

COURTLAND CLIPPINGS

SUMMER 2019



7450 14 Mile Rd NE
Rockford, MI 49341
www.courtlandtwp.org

facebook.com/courtlandtwp

OFFICE HOURS

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

PHONE: (616) 866-0622

FAX: (616) 866-3451

BURN PERMITS:

firechief@courtlandtwp.org
or call/text (616) 813-2961

BUILDING, PLUMBING, AND HEATING PERMITS:

Imperial Municipal Services
(616) 863-9294

ELECTRICAL PERMITS:

Casey Kalee (616) 874-6289

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

SUPERVISOR: Matt McConnon

TREASURER & ZA*: Colleen Brown

CLERK: Sandra Frandsen

TRUSTEES: Mary Ann Andersen, Kimberly McIntyre, Michele Mojzuk, Terry Bartels

ASSESSOR: Jane Kolbe

*Zoning Administrator

MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings at 7:00 PM

TOWNSHIP BOARD: 1st Wednesday

PLANNING COMMISSION: 3rd Tuesday

ZBA: 2nd Wednesday

HOLIDAY HOURS

TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED:

Independence Day: July 4-5

Labor Day: Sept. 3



DOG LICENSES

Licenses may be purchased at the Kent County Animal Shelter, various veterinary offices and Township office. 1-year and 3-year licenses are available depending on the rabies expiration date. Call (616) 632-7300 or visit www.accesskent.com

Please contact the township with suggestions for the development/expansion of the existing park and playground area behind the Township Hall. Email Colleen Brown, Zoning Administrator at cbrown@courtlandtwp.org

SUPERVISOR NOTES

Road construction is in full swing all around us. Courtland Township continues to place high importance on our roads and this year we are budgeting over \$300,000 for repairs and maintenance. This money represents about half of the expenditures for roads within our township as Kent County Road Commission matches our contribution each year. This is in addition to the money that is budgeted by the road commission. Please use extra caution in and around the work zones.

We are very pleased to see the new disc golf course being utilized, and we are working on developing the other areas of our township park behind the township hall. The path around the disc golf course is planned to be completed by July, and we are looking at other options for the township park property.

We have been participating in the Cedar Springs Area Parks and Recreation for over 20 years now. Courtland, Algoma, Nelson, Solon, City of Cedar Springs and the Cedar Springs Schools contribute funds to provide opportunities for residents of all ages. We have changed the name to North Kent Community Enrichment since we allow people from outside these areas to participate. We are currently working on restructuring the organization in order to better serve all the residents of our community.

We completed our Spring cleanup on May 31 and June 1 which was a great success once again. Many of us took advantage of the opportunity to get rid of those unwanted items. Our Fall cleanup days will be September 20 and 21 so please plan accordingly. We will be having another tire disposal event this year so we will provide more information on that once the details are worked out.

Matt McConnon, Township Supervisor

TREASURER NOTES

Summer Taxes 2019 Due:
September 16, 2019 by 4:30 PM.
Additional interest applies after
September 16, 2019

PAYMENT OPTIONS

In Person: A cashier or personal check is preferred. If paying in cash, please bring EXACT amount.



By Mail: For a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your ENTIRE tax bill. Mail Early – POST-MARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED and mailing can take up to 7 days or more.

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

Online Payments: Pay your taxes online with a credit card or e-check at courtlandtwp.org/links. **Convenience fees apply as noted.** From the link you will access BS&A search, either choose to set up an account as property owner for free access, or pay the \$2.00 fee with your credit card as a separate transaction to continue. Once you have found your parcel through BS&A there will be an option to access "Point and Pay" to process your tax payment with a credit card or e-check payment. Point and Pay convenience fees are 3% of the credit card amount or \$3.00 for an e-check. (A credit card run as a debit card is not an option). Be sure to have a transaction receipt emailed to you. Credit Card & e-check payments are accepted July 1, 2019 through Feb. 23, 2020. **We do not accept credit card payments at the office.** *The Treasurer's office is not responsible for payment on the wrong property.*

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES: Your tax bill will have a reminder note on it if delinquent taxes are still due for your parcel from prior years. Please contact Kent Co. Treasurer for further information.

SUMMER TAX DEFERMENT: Applications are available at the township hall and online and must be received before September 16, 2019 at the Township Hall to be eligible.

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION: Check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the PRE if you qualify. To qualify for this year, you must own and occupy your residence before June 1, 2019 for Summer and Nov. 1, 2019 for Winter.

MORTGAGE ESCROW PAYMENTS: We sent your tax bill to the mortgage company IF the mortgage company requested the bill. The message "Informational Copy" means that your tax bill has been sent to your mortgage company or the tax service they utilize. This is printed in RED in the "Tax Detail" portion of your tax bill on the right side. If your taxes are escrowed and your bill wasn't sent to your mortgage company, make a copy of the bill for your records and forward the original tax bill to your mortgage company.

Courtland Township Annual Budget is adopted annually at our March Township Board Meeting. Our fund balances are available upon request at the Treasurer's Office. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the Sunshine :)

Colleen Brown, Treasurer
Theresa Towersey, Deputy Treasurer



FIRE CHIEF'S DESK

Summer is here, please look twice and save a life! Kids are out walking and riding bikes on the roads so give them room as you pass them, by at least three feet.

Please press your button on your Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors once a month to make sure they are working. Did you know you should replace the entire smoke detector every ten years? We have free smoke detectors at the Township hall and Fire Station.

When you sleep at night, please close your bedroom door, it could save your life. A closed door will slow down a fire from spreading room to room. Always look for two ways out of any room or building in case of a fire or a life-threatening incident.

911 EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGNS: If you or a loved one is having a medical emergency it is very difficult for us to respond to your house quickly with no address out by the road. Even in subdivisions it is very hard for us to see the address on your house. We have the Green & White reflective address signs available for \$10. Call the Township office to order 616-866-0622. If you do not have one of these address signs, please have your address on both sides of your mailbox.

BURN PERMITS: Please, before you burn email firechief@courtlandtpw.org, text or call 616-813-2961. Remember, all burning must be done during daylight hours, and burning should be a safe distance from all buildings, 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, rubber, or petroleum products is prohibited.

Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles on the side of the road. Pull over and stop when you see and hear flashing lights and sirens. We could be going to save your family member or a friend.

FIRE FIGHTERS WANTED: We are always looking for help, no experience needed. We will train you. Please stop by and see me at Station 1, M-F 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Have a safe summer!

Steve Mojzuk, Courtland Fire Chief

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

Solar panels are a great way to help cut electricity costs and help the environment. We have seen a surge of installations in the past couple years. At their meeting on February 13, 2018, the State Tax Commission determined that "solar panels on residential properties should be classified as real property and shall be assessed as a component of the real property." This decision was based on a recent Michigan Tax Tribunal Case 17-003056. Please keep this in mind when determining the cost effectiveness of installing solar panels on your home and/or property.

If you have any questions on this or any assessment topic, please call or email me at jkolbe@courtlandtpw.org

Jane Kolbe, Assessor

CLERK'S CORNER

The passing of Proposal 3 in November 2018 has allowed for some changes regarding absentee voting. A registered voter no longer needs to provide a reason for requesting an absentee ballot. We are in the process of having post cards printed which will be mailed to every registered voter who is NOT already on the permanent absentee voter list. This post card can be filled out and returned to our office which will put you on our permanent absentee voter list. If you have any questions, please call our office at 616-866-0622.

Enjoy your summer after an unusual, difficult winter!

Sandy Frandsen, Clerk
Andrea VanSetters, Deputy Clerk

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Good weather has finally blessed us with conditions to work outside or simply enjoy the fresh air. Unfortunately, we are also beginning to experience some activities that are not so welcome. I would ask that we all consider those living around us as we engage in some of these activities.

Burning trash can create noxious odors and smoke. There are some restrictions on what can be disposed of by burning. You can check out the specifics by visiting the township website www.courtlandtpw.org, then clicking on the tab for the Fire Department.

Please remember that your residence is most likely zoned as a Rural Residential property. A good way to think of this is to consider what activity would be allowed within a city residential setting. Most likely the same consideration to your neighbor's peace and comfort apply here as within a city. If you have any questions about an activity that you plan, or is occurring in your area, feel free to contact me at (616) 866-0622 or email me at acombs@courtlandtpw.org

LIVING GIFT OF LAND TO COURTLAND TOWNSHIP

Have you ever thought of leaving a living legacy for your children or your community?

Courtland Township Parks would like you to consider leaving a legacy of land, albeit 2 acres or to your heart's content for future green recreation space in the township. If you have an interest, please talk to Matt McConnon, Supervisor, on how to truly leave a living gift to the township.