't forget recycling the fourth Saturday of every month from 9:00AM—12 Noon at the township hall. Do not leave materials unless the truck is there.

Please use this service we don't want to lose it !

The Zoning Administrator and the Assessor will have new magnetic signs for their vehicles so residents can identify them.

TOWNSHIP HALL OFFICE HOURS

SupervisorMon-Tu-Wed 9-12 & 1-4

Clerk.....Mon-Th 9:30 –1:30

Treasurer.....Tu-Wed-Fri 10-4

Assessor.....Wed 9-12

Zoning.....Wed-Fri 10-5

PHONE 616.794.3506 —FAX 616.794.7083

from the desks of



SUPERVISOR: Paul Reeves

The Otisco Township board voted to purchase the house and property west of the township hall. This property became available due to a tax sale and the township had the first opportunity to purchase it. Our plans are to remove the home for future parking and a second drain field is needed.

This brings up a question I would like to ask you (meaning the residents of the township) about making some improvements at the township hall; like landscaping, cleaning up the property that has all the trees and making a picnic area, improve playground equipment, improved ball field or soccer field and/or adding on to the township hall for a larger meeting and community center.

Please let us know both pro or con and offer any suggestions and ideas you may have. It would be good to have a five or six year plan for roads, cemeteries and other township improvements. I would like to hear your suggestions.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !
Paul**

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Marc Larabel

As your new Zoning Administrator/Ordinance Enforcement Officer I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your assistance. My current hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00AM until 5:00 PM. It is my intention to divide my time between office hours and road patrols within the township. As I become more familiar with the township, you should be seeing a red F150 with placard on the doors stating "Zoning Administrator".

You as township residents always have an open line of communication with both me and my office. Email me at zadmin@otiscotwp.org , voice-mail at 616.794.3506 or use the drop box by the front door of the township hall with att: Zoning Administrator on the envelope. I welcome both suggestions and complaints.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Marc Larabel

As I stated, I'm currently in the township two days per week. As residents of the township you are the eyes and ears when I am not here. Therefore, I will rely on each and every one of you to keep me informed. In return, I will do my best to represent YOU and the township both fair and impartially by using the Zoning and the Ordinances that are in place. I look forward to what I hope to be a long and trusting relationship with the residents and business owners of Otisco Township.

CLERK: Lynda Sower

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Otisco Township for a great turn out for the November general election. It is important to vote when possible and with absentee ballots available it is always possible. It is your way of saying "this is what I want". The Election Inspectors (our workers) were working hard to make the process of voting faster and easier for all of you. I hope it was a good experience. I want to thank our extraordinary team of Election Inspectors for a great job. If you have any suggestions or complaints please let me know. Nothing can be fixed if I don't know there is a problem.

Otisco Township was one of the townships that was randomly selected by the state to have our election audited. The audit was done Dec 5. The results were very favorable and everything was done correctly and by law. We were even complimented on our organization.

Remember : this is YOUR township ...Please mark your calendars for board meetings and Thank-You to all of you who have been attending. The input from the residents is very important. Many decisions made by the board directly affect your lives and property. Township Board meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM . Dates are posted on the bulletin board on the outside of the hall. Hope to see you there in 2015.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year ... Keep Safe !!!
Lynda Sower— Otisco Township Clerk**