

# Monitor Township News



2483 Midland Rd, Bay City, MI 48706  
Phone 684-7203 Fax: 684-9234  
[www.monitortwp.org](http://www.monitortwp.org)

December 2013



## Notes from Gary A. Brandt, Township Supervisor

Better quality water is coming to Monitor Township and the rest of Bay County. The planning is over. Ground breaking on the new Bay Area Water Treatment Plant was held on October 3, 2013. Construction has started with a scheduled completion of June 2015. The new water treatment plant will use Saginaw Midland Municipal Water Supply Corporation raw water. By using SMMWSC raw water, it will be easier to treat the water and allow the use of a Membrane filtration system which will give a better quality water. The new treatment plant will be located at 2691 N. Euclid on the southeast side of the current water treatment plant on 5.75 acres of land that was deeded to the BAWTP from the City of Bay City.



The Membrane filtration method will allow a much smaller water treatment plant. Only 40,893 sq ft. or about 1/3 of the present water treatment plant, but will still give higher quality water at a more effective cost. Bay County has approved the sale of the bonds and, to date, the following bonds have been sold:

(1) \$12 million from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) provided by the State of Michigan in fiscal year 2013 at 2% interest. This bond has a \$6 million principle forgiveness (grant).

(2) \$30 million Local Government Loan Plan (LGLP) bond issued October 2, 2013.

The following bonds have been applied for:

(3) \$15 million DWRf first quarter of 2014--Loan to close December 12, 2013 at 2.5% interest. Possible \$1.4 million principle forgiveness. (grant)

(4) \$7 million LGLP bond in mid to late summer 2014. This issue will be sized appropriately to complete the project.

These 4 or more bond issues will provide the funding to complete the Bay Area Water Treatment Plant Project.

To start repayment of these revenue bonds, Monitor Charter Township, on August 12, 2013, increased the water rate from \$3.34 to \$3.87 per 100 cubic feet of water (748 gallons). Three cents of this is due to the increase in water rates from the City of Bay City. The \$.50 per 100 cu. ft. is to start accumulating funds for repayment of the revenue bonds.

## Monitor Township Road Work

The Midland Road project from 3 Mile to 4 Mile is complete except for some landscape work that needs to be done in the spring. I hope that everyone is happy with the new road and that it was worth the hassle. Baxman Rd. (Midland Rd. to US10) has been chip and sealed. The dust is gone and the road is greatly improved. Maintenance chip and seal was applied to Baxman (Salzburg Rd. to Fisher Rd.), Chip Rd. (7 Mile to 8 Mile), and 8 Mile Rd. (Midland Rd. to Wilder Rd.). The following roads, N. Union Rd. (4 Mile to Mackinaw Rd.), 8 Mile Rd. (Wheeler to Ott Rd.), and Townline 14 Rd. (Fraser to 7 Mile Rd.) have been crushed and shaped so they can be chip and sealed in 2014. The Township Board will look at more roads in the spring for 2014 road work.



We would like to welcome a new business into Monitor Township! **Bayfield Assisted Living** at 3932 Monitor Road just north of Wilder had their Grand Opening on October 9, 2013.

*I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



## Notes from Margaret Ford, BA, MA, MAAO3, Monitor Township Assessor

### *Just an FYI from the Assessor*

Anyone coming to your residence or office for assessing purposes will have a Monitor Township business card for ID. Please ask them to show it to you.

### *Personal Property Taxes on Leased Land*

If you live in a mobile home park, you may receive a tax bill. This bill is for improvements on leased land which are assessable as personal property. Examples

of these improvements are sheds, garages, carports, decks, etc. These taxes are your responsibility and are not the responsibility of the mobile home park management. This is your personal property so the park owners/management are not responsible for it. Failure to pay these tax bills allows the Township to put a lien on this personal property and, in some cases, remove it from the property.



### **Notes from Sue Pike, Monitor Treasurer**

Treasurer's Office Hours: Monday through Friday

9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm.

Closed Dec 24, 25 and 31<sup>st</sup>, Jan 1 and 20<sup>th</sup>.

As we enter a New Year, here are a few reminders for Winter Tax Season.

Winter Taxes will be mailed out December 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to review them carefully for any corrections that need to be made. The Post Office does not forward tax bills so, for you snow birds... please stop in to see the assessor to have your address changed to your December address and contact her again when you return to your Summer address. If you do not receive your tax bill by December 10<sup>th</sup>, please call our office to find out to whom and where they were mailed. (989) 684-7203.

For Summer 2013 taxes that have not been paid, remember you can make payments at the Township anytime through February 28. Partial payments are accepted. Cash, Check and Money Orders are accepted payments methods. Credit Cards are not accepted here at the Township. There is a 1% penalty each month until February 14th, 2014, less the admin fee. Please feel free to call the office for the correct adjusted payoff figure. (989) 684-7203

We spoke to many residents who come inside the office to pay and we are surprised to find out how many residents do not review the back of their tax bills. We put helpful reminders on the back and any updates such as Due Dates, Holiday closings, Senior Citizen help and other helpful reminders.

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



If you have **Deferred your taxes**, please remember that payment is due by February 14, 2014.

As always, water and sewer taps along with cat and dog licenses will be available at the tax window. Please have your rabies certificate present so we can issue a license for your pet.

Wishing you all a safe and a wonderful Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

Sue Pike - Treasurer

Josie Hill - Deputy Treasurer



### **Notes from Chief John Kramer, Monitor Township Fire Chief**

Greetings from your Fire Department. 2013 has been a very busy year for us. As of this date we have run on 849 runs and once again we are knocking on the door of reaching 1000 runs for the year 2013.

We have completed our fall hydrant flushing and hope that we did not create too much of a problem with your water. This is a requirement that needs to be done twice a year. We make sure the hydrants are working properly and if there are issues we notify the proper departments and they fix them pretty quickly. Having good working hydrants is a good thing.



Our Open house this year was a great success again. We really look forward to seeing the community and enjoy providing several vendors and different emergency and public safety departments at our open house. It gives you an opportunity not only to visit with us but to see what is out there and what they do to help you. One of our events was the free bicycle helmet give away. With funds from our local restoration companies we were able to fit and give away 42 helmets this year to children and adults. For those of you who



have not attended our open house yet, we hold it every October at the end of Fire Prevention Week. We look forward to seeing you next year.

We have added five new probationary On-Call Firefighters to our department to fill positions that have been vacated. They have begun their medical training and will start the Fire Academy on December 3, 2013 and will complete their training on May 17, 2014. We have spots for a total of 35 on-call firefighters so this brings our total to 32.

*Thanks!*

We are also celebrating the retirement of Earl Arnold who has served this township as an On-Call Fire Fighter for 37 years. He stepped down November 1, 2013. He has been a great asset to our department and we wish Earl and his Wife Kay the very best in his retirement.

On the fire safety side, we ask that you sit down with your families and make an escape plan showing two ways out of your home in case of a fire. We have been teaching this in the

schools through our Fire Prevention Programs and we hope that you are making sure the plans are posted and practice so your reaction becomes natural. Getting out of your home is the most important thing when there is a fire. Make sure you have meeting spot so you know everybody is out of the house safely.

The holidays are upon us so remember to check your grills and make sure they are kept clean and at least three feet from the house. Never leave them unattended when lit. If the grill starts on fire and if you can reach the valve safely turn off the gas and let it burn out. Always have a fire extinguisher ready in case of an emergency. If you plan on deep frying a turkey for Thanksgiving (Or anytime for that matter) please do not do so inside the garage or home. This is very unsafe and may cause a fire or injury if the grease spills over and catches fire. Finally, please keep your Christmas trees watered and away from any open flame. Dry trees burn very fast and are the number one Christmas Holiday cause of home fires.



Please have a safe Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your Fire Department. Stop in and say, "Hi." Our doors are always open.

## Historical Notes



1896: Miners Employed at the Monitor coal mine will receive 75 cents per ton for coal mined, each man to furnish his own working tools and powder for blasting.

From the History of Bay County:

An act to organize the township of Monitor was passed by the Legislature of Michigan in the Winter of 1869. The subject of taking that territory from Bangor and organizing a new township was the occasion of something of a conflict. It was strongly opposed on the ground of being attempted for political purposes. The effort, however, was not defeated...

The region of the county now included in Monitor did not present a very inviting appearance. The land was for the most part low and swampy, and in many places covered with water a good portion of the year. It may be easily understood that such a state of things was not conducive to good health.

The soil is naturally rich and productive and a system of ditching has been vigorously followed until the swamps have been reclaimed, and fine farms now yield rich returns where a few years ago were soaking swamps, yielding only malaria.

The township is well supplied with drainage and roads. The Midland stone (road) traverses the township from east to west, and along this splendid thoroughfare are many fine farms.

25 Years Ago...

Fairfield Manor Mobile Home Park is 95% complete.

Discussions regarding Hazardous Structure Abatement.

Discussions with City of Bay City and Mutual Estates regarding the realignment of the Fairway/Ionia/Euclid intersection.



Yard waste pick-up resumes on April 1 and runs through November 30.

Street Light out? Call Consumers Energy at 1-800-477-5050 or go to ConsumersEnergy.com. Be ready to give cross streets or the address nearest the outage.

## Delayed

Trash is delayed one day after these dates: January 1, May 26, July 4, September 1, November 27 and December 25 (2014). Look for the asterisk (\*) on your schedule.



Monitor Township Park is located on 3 Mile Rd. between Midland and N. Union and is open from May 1-September 30. Reservations will be taken beginning January 2. Reservations are not taken over the phone.

Faxed, signed applications will be accepted in the order that they arrive; however, those applying in person on the first morning will be taken first. Blank forms can be found on our website.



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## Office Closed



The office will be closed on the following holidays: December 24 & 25, December 31, January 1, January 20, February 17, April 18, May 26, July 4.

The Fire Department has green address signs available for \$15.00. Call them at 684-6320.



Undecorated Christmas trees can be put out with your trash any week. Waste Management will pick it up and take it to the landfill.



## **Township Hours**

Township Office Hours 9-12 and 1-5  
 Tax Collection Hours 9-12 and 1-4  
 Assessor Margaret Ford  
 8-12 and 1-4 Monday through Friday  
 Building Department 9-12  
 Carol Goodwin--Bldg. & Zoning Admin. Assistant  
 Dave DeGrow--Building Inspector-no office hours  
 David Rochow---Zoning Enforcement- no office hrs

Electrical Inspector  
 Dick Wichlinski 989- 684-7803  
 Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector  
 Dell Bedford 989-272-5108

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



## **Meeting Dates 2014**

Township Board  
 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month  
 Jan 13, 27 Feb 10, 24 Mar 10, 24  
 April 14, 28 May 12 June 9, 23

Planning Commission  
 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month  
 Jan 7 Feb 4 Mar 4  
 Apr 1 May 6 June 3

Zoning Board of Appeals  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month, as needed  
 Jan 16 Feb 20 Mar 20  
 Apr 17 May 15 June 19

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



Charter Township of Monitor  
 2483 Midland Rd  
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