

TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2014

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Volume 16 Issue 1



TOWNSHIP OFFICE

3800 Lapeer Road
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 987-6600
Fax: 987-6712
Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

Public Welcome

Township Board
1st & 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.

Park Commission
1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
1st Thursday 7:00 p.m.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

Robert G. Lewandowski, Jr.
Supervisor

Benita E. Davis
Clerk

Nancy G. Collins
Treasurer

Trustees
Donald Dudas

William E. Livingston

Steve Riehl

Peter Shonka

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Winter is on its way and I hope it isn't as bad as last winter. With that, I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. **Road Construction.** Where to begin? Let's start with Water Street. Water Street, from I-94 to West Water was scheduled for reconstruction this year.

The Road Commission lost their Federal funding for the project at the last minute, to no fault of their own. The project has therefore been delayed until next summer, along with the bike path that was planned for the same route. The Road Commission has secured alternate funding and they've assured me that it will be done. Maybe this delay isn't such a bad thing with Lapeer and the expressways being torn up this year. Lapeer Road from 24th Street to 32nd Street should be complete by the time you get this newsletter, and Lapeer Road, from Michigan Road to Alan Road should be finished soon.

The expressway project which included the Michigan Road closure is scheduled to be finished next fall, so Michigan Road will be closed until then. Please be patient. I know all of this construction makes it a pain to get around, but with our improved roads, it will be great for years to come

There are current projects other than road construction! Boddy Construction of Port Huron Township was awarded the reconstruction project for the Strawberry Lane sewer station. They will begin with the force main this fall and the station itself next spring. The Township has also begun to change out the streetlights with energy saving LED lights. About 50% of the lights have been changed this year and we hope to finish the project in 2015. This endeavor will significantly reduce the electric bill for streetlighting.

As I have always said, it is an honor to serve the residents and businesses of Port Huron Township as your Supervisor. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, concerns or ideas by either stopping in, with a phone call, or via email.

Thanks again, Bob Lewandowski

DDA NEWS

We remain very positive in our daily outlook for the future in Port Huron Township. We realize that we have experienced a set back with the closing of the Super K-Mart, however, we are taking this as an opportunity to improve and seek out more and different companies that can grow with us in the future. We feel very strongly that the 32nd Street corridor is a prime economic driver for the entire Township. The goal is to drive economic growth by changing both reality and perception. We try to knock down those obstacles and present a new picture of our growing community. The retail push is comprehensive and designed to benefit an area with different groups. We also are working to get older shopping centers revitalized and redeveloped.

Our collaboration with surrounding communities, County and State governments, Community Foundation, EDA, and Blue Meets Green Leadership Council, is working in our favor. Larger projects are getting closer to reality and will bring growth and development to the DDA and Township in general. We are very fortunate to have access to major Interstates I-94 and I-69. MDOT changes and improvements such as new exits for our Mega Menards and ongoing interchange improvements for the new Welcome center are much appreciated. This access and the Canadian border crossing continue to create growth and business opportunities for us. We are here to serve. If you have ideas, thoughts or concerns, please contact the DDA office at 810-987-2699. Our office is located at 2929 Lapeer Road Suite C in the Bio Pro building, Monday thru Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Paul G Maxwell, Director of DDA

CLERK'S OFFICE

ATTENTION TOWNSHIP BUSINESS OWNERS:

ALL BUSINESSES MUST RENEW THEIR LICENSE FOR 2015 BY JANUARY 2, 2015. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR RENEWAL IN THE MAIL BY NOVEMBER 30, 2014, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE

WOODLAND CEMETERY ISSUES

In an effort to maintain a respectful and serene atmosphere in our cemetery, our maintenance personnel are constantly working to keep up with the elements that each season brings. We have started a project that will allow us to review the lots in each section and determine if there are any maintenance issues. We will make every attempt to contact a family member to inform them of any said issues. Some items of concern are: overgrown shrubs & plants, planting area exceeding the allotted space limits, unauthorized benches, or items that are not allowed per the cemetery rules. Our first set of letters addressing areas of concern will go out this month, but family members are allowed thru the spring 2015 to make any corrections. If you have any issues or concerns with regard to your cemetery lots please contact Benita Davis, Clerk.



Election Day WORKERS

We are always looking for dedicated individuals wishing to serve as election inspectors. Applications are available in the Clerk's office. To qualify you must be a registered voter. You need not live in Port Huron Township to serve as an Election Inspector in the Township. Individuals must attend a certification class every two years. Once certified, you are placed on a list and notified of upcoming elections. If you are available to work an election, a typical day is from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Based on availability of workers, we also offer half days for those who prefer. The Township Election Commission appoints the Election Inspectors. Members are currently paid \$110.00 per day and \$25.00 for certification.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Township residents may recall that a new burning ordinance went into effect in May of this year. Burning is allowed with some slight changes to the ordinance. To receive your permit, stop in to the fire station between 8am and 6pm every day. The cost is \$15.00 and the permit is good until March 1st the following year.

NEVER SLEEP WITHOUT THE BEEP!

Smoke detectors are your only chance for survival from a house fire. In 2013, more than 3500 people died in fires and 15,000 were injured. Home fires are still the biggest killer and most common form of destructive fire. Test your detectors monthly and change the batteries when you change your clock.

CARBON MONOXIDE DANGER

Last year in Port Huron Township the fire department responded to several Carbon Monoxide calls. One call resulted in hospitalization for family members. Each year just under 2000 people die from Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Keep your family safe and be safe at work. Be sure there is a CO (Carbon Monoxide) detector plugged in and working. If it goes off and cannot be reset....call 911. **CO is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. The only way you can know if it is present is with a detector.**

THE SNOW IS COMING!

With winter snows coming soon...remember to keep exit doors clear of ice and snow. Be sure that snow plow contractors know not to block exit paths or fire hydrants. Also make sure that your address sign is not covered by snow on your mailbox. This could delay help getting to you in your time of need.



PHT FIRE DEPARTMENT HIRING

Are you healthy, caring, dependable and up for a challenge? The Port Huron Township Fire Department is looking for Paid on Call Firefighters! If you are interested, please stop by the station at 3848 Lapeer Rd. and talk to one of our officers or firefighters. An information packet is available with all of the details. For more information on this or any fire safety topic, give us a call at 982-3543.

WATER/DPW OFFICE

FALL & WINTER TIPS

Fall has officially arrived and winter is just around the corner. Here are some tips, suggestions and reminders for the upcoming months:

- Yard waste collection ends November 29th.
- Bag all trash before placing in trash can so material stays contained should the trash can tip due to high wind, snowplowing, uneven surface, etc.
- Place trash cans at the curb in the early morning instead of night before to avoid high wind and early morning snowplowing.
- For recycling - use trash cans with lids and recycling stickers to avoid material blowing due to high wind conditions. Stickers are available at the Township office.
- 96 gallon trash carts are available to rent from Waste Management, call 1-800-796-9696 for details.
- If you are a snowbird, don't forget to apply for your refuse suspension. If you will be absent from your home for a period of 3 consecutive months between November 1, 2014 and May 1, 2015, you may qualify for the suspension of one quarterly refuse charge (\$37.75). Forms may be obtained on the utilities page of our website: www.porthurontownship.org or by stopping in at the Township administration office.
- Protect your water meter! Take a few extra minutes to be sure the crawl space is air tight and your meter is insulated to help prevent freezing. A few extra minutes now could save you a \$200 frozen/broken meter fee later.

Now that the cold weather is setting in, water leaks in unoccupied properties will become more prevalent. If you live next to or near an unoccupied property please report suspected water leaks to the Water Office at (810) 987-6600 x 21 [after hours call (810) 982-3543]. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department @ (810) 985-8115 or 911.

SAFETY FIRST

For everyone's safety, please be mindful of pedestrians and drivers when plowing snow and remember that blocking the sidewalks and plowing snow into or across the street is prohibited. Don't forget to clear the snow from around hydrants in your yard. In the event of an emergency, precious time can be saved if the DPW and fire department have clear access.



Please keep in mind when you are traveling, especially in the winter, to use caution when you see flashing lights up ahead. Flashing lights indicate the presence of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, public works personnel, tow truck drivers and/or maintenance workers. Protect our workers ---- slow down, move over and pay attention.

NEIGHBORLY HELP

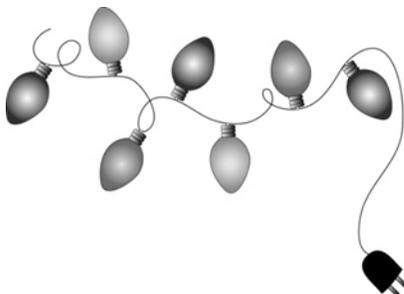


If possible, assist your elderly, homebound or disabled neighbors by clearing snow and ice from their sidewalks, driveways and fire hydrants. Freezing weather and immobility pose special problems for many of the Township residents during the winter months.

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

With the onset of winter, it is time to prepare for our annual snow plowing. While I hate to bring bad news, it is that time of year. Snow should be placed to avoid creating vision obstructions when backing out of driveways and at intersections. If you hire a contractor to clear your drives, caution them to avoid this situation. Additionally, County ordinances prohibit plowing snow across roads.

Please be aware that Township ordinances require recreational vehicles to be stored in the rear yard. The term recreational vehicle includes boats, recreational trailers, motor homes, snowmobiles and the trailers. Storage of this equipment in the front yard constitutes an ordinance violation.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Nominate yourself or your neighbors! Call the Township or stop in for your nomination form. Judging will be held on December 8th – Lights need to be turned on by 6 pm.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT

Port Huron Township has recently been involved in a fairly intensive time of growth, not only with private development, but with major park improvements, utility, and road projects. During this time, all the staff, including both the full and part time individuals who provide assistance, regularly take the time to listen to the individual and be consistently helpful, using general common sense and compassion to assist them with their concerns.

Working with developers during these processes to provide guidance for projects means balancing private interest with public safety. These items are being addressed in the Township in a positive manner, and the changes that need to be made are being incorporated into the process to accomplish both. Several of our processes have been, and are currently undergoing change to provide better accountability for some of the large projects that have been approved over the past few years. If you take a look at the Building Department website, we are also regularly updating and changing forms to comply with the latest State and Federal regulations.

Several of the recent projects like Menards and Stafford Trucking have not only provided jobs but they have complied with requirements that have helped provide upgraded roads and additional necessary utility improvements. This is because the various boards and the administration have regularly supported the need for consistent and uniform enforcement of the ordinances while allowing each department to operate efficient and effectively. This has made it much easier for the Township Planning/Zoning and Building Department to provide the type of service that it takes to positively regulate a community and is a win/win situation for both the Township and its residents. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to call us regarding development currently taking place. We'll be glad to help you.

Thank you, Kirk Lavigne

TREASURERS OFFICE

ONLINE CHECKS - YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



When paying a bill to Port Huron Township it is very important to put the correct account number on your check. There are different account numbers for your water/sewer account, the tax bill, special assessments, cost recovery, etc. If you put the wrong account number on your online bank check we will apply it to the account on the check. We do not move money from one account to another if you have given us an incorrect account number and the money is applied as requested.

It is your responsibility to make sure the correct account number is on the check. When paying by online check also be sure you have enough time for the check to reach us before the due date. It can take up to a week for an online check to reach us. If received after the due date, regardless of when it was generated, late fees will apply.

COLD WEATHER AND PETS

With winter fast approaching, it is very important to make sure your outdoor dogs are safe and warm in cold weather. They will need extra food in cold weather if they stay outdoors. Make sure water doesn't freeze and they have fresh straw in their dog house. The best situation is that all pets are brought inside at night during the cold weather, even a garage is more protection against the elements than a dog house. Dogs should never be chained up outside in cold weather, if they get tangled up and can't get into their dog house, they can freeze to death. Cats should also have more food during the cold weather. A small box facing away from the wind, with fresh straw, will help them keep warm. In cases of extreme cold all pets should be brought inside.



TAX BILLS

The December tax bill is due on February 14, 2015. Because the 14th falls on a Saturday, and the following Monday is a holiday, tax bills are due without penalty on or before February 17, 2015. Your tax bill must be in our office by 4:30 pm on or before the 17th to avoid penalty. We do not accept postmark.

