

# Monitor Township

## News



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

June 2013



### Notes from Gary A. Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor

#### Monitor Township Road Work.

It's orange barrel season and time to start road work. The Midland Road project officially started May 13, 2013. This year Midland Road is going to be rebuilt from 3 Mile Road to 4 Mile Road. It will have 3 lanes including a center turn lane until just west of Rueger Farms subdivision and then 2 lanes from there to 4 Mile Road.

New storm drains along with catch basins will be installed. The roadway will be dug out about 3 feet and a new base installed.



The new road will also have 8 foot paved shoulders. The official detour is 3 Mile Road to Wilder Road to 4 Mile Road, however, traffic must be maintained to all residents, businesses and schools for emergency vehicles.

This is a Federal Aid Project so the cost of the road will be paid from 80% BCATS money and 20% local match (BCRC)-- NONE of your PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS. The project is scheduled to be completed in October so please bear with the inconvenience.

Monitor Township is repairing the following local roads. Baxman Road (Midland Rd. to US10) chip and seal, Chip Road (7 Mile to 8 Mile) chip and seal, Baxman Road (Salzburg Rd. to Fisher Rd.) chip and seal, N. Union Road (4 Mile to Mackinaw Rd.) crush and shape. The following roads will be a 50% cost share with Williams or Kawkawlin Townships: 8 Mile Road (Midland Rd. to Wilder Rd.) chip and seal, 8 Mile Road (Wheeler Rd. to Ott Rd.) crush and shape, and Townline 14 Rd. (Fraser Rd. to 7 Mile Rd) crush and shape.

Monitor Township has budgeted \$300,000 from the General Fund to pay for the repair of these local roads which is from the under \$2.00 per \$1000 of property taxes paid to the Township or about \$58.00 per household. Monitor Township has to pay for all major repair to the local roads as the BCRC only pays for patching the roads and snow removal.

#### Township Ordinances

These are just the main points of the following ordinances. Complete ordinances are listed on Monitor Township's website at [www.monitortp.org](http://www.monitortp.org).

*Ordinance 52-K Recreation Vehicles and Utility Vehicles Parking and Storage.* Only one recreation vehicle or one utility vehicle is allowed on one acre or less. Either of these vehicles must be stored behind the established front building line. Temporary Parking is allowed within the front yard setback for loading, unloading and cleaning for a period not to exceed 72 cumulative hours in any seven (7) day period.

*Ordinance #57 Noxious Weeds.* It is the duty of all property owners to destroy weeds before they reach seed-bearing stage or become a detriment to public health. Failure to cut the weeds within 10 days of notification will result in the Township's entering upon the property to destroy the weeds at the homeowner's expense.

*Ordinance #5 Anti-Blight.* No person shall: store "junk automobiles," defined as unlicensed and/or inoperative, for more than 60 days; store any building materials unless there is a valid building permit from the Township; store junk, trash, rubbish or refuse of any kind, whether or not the same could be put to any reasonable use, nor any other blighting factors. This ordinance shall be enforced by such persons who shall be designated by the Township Board. Violation of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor upon conviction.



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

So good to feel the warm weather again! We will be out looking at properties for the assessing office again this year. It is our hope to be able to look at the minimum of 20% of properties for the next year's assessment roll as required by the State Tax Commission. We are striving to make sure we are all taxed fairly. We sometimes find buildings that have been taken down or new ones put up that are not on the roll. Having good records ensures we are all paying our fair share--no more, no less.

Have a great summer and, as always, if you have any questions--call me at 684-7203.





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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday  
9am-12pm & 1 pm-4pm

Wishing you all a warm, happy summer!

As most of you know, taxes will be mailed out June 30<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to review them carefully for any corrections that need to be made. Remember to review the back of your tax bill as we put helpful updates and reminders on the back of all tax bills. 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. If you have not received your tax bill by July 15<sup>th</sup>, please call our office to find out where and to whom they were mailed.



Please be aware that by State law a property owner is responsible for paying their property taxes (including late charges that may accrue) regardless of whether or not a bill was received. Also, when using the drop box, *please include a self-addressed stamped envelope* so we can stamp your receipt "Paid" and mail it back to you for your records. Check your bank statement to be sure your check cleared and payment was applied to your tax payment. I mention this because one resident said they put their December tax payment in the drop box, and in April they received a statement from the county stating they owed taxes including interest and penalty. We check the box 3 times a day, and have never had a problem, but the resident said it was in the box. It's just best practice to check your bank statements, call the office or have a receipt mailed to you when paying your taxes by mail or using the drop box.



Please note: Our drop box is on the south end of the parking lot. It is not attached to the building.

If you defer your taxes, please remember that payment is due by February 14, 2014. As a courtesy, we have mailed all those who were deferred last year your new application to fill out. 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/treasurer](http://www.michigan.gov/treasurer) and enter "471" in the search bar. There is also a link on the Treasurer's page on our website. Applications will be accepted from July 1 thru September 15, 2013. A new form must be filled out each calendar year.

Your Summer Tax Bill will consist of State Education Tax, County Operating Tax and Bay City Public School Tax. Summer Millage total is 32.7157 non-Homestead and 14.7157 if you are 100 % Homestead.

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 Dep. Seung Lee assigned to Monitor Township**

If you go on vacation, you can call 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. Have a great summer. Any questions, please contact Deputy Seung Lee or Deputy Emily Prezzato at (989) 895-4050.



Yard waste pick-up is the day after your regular trash day and continues through November 30. You may put out an *unlimited* number of bags or cans weighing less than 50 pounds. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted.

Twigs and branches that are less than 3 inches in diameter must be in bundles less than 5 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter.



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. Please **call 911 to report any vandalism** you see taking place in the park.



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

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](http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health)



Trash is delayed one day after these dates: July 4, September 2, November 28 and December 25.





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

Greetings from your local fire department. Spring is upon us and with the dry weather and yard clean-up in full swing, please remember that you must obtain a burning permit to burn your brush. They are good for three days at a time and you can obtain them up to three days in advance. There is no cost. If you burn without a permit and the fire department responds, you will receive a warning the first time and every time after that you *can and will be fined* by the township for having an illegal burn.

The big question is: Can you have a small recreational fire in your yard? The answer is yes. Remember that it is a small campfire and it is contained either in a pit or ring of some sort. You still need to be prepared to extinguish it if it gets out of control or the smoke is blowing into the homes of your neighbors. Please be considerate of your neighbors. *Burning of rubbish, building materials, plastics and grass clippings is illegal.*



We have begun our spring and summer activities such as flushing of the hydrants. Remember that it is illegal to cover up a hydrant or place any type of plants, shrubs, or vegetation within a three foot diameter of any hydrant. Please remember that, when the time comes and we need to use the hydrant for fire suppression, time does matter and we do not want to spend time searching for a hydrant that has been covered up.



Please remember to check your smoke detectors once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year. We encourage you to practice two safe ways out of your home in the event of a fire. Due to the lightweight construction of your homes, time to evacuate your home safely has dropped from approximately 20 minutes to approximately 7 minutes time. Practice with your children and make sure that once you are out of your home you do not get back inside for any reason. Pick a safe meeting spot for the family to meet so you know everybody is out of the home safely.

You should have at least two fire extinguishers in your home. Place one in the kitchen and one in the garage. If you have a basement, you should have one there as well. Your extinguishers should be checked by you at least once a month. Turn them upside down and shake them so the chemical agent inside stays loose. Make sure it is charged and ready for use. If you have an extinguisher that is older than 1985 it cannot be refilled. Before you discard it, take

it outside and have your children and other family members practice using it so they become familiar with the use and sound it makes. This makes a great teaching tool.

As always, your fire department is always ready to serve and to protect. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop in or call us at 989-684-6320. Our doors are always open and you are welcome to stop by and see your equipment. We wish you a safe and happy summer.



Trash not picked up? Have a large item to be picked up? Large items can be put out on the same day as your trash. It will be picked up with a separate truck within a couple of days. Please call Waste Management at 1-800-796-9696.

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.



The office will be closed on the following holidays: July 4; September 2; October 14; November 11; November 28-29; December 24-25; December 31-January 1.



## Historical Notes

### 1913 One hundred years ago...

\* Ed and John Streu presented a statement showing loss on their machine when it broke through the Gilbert Bridge. Front axle and steering gear-- paid for welding \$15.00; Loss of time (26 hrs) at \$2.50 per hour for their one man team and outfit. No damage to the bailer was mentioned. \$65.00 in all. It was agreed by all members of the Board to allow \$50.00 for the same which was accepted.

\*A drain was deemed necessary commencing at the Kawkawlin River about 20 rods N. of the S. line of Sec. 10, running west and southwest to corner of sec 9, 10, 15 16, thence west 27 rods to the end. (Arnold Drain?)

\*J. Andrew Feinauer moved that the Township pay one half of the expense of building a cement sidewalk on the east side of Pine street in the Village of Kawkawlin providing the residents agree to pay the other half.

### 1963 Fifty years ago....

\*A groups of homeowners from Strieter Dr. were heard and a petition received asking that help be given in getting relief from the odors and other nuisance caused by a Mink farm in their neighborhood.

\*Moved by Meylan supported by Reder that a petition presented by property owners living on Bonnie, Dorey, and Strieter Drives to establish a special assessment district for black-topping of those streets be accepted. Carried.

\*A letter from Lee Edwards of the County Road Comm was received asking for the approval of a change in name of Cass Ave. Rd. on the west side of the river. The name "Hotchkiss" being suggested as a portion of the road is already known by that name. The name "Hotchkiss" being acceptable to the Board, motion carried.



**Meeting Dates**

**Township Board**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month

June 10, 24    July 8, 22    Aug. 12, 26  
 Sept. 9, 23    Oct. 28    Nov 25    Dec. 19

**Planning Commission**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month

June 4    July 2    Aug. 6    Sept 3  
 Oct 1    Nov 5    Dec 3

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month, as needed

June 20    July 18    Aug 15    Sept 19  
 Oct 17    Nov 21    Dec 19

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  
[deputyclerk@monitortwp.org](mailto:deputyclerk@monitortwp.org)

Treasurer-----Sue Pike  
[Treasurer@monitortwp.org](mailto:Treasurer@monitortwp.org)  
 Deputy Treasurer – Josie Hill  
[deputytreasurer@monitortwp.org](mailto:deputytreasurer@monitortwp.org)

Assessor----Margaret Ford  
[Assessor@monitortwp.org](mailto:Assessor@monitortwp.org)

Building Official – Dave DeGrow  
[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)  
 Anne Wackerle-Receptionist a.m.  
[Reception@monitortwp.org](mailto:Reception@monitortwp.org)



**Township Hours**

Township Office Hours 9-12 and 1-5  
 Tax Collection Hours 9-12 and 1-4  
 Building Department  
 David DeGrow Tues & Thurs 8-12 & 1-5  
 Wed. 8-12  
 Assessor Margaret Ford 8-12 and 1-4  
 Electrical Inspector  
 Dick Wichlinski 989- 684-7803  
 Plumbing & Mechanical  
 Del Bedford 989-272-5108

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