



Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Winter 2016

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: Matt McConnon,
Mary Ann Andersen, Kimberly
McIntyre, Mike Krygier
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:
Dec. 24 & 25
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Visit our website:

www.courtlandtwp.org

Township Calendar
Taxes & Assessing Information
Meeting Minutes
Zoning Ordinances



2015 WINTER TAXES DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2016

On Feb. 17th a 3% penalty will be added to the unpaid balance of your taxes. 2015 property taxes can be paid here at the Township Offices until Feb. 29, 2016. On March 1, 2016 unpaid amounts will be considered delinquent and turned over to the Kent County Treasurer. Call the Kent County Treasurer's office at (616) 632-7500 to get your balance and payment information.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

In person: Check or money order is preferred. 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: A payment drop box is located by the front door. This box is safe and is checked regularly.

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

Tax information is updated weekly to our website: www.courtlandtwp.org

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.

Check your tax bill for these notices: Taxpayers with past due 2015 Summer taxes: **"Summer taxes owing"**. Taxpayers with 2014 delinquent taxes: **"As of March 1st, 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."

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. 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 under Online Services. **Taxes and dog licenses must be paid separately.**

The Courtland Township Annual Budget is adopted yearly at our March Regular Township Board Meeting. Copies of the budget as well as the *Citizens Guide to Local Unit Finances* are available at the Township Office. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions/concerns throughout the year. We will be glad to serve you.

Have a safe, joyous winter season and happy holidays to you.

Colleen Brown, Treasurer

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

Thinking of selling your home? Now may be a good time as home values have shown a marked increase this past year.

Disabled Veteran's Exemption: Disabled veterans may receive up to a 100% exemption on property taxes if they qualify. They must be a Michigan resident, own the property for which they are claiming the exemption, and use the property as their homestead. Unremarried surviving spouses may also qualify. The disabled Veteran is eligible if they have been determined by the VA to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to benefits at the 100% rate, have received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing, or be rated as individually unemployable. If you think you may qualify, contact me for eligibility requirements.



Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Classification: Look for your notice to come out in late February. Check this notice for your classification, principal residence exemption %, current and prior year assessed and taxable values, and March Board of Review appeal dates.

If you have any questions on these or any assessment topics, please call or email me.

Jane Kolbe, Assessor
jkolbe@courlandtwp.org

NO WIPES IN THE PIPES

Just because a product is marked disposable or flushable does not mean it won't play havoc with your sewer or septic system. All across the country communities are experiencing serious back-ups that are attributed to an increase in items such as wipes, napkins, paper towels, personal hygiene products, and dental floss being flushed. This is leading to serious maintenance problems and costly clean-ups. Our advice is to **keep the wipes out of the pipes**. Use them, but don't flush them.

If you have a sewer emergency call Al Evink at Main-Tech Services (616) 874-8866.

Sandra Hunt, Sewer Administration



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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

Coats for Charity: Please bring your gently used coats (snow pants, hats,

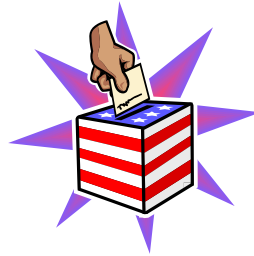
gloves and boots) to the Township Hall, for donation to a local charity.

Christmas tree drop-off through January 31st: Behind Fire Station #1 (14 Mile Rd.), south side of the driveway.. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags.

Note: Both fire stations are equipped with generators in case of power outages or other weather-related emergencies. Drinking water will be available at both stations. Please bring your own containers.

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors every six months. Every home should also have a good quality carbon monoxide (CO) detector.

Mickey Davis, Chief



CLERK'S COMMENTS

2016 Election Dates

Presidential Primary: March 8

May (if needed): May 3

August Primary: August 2

November General: November 8

You must choose either a Republican Party or Democratic Party ballot for the March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary only. Absentee ballot applications are available on the web at www.michigan.gov/vote, or from the clerk's office at 866-0622. If you have questions about your voter registration or precinct, call my office or go to www.michigan.gov/vote.

Voter Eligibility: You are qualified to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, are at least 18 years old on or before election day, have been a resident of Michigan

for at least 30 days before the election, and you have registered to vote on or before the close of registration. Note: Michigan Law requires that the same residential address be used for both your voter registration and your driver's license.

Running for Township Office: All seven township offices will be up for election in 2016: Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk and four Trustees. To qualify to run for township office you must be a township elector, but property ownership is not required. An elector is someone who is 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and has lived in the township for at least 30 days. The deadline for filing nominating petitions for the August 2nd Primary is April 19, 2016. Materials are available in the clerk's office and online at www.michigan.gov/sos. Terms of office are four years.

Marilynn Crosby, Clerk

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

New construction of homes and businesses is continuing at a rapid pace in West Michigan. Our township has had new homes built at a rate not seen since 2005. Jobs and good schools are bringing new people to our area.

Our road construction projects have been completed by KCRC for the year, the last one being Peninsula Dr. on November 2nd. We've had great weather this fall. Hope you all got out and enjoyed it.

This year we will be having both a Spring Clean-up in May and a Fall Clean-up in September, exact dates to be published later.

As we are getting close to Thanksgiving and Christmas, I'd like to remind you of a great community outreach we have in our area. North Kent Community Services is collecting **new underwear, pajamas and socks** for children of all ages for distribution at its Christmas Store. Items need to be delivered, unwrapped, to NKCS on Northland Dr. by Monday, December 14. Your donation will go toward children in need in our local community.

Chuck Porter, Supervisor