

Monitor Township

News



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

December 2015



Notes from Gary A. Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor



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

Monitor Township Road Work.

The first phase of the resurfacing of Monitor Township local roads is finished and I think that they look great! There are now more than 19 miles of local roads with a new asphalt surface. Most of the residents are very happy with the new roads, but I did get a few complaints.

I now need your help to keep the edges of the new roads from breaking up and to keep the curbs in the subdivisions from being disturbed. I asked the Bay County Road Commission for help on this and was told to instruct the residents to put their trash carts in front of the curb on the asphalt in the subdivisions. On the local roads, put the trash carts at least halfway on the asphalt. The BCRC said even with snow the snowplows would work around the trash carts.

We are working on Phase 2 for the roads to be done next year, but we are behind a lot more than I wanted. The final costs for the curb/gutters, drainage need to be completed before I can send letters to the subdivisions with estimates of costs. Letters should be sent soon, but meetings probably won't be scheduled until after the first of the year.

Monitor Technology Park has two new buildings: Kerkau Manufacturing and NBS Commercial Interiors. Woodhaven Senior apartments on 2 Mile Rd. are nearing completion. Bayfield Assisted Living on Monitor Rd.

has started construction on Phase 2 and Hampton Inn on Traxler Ct. has started construction.

A sad note is that Monitor Township Assessor Margaret Ford retired effective December 1, 2015. We are sorry to see her go, but we wish her well. At the present time, we are looking for a replacement.

Good news is that we have been informed that the inflation rate multiplier that is applied to your taxable value is going to be 0.3%. You can take this year's taxable value and multiply it by 1.003 to see what your taxable value will be. This is if you have not added any improvements or if you didn't purchase your house this year.



Notes from Sue Pike, Monitor Township Treasurer

Treasurer's Office Hours: Monday through Friday
9 am – 12 pm & 1pm – 4 pm .

Closed Dec 24, 25 and 31; Jan 1 and 18; February 15.

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

Winter Taxes were mailed out December 1st; be sure to review carefully for any corrections. Taxes are not forwarded in the US mail, so for you snow birds... please stop in to see the assessor to have your address changed to your December address, and again when you return to your Summer address. If you do not receive your tax bill by the 10th, please call our office to find out who and where they were mailed out to. (989) 684-7203

Winter taxes are due on February 16 this year and February 15 is a National Holiday and we will be closed, so feel free to use our drop box.

For Summer 2015 taxes that have not been paid, remember you can make payments anytime before March 1. Partial payments are accepted. All tax bills are payable by Cash, Check or Money Order. Credit Cards are not accepted at the Township. There is a 1% penalty each month until February 16th, 2016, less the admin. fee. Please feel free to call the office for the correct adjusted payoff figure. (989) 684-7203

This Winter we have Baxman Drain, Wilcox Drain and Columbia Drain Assessments. Property serviced by these drains will have a clean out/maintenance charge from the Drain Commission assessed to the tax bill.

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. If paying by mail, your tax bill includes your receipt. Please tear off the bottom and mail with your payment. Keep the top portion for your receipt. Additional **copies are 35¢ each.** To our residents that request a stamped "Paid"



receipt, be sure to include your stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment.

If you have **Deferred your taxes**, please remember that payment is due by February 16, 2016.

As a service to the community we issue cat and dog licenses for the county which are available at the tax window. Please have your rabies certificate present as it is required in order to issue your pet a license.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sue Pike - Treasurer

Josie Hill - Deputy Treasurer



Notes from Cindy L. Kowalski, Monitor Township Clerk

Close of Registration Dates

February 8, 2016 – Last day to register for the Presidential Primary

July 6, 2016 - Last Day to register for the August Primary Election

October 5, 2016 – Last day to register for the November General Election

2016 Election Dates

March 8, 2016- Presidential Primary

August 2, 2016 – Primary Election

November 8, 2016 – General Election

Applications for an absentee ballot are mailed out to voters on the permanent absentee list approximately two months prior to an upcoming election.

Please remember that while applications for an AV ballot can be forwarded by the US Postal system, **Ballots must be mailed to the mailing address the voter provides on the application.**

Please remember also, when completing the application for a Presidential primary ballot, to check which type of ballot you are requesting. Voters for this election must specify if you are requesting a Republican or Democratic ballot.



Absentee Ballots are generally available 45 days before an election and will be automatically mailed to all voters who have completed and returned an application. Any registered voter who is unable to attend the polls on Election Day may request an absentee ballot by calling or stopping into the township office.



The Clerk's office will be available Monday-Friday during regular office hours to issue and receive ballot requests. The Clerk's office will also be open the Saturday before each election (March 5th, July 30th & November 5th) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Completed ballots may be returned by mail, in person, or by placing them in the drop box located on the south end of the parking lot.

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!**



Not sure where you vote? Go to www.Michigan.gov/vote. After entering your name, birth date and zip code, you will see what precinct you are in, your voting location, what elections are scheduled, and give you a map showing your voting location. You can also view a sample ballot at this site.



Notes from Chief John Kramer, Monitor Township Fire Chief

Greetings from Fire Chief John R. Kramer. This is the time of year where we start to plan for our holiday celebrations. We here at the fire department would like to offer some safety tips to make sure this is a memorable time and not a time of loss or injury.

Cooking brings family and friends together, provide an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

FACTS • The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

• Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.

“COOK WITH CAUTION” Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food. If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly. Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking. Keep

anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop. If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire... On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire... Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.

Get ahead of the Winter Freeze. It is not to early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check the following tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze:

- * Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
- *Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)
- *Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood.
- *Our fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- *We have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
- *Our children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- *Our portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off.
- *Our portable space heaters will be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
- *We have tested our smoke alarms and made sure they are working. (You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)
- *We have tested our carbon monoxide alarms and made sure they are working. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

FACTS • One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.

***Placing the tree:**

- *Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- *Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

***Lighting the tree:**

- * Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- *Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- *Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- *Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

If you follow these few safety tips your holiday season will be a safe and happy time for you and your families. We hope that you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Monitor Township Park is located on 3 Mile Rd. between Midland and N. Union and is open from May 1-September 30. While the gate is not locked this winter, restrooms are not open and the driveway will not be plowed. Reservations will be taken beginning January 4. 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. www.monitortwp.org



Safety Issues...Protect yourself

- Lock your doors.
- If your car is parked outside, make sure the doors are locked and there are no valuable items left inside.
- Don't advertise what new gifts you received for Christmas. Break down boxes when you put them out to the curb for recycling and turn the label to the inside.
- If you go on vacation, fill out a form in the township office to fill out a house check request. 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.



Yard Waste pick-up resumes on your regularly scheduled days April 1 through November 30.

Please note that there are only six major holidays that affect trash pickup if they fall on a weekday: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

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



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----
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
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Meeting Dates 2016

Township Board

2nd and 4th Monday of each month

Jan 11, 25 Feb 8, 22 Mar 14, 28
 April 11, 25 May 9, 23 June 13, 27

Planning Commission

1st Tuesday of each month

Jan 5 Feb 2 Mar 1
 April 5 May 3 June 7

Zoning Board of Appeals

3rd Thursday of month, as needed

Jan 21 Feb 18 Mar 17
 April 21 May 19 June 16



Township Hours

Township Office Hours 9-12 and 1-5

Tax Collection Hours 9-12 and 1-4

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

Frank Bryden 989-894-5053

Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector

Dell Bedford 989-272-5108

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Charter Township of Monitor
 2483 Midland Rd
 Bay City, MI 48706