

# Monitor Township News



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[www.monitortwp.org](http://www.monitortwp.org)

June 2018



## Report from Township Supervisor, Ken Malkin



We are finally underway with improvements to our long awaited subdivision special assessment districts. Five (5) subdivisions will be receiving improvements this spring and summer to their storm water system and roads. We appreciate the patience our residents in these subdivisions have shown over the years as we negotiated through a very long and arduous process. The newly paved roads will be paid for out of our road millage. That millage has resulted in a substantial improvement to the roads in Monitor Township. After this year, over 90% of the local roads will have been completed.

The Township is also undertaking substantial improvements to our park on Three Mile Road. It will cause an inconvenience for those who use our park while the construction is ongoing. The north part of the park will be closed and times to reserve the pavilion will be limited until the improvements are completed. Please call our office for the times. Once the construction is completed, residents will see an expanded parking lot, new playground equipment, brand new grills and picnic tables, along with improved lighting. We hope you will enjoy the new surroundings.

Work on our sanitary sewer system is continuing. We will be continuing to make repairs to manhole covers throughout the township. Those repairs have not been addressed for some time. I am in the process of developing an annual schedule of repairs. We continue to conduct testing to determine how storm water is infiltrating into our sanitary sewer system. We hope to have the results of those studies in the next few months. Hopefully, we can identify the source of the infiltration.

Finally, the township board voted to purchase property adjacent to the township hall. We believe we

(Supervisor Report - Continued...) received a favorable price and that it will assist us with the long term needs of our township. This is especially true as we explore the needs of our fire station through our Fact-Finding Committee.



## Report from Clerk, Cindy L. Kowalski

Close of Registration Dates – **Last Day to Register**

**July 9, 2018** Primary Election  
**October 9, 2018** General Election

Upcoming Elections in 2018

**August 7, 2018** Primary Election  
**November 6, 2018** 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 7th Primary and November 6th 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. Please remember – Ballots can only be mailed to the address on the application and cannot be forwarded by postal mail. Before returning your application, please sign at the red X on the application. Please also include your phone number on the application. This is very helpful to us if there are issues with mail delivery.

You can also 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 (August 4th and November 3rd) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to issue and receive ballots.

## Election Inspectors Needed

### Interested in Working an Election and Becoming an Election Inspector?

Are you retired or 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 of 2018. Applications are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours. **Involve yourself in the election process and apply today!**

## Kawkawlin River Cleanup

The north branch of the Kawkawlin River is scheduled for cleanup to remove dead trees and pipes from old pipelines. The project is scheduled to start around June 9<sup>th</sup> this year.

## Report from Township Treasurer, Sue Pike

 Tax Collection Hours are Monday through Friday  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Closed 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm for lunch.



Summer Taxes will be mailed out **June 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please be sure to review carefully for accuracy. Note: USPS will not forward your tax bill, so for you snow birds please stop in to see the assessor prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> to have your address changed. If you have not received your tax bill by July 10<sup>th</sup>, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed out to. Please be aware that Michigan law states that 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 1<sup>st</sup> of July and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December of each year. If you do not receive a tax bill, please call our office to verify your address and to request a duplicate.

A reminder to all - we have spoken with the US Postal Carrier and the mail (due to various cost cuts), will have a turn-around time of 2 to 5 days. Please keep this in mind for those of you who make payment close to the last day due to avoid late charges. Important: **WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS.** Your payment must be in our office by the due date. No exceptions.

I would like to share some additional information with you for the upcoming **2018 Summer Tax Season**. The summer tax bill will include the: **State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School Tax**. Summer millage total is 32.7157. If you are 100% Homestead, your summer millage total will be 14.7157

Your tax bill includes your **receipt**. Please tear off at the bottom and mail with your payment and keep the top portion for your receipt. **Remember: Additional copies are .35¢ each.**

Thank you to all of you who used our **Drop Box** located in the parking lot for after-hour convenience. We check it twice a day to make sure that your payments were 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 have deferred your taxes, please remember that payment is due by **February 14, 2019**. As a courtesy, we have mailed all those who were deferred in the prior year a new application to fill out. **NOTE: 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 <http://www.michigan.gov/treasury> TYPE "471" into the search bar. Applications will be accepted from July 1 through September 14, 2018.

 As always **Cat and Dog Licenses** will be available at the tax window. Please remember we must have your rabies certificate to issue your pet a license.

Wishing You All a Safe and Happy Summer!



**Offices Closed:** July 4, Sept 3, Oct. 8, Nov 12, 22, 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Report from Fire Chief, John Kramer

Greetings from Chief Kramer and your Fire Department

With over half of the state's residential fire fatalities claiming the lives of those over the age of 60 last year, State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier today is urging Michiganders to **Push the Button** to test smoke alarms in the homes of elderly loved ones to make sure they are working properly. "Go visit anyone that you care about – your mom, dad, grandparents, elderly neighbors – and record a video of yourself and your family member testing their smoke alarm," said Sehlmeier. "By pushing the button on each smoke alarm, you will make sure the smoke alarm works and know that your family and friends are protected. Homes should have a working smoke alarm on every level of the house, including the basement – and one in every bedroom. If you have a fire, you will have less than three minutes to get out of your home before the smoke and fire gases become deadly based on live fire studies. The early warning given by smoke alarms provide you with extra time to escape, especially children and senior citizens who are most at risk and need extra seconds to get out safely.

Smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years. You should check your smoke alarms monthly. If your smoke alarm begins to "chirp," it's a warning that the battery is low and needs to be replaced. Smoke alarms are either powered by a disposable 9-volt battery or non-replaceable 10-year lithium "long-life" battery.

Some homes have smoke alarms directly hardwired into the home electrical system. Hard-wired smoke alarms are usually equipped with a backup battery and those batteries also need to be replaced at some point. An advantage with hard-wired alarms is that they are interconnected so when one smoke alarm goes off, all the smoke alarms go off in the whole house. Never borrow a battery from a smoke alarm to use somewhere else.

For the last several years, Michigan has ranked in the top tier of states nationally for its high number of residential fire fatalities. In 2017 alone, Michigan's fire departments collectively reported (87) residential fire fatalities with the highest percentage (52.4%) among those over the age of 60. Furthermore, the National Fire Protection Association reports that 3 out of every 5 home fire deaths occur from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Your fire department supports the State Fire Marshalls and encourages all of our residents to **Push the Button** to save lives. (Continued Page 3...)

(Continued From Page 2...) Another topic that has kept our office and phones busy is the **Burning Permit** issue. I have made an attempt to publish this in every newsletter to help our community members understand the rules of burning. The State of Michigan is controlled by the DNR and DEQ when it comes to open burns.

**Let me explain:** First of all the governor is the only one that can Ban Burning State Wide in Michigan. However the DNR and DEQ control the permit regulations. In Monitor Township we have an ordinance that covers open burning and what needs a permit. When the DNR and DEQ issue a burn ban on permits that means we cannot issue permits until the ban is lifted. This means that any open burn that needs a permit cannot happen. Agriculture is exempt from the burning permit if it is directly related to the agriculture process. This does not include setbacks or set asides that can be burned and are controlled by a time line. This means that you cannot place a brush pile in a farm field and call it agriculture. The burning of ditches is not covered as well and you must obtain a permit to burn the ditches around your fields. If you choose to burn illegally you risk getting caught and then fined from the township and/or the DNR or the DEQ. Remember, you are responsible for any fire that you start and any damages caused if it gets away on you. We will post a notice on our door to let you know if we are not issuing permits. You may also follow the State of Michigan DNR Map by going to [www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits) and if our township is in the brown no permits will be issued. If we are orange then we can issue permits. You may also call the fire station to see if we are issuing permits or not. Please remember that we follow the laws of the State of Michigan. I hope this helps.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer and always practice fire prevention.

Chief John R. Kramer



**Report from the Sheriff Department  
Deputy Eric Anthony & Ryan Christie**

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 at the residence. It is a good idea to leave a key with the contact person in case entry to your house is needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Sheriff Department at (989) 895-4050.



**Putting Up A Fence – Know the Ordinance**

Residential fences or walls shall not exceed six (6) feet in height and may be constructed on the property line in any yard **except** a required front yard. Barb wire is not permitted.

Barbed wire is allowed in the Agricultural Zoning District for the purposes of enclosing animals or livestock only. Remember: any tract of land not used for farming purposes shall have its fences or walls conform to the requirements of the Residential Zoning District.

**NOTE:** Although **NO PERMIT** is required for putting up a fence, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** to know where your property line is before erecting a fence.



**Trash Pickup Reminders**

In order 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, yard waste, and recycle containers in front of the curb on the asphalt in subdivisions. On the local roads, put the containers at least halfway onto the asphalt.**

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 bulk truck handles large pickups and in most cases the item is picked up the day after your regular trash pickup day.



Waste Management **RECOMMENDS** that all garbage and yard waste be taken out the evening before or by 6:30 a.m. on the morning of your trash pickup. **Yard Waste:** 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. Waste Management's contact phone number is **(800) 796-9696**

**Monitor Township Park** is located at 4585 3 Mile Road between Midland and N. Union and is open from 8 a.m. until sunset through September 30. As a reminder, the park will be closed May – June and a portion of July this year as it will be undergoing various improvements and much needed renovations. If you would like to make an August or September reservation please call the office at (989) 684-7203 as there are several dates still available.

**Report from your Township Assessor, Tod Fackler**

**EXCITING NEWS REGARDING PROPERTY INFORMATION**  
Property values and descriptions will soon be available 24/7 on our website by clicking on the **“Search Properties”** link under the **Assessor’s** page. Check the website often for updates and a complete timeline for implementation. [www.monitortwp.org](http://www.monitortwp.org)

**2018 June – December Meeting Dates**

<b>Township Board</b>	One Meeting Per Month
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	September 24 <sup>th</sup>
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	November 26 <sup>th</sup>
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Planning Commission</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month *
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>July 10<sup>th</sup>*</b>
<b>August 14<sup>th</sup>*</b>	<b>September 11<sup>th</sup>*</b>
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>November 13<sup>th</sup>*</b>
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>*Meetings Scheduled (1) Week Later Due to Holiday or Elections</b>	
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month*
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	July 19 <sup>th</sup>
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	September 20 <sup>th</sup>
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	November 15 <sup>th</sup>
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>*ONLY AS NEEDED</b>

**Township Hours & Building Department Info**

Office Hours:	9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm
Tax Collection Hours:	9 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm
Assessor* Tod Fackler:	8 am -12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm Wednesday & Thursday *Appointments Recommended
Building Department	8 am -12 pm
Carol Goodwin.....	Bldg. & Zoning Admin. Assistant
Dave DeGrow.....	Building Inspector-In the Field
David Rochow.....	Zoning Enforcement- In the Field
Electrical Inspector	
Frank Bryden.....	(989) 894-5053...Direct
Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector	
Dell Bedford.....	(989) 272-5108...Direct



**Building Permits:** No permit is required if you are replacing the windows with new windows the same size and shape. A permit is not needed if you are replacing your roof shingles or installing a metal roof, however if any amount of sheeting will be replaced a building permit is required. A building permit is also needed for any deck or porch raised off the ground, additions, garages and sheds over 200 sq feet, adding or changing interior walls or finishing off an interior attic or basement space.

**Township Elected Officials & Administrative Staff**

Supervisor	Ken Malkin	<a href="mailto:supervisor@monitortwp.org">supervisor@monitortwp.org</a>
Clerk	Cindy Kowalski	<a href="mailto:clerk@monitortwp.org">clerk@monitortwp.org</a>
Treasurer	Sue Pike	<a href="mailto:treasurer@monitortwp.org">treasurer@monitortwp.org</a>
Assessor	Tod Fackler	<a href="mailto:assessor@monitortwp.org">assessor@monitortwp.org</a>
Deputy Clerk		Linda Ferguson
Deputy Treasurer		Josie Hill
Administrative Secretary and Deputy Supervisor		<a href="mailto:office@monitortwp.org">office@monitortwp.org</a> Beth L. Patterson
Building Assistant	Carol Goodwin	<a href="mailto:building@monitortwp.org">building@monitortwp.org</a>
Trustee:	Gary A. Brandt	Trustee: Elaine Kochany
Trustee:	Bill Reder	Trustee: Bob Walsh