

Monitor Township News



2483 Midland Rd, Bay City, MI 48706
Phone 684-7203 Fax: 684-9234
www.monitortwp.org

June 2016



Notes from Gary A. Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor



Monitor Township Road Work: The second phase of Monitor Township roads is not progressing as fast as I had planned—bids should have been back and work started, but no such luck. This is due to more requests for additional work in some of the subdivisions which resulted in holding up the entire project. Some road work will still be done this year, but it will be later and less than I had planned.

I need to remind you that to keep the edges of the new roads from breaking up and the curbs in subdivisions from being disturbed, the Bay County Road Commission has asked that you please put your trash carts in front of the curb on the asphalt in subdivisions. On the local roads, put the trash carts at least halfway on the asphalt.



Notes from Cindy Kowalski, Township Clerk

Close of Registration Dates

July 5, 2016 – Last day to register for the August Primary election

October 11, 2016 – Last day to register for the November General election

2014 Election Dates

August 2, 2016 – Primary Election

November 8, 2016 – General Election

Going out of town election day? Absentee ballot applications are available for the Primary and/or General Election. The application for absent voter's ballot is a dual application that is for both the August 2nd Primary and November 8th General Election. Please check the appropriate box next to the Primary Election Reason and/or the General Election Reason for requesting the absentee ballot. Mark both boxes if you wish to receive a Primary & General election ballot.

Ballots will be mailed approximately 45 days before each election to all voters who have returned the absent voter application. Please designate, in the space provided, your mailing address for each election if it is different from the address shown at the top of this application. Before returning your application, please sign at the red X on the application.

You can call, or come to the township office to receive your application Monday – Friday during office hours. The Clerk's office will be open on the Saturday prior to the Primary and General Elections (July 30th and November 5th) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to issue and receive ballots.



Election Law Change Public Act 523 of 2012

***NEW Photo ID Required for In-Person Absent Voter Ballot**

- If a voter receives an **AV ballot in person** at the Clerk's office, the **voter is required to present a photo ID** or sign an affidavit. If the voter signs the affidavit, his/her AV ballot must be prepared as a challenged ballot.
- This procedure is only required for voters expecting to leave the Clerk's office with their AV ballot in hand. **It is not required for voters simply dropping off their AV application and receive the ballot through the mail.**

Not sure if you are registered or where to vote? Call the township office at 684-7203 or go online to <http://www.michigan.gov/sos> and click on the Elections in Michigan tab. From this page you can access the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) link. This link will also let you view a sample ballot.



Interested in Working an Election and Becoming an Election Inspector?

Are you over 16 years of age and would like to provide a service to your local community?

Monitor Township is currently taking applications for election inspectors. No prior experience is necessary. All training will be provided and training sessions will be conducted in June.

Applications are available Monday – Friday during regular business hours. **Involve yourself in the election process and apply today!**



Monitor Township
Candidates and Ballot Proposal
for the
Primary Election
August 2, 2016

Public Safety Millage Renewal

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MONITOR
FIRE/POLICE MILLAGE RENEWAL**

Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in the Charter Township of Monitor of 0.75 mill (75¢ per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.7494 mill (74.94¢ per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed and levied at 0.7494 mill (74.94¢ per \$1,000 of taxable value) for ten (10) years commencing in 2016 and continuing through 2025 inclusive, for the purpose of providing supplemental funding for the operation of the Township’s Fire Department, including the purchase of new firefighting vehicles and equipment, and for Sheriff patrol services, raising an estimated \$278,063.41 in 2016?

[] Yes
[] No

Candidate Listing

- Supervisor: Earl E. Arnold (D)
James Bellor (D)
Don Jacobs (R)
Kenneth M. Malkin (D)
- Clerk: Cindy L. Kowalski (D)
- Treasurer: Sue Pike (D)
- Trustee: Gary A. Brandt (R)
Ken Dubay (D)
Paul Guzdzial (D)
Elaine M. Kochany (D)
Terry R. Miller (D)
Bill Reder (D)
Robert Walsh (R)



The August Primary Election will not require you to choose a Republican or a Democratic ballot. Both parties will be listed, however, you will only be able to vote for one party.



**Notes from Tod Fackler,
Monitor Township Assessor**

As you may have noticed there is a new Assessor in Monitor Township. Margaret Ford has decided to experience a new adventure known as retirement as of December 1, 2015. We wish her all the enjoyment and fulfillment possible in this endeavor.

I come to the position with twenty years experience in the assessing field. I have been active in local government since 1985 serving on the Planning Commission, as a Township Trustee and Township Supervisor along with being the Assessor in the community in which I live. With the transition to a new assessor serving the Monitor Township residents, continuing the ease of accessibility, accuracy and fairness of this office will remain a primary goal. I have been out and about, driving the area, and becoming familiar with all the different characteristics of this clean, progressive and diverse community. With the warm weather of summer, I will continue canvassing the community, updating pictures, verifying accuracy of record cards, as well as meeting and getting acquainted with many of you. For your assurance and protection, I will be wearing a pictured identification badge verifying that I am the Township Assessor with the Charter Township of Monitor. As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please call, e-mail or stop into the office and see me. I am in the township three days a week and have Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm, as regular office days.



Notes from Sue Pike, Monitor Township Treasurer



Tax Collection Hours are Monday through Friday
9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm
Entire office is Closed 12-1 pm for lunch.

Summer Taxes will be mailed out June 30th. Be sure to review carefully for any corrections. Taxes are not forwarded in the US mail, so for you snow birds, stop in to see the assessor to have your address changed before you leave and when you return. If you have not received your tax bill by July 15th, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed. Please be aware that the state law says a property owner is responsible for property taxes (including late charges that may accrue) regardless of whether or not a bill was received. You should expect to receive a tax bill on the first of July and on the first of December of each year. If for some reason you do not receive a tax bill, please call our office to verify your address and to have a duplicate sent. A Note to all... I have spoken with our US Postal carrier and learned that mail now goes to Detroit and back to Bay City. Turn around is now 2-4 days. To avoid late charges, please keep this in mind, especially for those of you who pay close to the last day. You may have mailed your payment thinking we would receive it in the next day or two, but postal services have changed.

I would like to share some information with you for the upcoming 2016 Summer Tax Season. Our summer tax bill will consist of State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School tax. Summer millage total is 32.7157. If 100% homestead, Summer millage total will be 14.7157

Your tax bill includes your **receipt**. Please tear off the bottom and mail it with your payment. Keep the top portion for your receipt. **Additional copies are .35 each.**

Thank you to all of you who use our drop box located in the parking lot for after-hour convenience. We check it twice a day to make sure that your payments are applied promptly. To our residents that requested a paid receipt by mail, thank you for including your stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment.

If you defer your taxes, please remember that payment is due by February 14, 2017. As a courtesy, we mail all those who were deferred in the prior year a new application to fill out. **A new form must be filled out each and every calendar year.** If you think you may qualify to defer your summer taxes, you may pick up an application at our office or print one at www.michigan.gov/treasury and typing "471" into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 14, 2016.

As always, cat and dog licenses will be available at the tax window. You must present your rabies certificate to be issued a new license.



Notes from Chief John Kramer, Monitor Township Fire Chief

Make home fire safety the whole family's responsibility. Work together, from the oldest to the youngest family member, to come up with an emergency escape plan in case of a fire or other emergency.

Try to include at least two ways to escape from each room in your home (this is not always feasible, depending on your home). Map out your fire plan on paper and be sure it includes emergency phone numbers. Post a copy in each bedroom. Try to review the plan with the whole family once a month.

Retractable ladders are a necessity for bedrooms on the second floor or higher. Everyone in your family needs to know how to climb out of a window and down a ladder in case of an emergency. Be sure everyone knows how to crawl under smoke to escape during a fire and how to cover their mouths and noses with shirts or towels to keep from breathing in smoke. Designate one family member to assist younger children, elderly relatives or pets during an emergency.

Be sure all children know what smoke and fire alarms sound like so they can recognize them during a fire. Teach your children the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique for putting out a fire on their clothes or in their hair.

Install working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home. This is probably the most important part of any home fire safety plan, as these devices are your first defense against a fire. Once they're installed, remember to check the batteries twice a year and replace them as needed.

Safety Alert!

Don't install smoke detectors near windows or outside doors. If there is a fire, smoke might slip outside through one of these openings and not set off the alarm, which can be dangerous.

Helpful Tip

Don't install smoke detectors in kitchens, bathrooms or living rooms. Steam from cooking or hot showers, as well as smoke from fireplaces and candles, can set off alarms unnecessarily.

Carbon monoxide detectors that are not a combination smoke alarm unit should be installed lower to the floor because carbon monoxide is heavier than air. Many are plug-in units and can be plugged into any wall socket.

Notes from Dep. Lee and Dep. Prezzato assigned to Monitor Township

If you are planning to go on vacation, you can pick up a house check request at the township office. Deputies will check the exterior of your residence while you are on your trip. Also remember to leave the phone number of a local contact person (neighbor, family member or friend) in case there is a problem with the residence. It is a good idea to leave a key with the contact person in case entry to your house is needed. Have a great summer.

Any questions, please contact Deputy Lee or Deputy Prezzato at (989) 895-4050.



Golf carts, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc, are not allowed to be ridden on the roadways nor road shoulders in Monitor Township. This includes subdivisions.



Ditches and catch basins are intended to drain water away from flooding your property. Dumping grass clippings and brush into ditches and allowing debris in your gutters and catch basins will eventually block water flow and require cleaning of storm sewers which will result in a charge assessed to your property. **A little courtesy will save you money!**



Have a large item to be picked up? One large item a week may be put out on the same day as your trash. A separate truck handles large pickups, usually the day after your trash. Waste Management's number is 1-800-796-9696. The numbers in the phone book are not correct.

Twigs and branches that are less than 3 inches in diameter must be in bundles less than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter.



Please pick up after your dog whether you are in the park or walking down a street.



Monitor Township Park is located on 3 Mile Rd. between Midland and N. Union and is open from 8 a.m. until sunset through September 30. Lost items are taken to the Township office. Come to the Township office to reserve the pavilion or ball diamonds.

For proper disposal of hazardous materials, call the Bay County Health Department at 895-4006 or check their website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health



Supervisor ----Gary A. Brandt
Supervisor@monitortwp.org
Clerk-----Cindy Kowalski
Clerk@monitortwp.org
Deputy Clerk—Linda Ferguson
Treasurer-----Sue Pike
Treasurer@monitortwp.org
Deputy Treasurer—Josie Hill
Assessor----Tod Fackler
Assessor@monitortwp.org
Building Dept.--Carol Goodwin
Building@monitortwp.org
Trustee-----Earl Arnold
Trustee-----Elaine Kochany
Trustee-----Ken Malkin
Trustee-----Terry Miller
Administrative Secretary—
Jean Wildeboer
Officemanager@monitortwp.org



Township Hours

Township Office Hours 9-12 and 1-5
Tax Collection Hours 9-12 and 1-4
Assessor Tod Fackler
8-12 and 1-4 Wednesday & Thursday
Building Department 8-12
Carol Goodwin--Bldg. & Zoning Admin. Assistant
Dave DeGrow--Building Inspector-no office hours
David Rochow---Zoning Enforcement- no office hrs
Electrical Inspector
Frank Bryden 894-5053
Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector
Dell Bedford 989-272-5108



Be a responsible homeowner—keep your lawn mowed and junk free.



Charter Township of Monitor
2483 Midland Rd
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