



# Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Summer 2015

7450 14 Mile Rd.  
Rockford MI 49341

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday:  
9:00-Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 PM  
**CLOSED FRIDAYS**

Phone: (616)866-0622  
Fax: (616)866-3451  
Burning Permits:  
(616)813-2960  
Building Permits:  
Imperial Municipal Svcs.  
(616)863-9294  
Electrical Permits:  
Casey Kalee  
(616)874-6289

### Township Officials

Supervisor: Chuck Porter  
Treasurer: Colleen Brown  
Clerk: Marilynn Crosby  
Trustees: Mary Ann Andersen,  
Mike Krygier, Kimberly  
McIntyre, Matt McConnon  
Assessor: Jane Kolbe

### Meeting Schedule

All meetings at 7:00 PM

Township Board:  
1st Wednesday  
Planning Commission:  
3rd Tuesday  
ZBA: 2nd Wednesday  
Fire Bd: Last Wed. @ 2 PM

### Holiday Hours

Township Offices closed:  
Labor Day: Sept. 7

Visit our website:

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

Township Calendar  
Taxes & Assessing Information  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoning Ordinances



### TREASURER'S OFFICE

2015

Summer Taxes due  
September 14, 2015

### Payment Options:

**In person:** Check or money order preferred. Please write legibly. If paying in cash, please bring exact change. *Credit or debit cards are not accepted for payment.*

**By mail:** For a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your **ENTIRE** tax bill. Mail early, *postmarks are not accepted.*

**Drop box:** For your convenience, a payment drop box is located by the front door. This box is safe and is checked regularly.

### Summer Tax Deferments

are available for qualifying seniors, agricultural property or disabled residents. Call for guidelines or an application (also available on our website). You must file prior to 09/14/15. Those who qualify for a Tax Deferment will not be charged interest and have until February 16, 2016 to pay their Summer Taxes.

**Principle Residence Exemption:** Check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the Principal Residence Exemption (P.R.E.) if you qualify. To qualify for this year, you must own and occupy your residence before June 1st for summer and Nov. 1st for winter. Applications are available at the township hall or on our website. **Taxpayers with 2014 delinquent taxes:** "As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, all or part of your prior year taxes were returned delinquent to the County. For more information, please call the County Treasurer at (616) 632-7500." Tax information is updated weekly to our website: [www.courtlandtwp.org](http://www.courtlandtwp.org)

The Treasurer's Office is not responsible for payment on the wrong property.

**Dog Licenses:** We will continue to issue dog licenses year-round. Licenses will expire at the end of the month that the dog's rabies vaccination expires. Several local veterinary clinics are also participating in license sales, providing a convenient way for clients to both vaccinate and license their dogs in one stop. A license cannot be purchased without a record of neutering and updated proof of rabies vaccines. Renewals may also be done online @ [www.accesskent.com](http://www.accesskent.com) under Online Services. *Taxes and dog licenses must be paid separately.*

Questions? Please feel free to call (616) 866-0622

Treasurer's e-mail: [cbrown@courtlandtwp.org](mailto:cbrown@courtlandtwp.org)  
Deputy Treasurer's e-mail: [ttowrsey@courtlandtwp.org](mailto:ttowrsey@courtlandtwp.org)

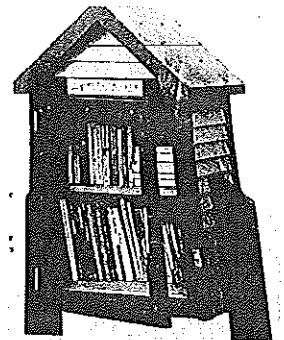
Colleen Brown, Treasurer

### LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Little Free Libraries are popping up all over the country in communities and neighborhoods. Courtland Township, in partnership with Kent District Library, is installing a Little Free Library in front of the Township Hall and also at Fire Station #2 on Myers Lake Ave. It resembles a large bird house and is stocked with books for children, teens, and adults.

This is how it works: feel free to take a book or two from the box, and leave one, too, if you can. You may also return the book to the Little Free Library when you are finished and pick out a new one. No need to sign them out...and no overdue fees to pay. Write a note in the book, if you'd like, about whether you enjoyed it. Open to all Courtland residents.

The Township is looking for one or two volunteers to be a Steward for our Little Free Libraries. The Steward checks on the box weekly to make sure it isn't getting rain/snow/etc. inside. They also work with the Krause Memorial Library to get donations to keep the libraries stocked. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Little Free Library Steward or would like to donate books for it, please contact Marilynn Crosby at 616-866-0622 or [mcrosby@courtlandtwp.org](mailto:mcrosby@courtlandtwp.org).



## KDL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Krause Memorial Library is offering summer programs at Courtland, Cannon and Algoma Townships, open to all residents. Programs last about 1 hour.

### Children's Storytime Program (preschool and younger)

Share books, stories, rhymes, and music with your child, with a craft to follow.

Mon. 7/13 @ 10:00 am---Algoma Twp.  
Tues. 7/14 @ 10:00 am---Courtland Twp.  
Wed. 7/15 @ 10:00 am---Cannon Twp.



### Technology Help Session (adults)

Get walk-in help from friendly Kent District Library staff members who are available to help with eBook devices, email, digital photos, and all things computer. Bring your device with you.

Mon. 8/3 @ 6:00 pm—Cannon Twp.  
Wed. 8/5 @ 6:00 pm—Algoma Twp.  
Tues. 8/11 @ 10:00 am—Courtland Twp.

## FROM THE CLERK

As a result of recent changes to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which take effect July 1, 2015, the Township Board adopted a set of FOIA Procedures and Guidelines at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting. This includes a Public Summary explaining how the FOIA process works, how to submit a request for public records, how the fees are determined, and how to appeal a denial. The Public Summary, as well as request forms, will be available at the Township Hall and on our website [www.courtlandtwp.org](http://www.courtlandtwp.org).

Marilynn Crosby, Clerk

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Our township has had a lot of exposure in the local news recently because of the sand mining issue on Shaner Ave. near 11 Mile Rd. Our Planning Commission held their April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting at the East Rockford Middle School because of all the interest by township residents. Approximately 350 people attended. The Planning Commission, after two hours of presentation by Sable Developing and public comment, recommended to the Township Board to deny their request for sand mining on the proposed Shaner Ave. site. The Township Board on May 6<sup>th</sup> followed the Planning Commission's recommendation and denied Sable's Special Land Use request. Sable Development recently agreed to start restoration of the site, build two homes on the parcels and to not remove any more sand or gravel.

This summer the Kent County Road Commission will be doing more road repairs and upgrades in the township. We will share the cost to pave 16 Mile Rd. from Pine Lake Ave. east to Tisdell Ave. with Nelson Township. Resurfacing will be done on 15 Mile Rd. from Myers Lake Ave. to Shaner Ave., Benham St. from Pine Lake Ave. to Redmond Ave., Shaner Ave. from 12 to 13 Mile Rd., Redmond Ave. from 14 Mile Rd. to Swift St., and Peninsula Dr. will be milled and repaved. Total cost to Courtland Township will be approximately \$385,000. Also, two miles on Peterson St. from Young Ave. to Ramsdell Dr., and 10 Mile Rd. from Young Ave. to Ramsdell Dr. will be resurfaced. As you can see, this is another year with an aggressive approach to maintaining our roads in cooperation with some great people who work for the KCRC.

**Reminder:** Our fireworks ordinance prohibits the discharge of consumer fireworks altogether on any day of the year, except for the day before, day of, and day after the ten designated national holidays. On those 30 days, the use of fireworks between the hours of 1:00 AM and 8:00 AM, is prohibited. Fireworks are also prohibited when a burning ban is in effect. In addition, the ordinance prohibits the launching of "sky lanterns" at any time. The ordinance is available on our website: [www.courtlandtwp.org](http://www.courtlandtwp.org).

**Note:** Our Spring Clean-Up days in May seemed to work well. We will have one additional Clean-Up day in the fall on **Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

Chuck Porter, Supervisor

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Burn Permits:** Chief Davis reminds residents to call before burning brush or leaves. Call him directly @ 616-813-2960. Remember, all burning must be done during daylight hours, and fires must be a safe distance from all buildings and away from tall grass and trees. Do not leave fires unattended, and have a garden hose handy. Burning of tires, roofing, construction materials, treated lumber, garbage, plastics or any rubber or petroleum products is prohibited.

**Emergency Generator:** Both fire stations are equipped with emergency generators. In case of a prolonged power outage, water and emergency shelter can be made available to our residents at either or both stations. Please bring your own containers.



**Sirens:** There are five emergency warning sirens located throughout the township. When an alert such as a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service, Kent County dispatch activates all emergency sirens in the county. Kent County tests the warning sirens at noon on the **First Friday** of the month, April through October.

**911 Emergency Address Signs:** Green and white reflective address signs are available for \$10.00. Call the Township Hall @ 866-0622 to order.

Chief Mickey Davis