

TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Spring/Summer 2017

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Volume 19 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

Peter Shonka
Treasurer

Trustees
Donald Dudas

William E. Livingston

John Reno

Steve Riehl

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

It has been a mild winter, but an extremely wet spring. I hope now that summer is on its way we will be a little drier and a little warmer! With the extremely wet spring, we had water in some areas that typically don't have a problem. Please deep ditches and drains clear of debris such as leaves, grass and trash. Everyone benefits if each of us does our part. Road work has already begun with a new overlay of 1 3/4" of asphalt on Beach Road, from Lapeer north to the end north of Atkins. This work was done using millage dollars as a match with the Road Commission Program that matches paying for 50% of the project. Another long overdue project is Lapeer Road from I-94 to Alger Road. Along with that, the Township applied for and received a grant to continue the pathway on the north side of Lapeer down to Michigan Road. This will be a welcome addition. The Township is in its second and final year of doing an assessment of our older sewer infrastructure. This is being accomplished with an approximate \$1,500,000.00 grant from the State of Michigan. Overall, the sewers are in decent shape, but there are issues that need to be resolved. We are evaluating these issues to come up with a plan to repair the problems over a number of years, depending on the severity of the issues.

Speeding – it is always a problem within the Township. Please follow the posted speed limits on all roads. If we receive a number of complaints in a certain area, we will request that the Sheriff's Department watch the area closely. This could result in issuing a lot of tickets, and we'd prefer not to do this. As always, it is a privilege to serve as our Township Supervisor. If you need to contact me, you can call the office at 810-987-6600, extension 18. I'm also available via email at rlewandowski@porthurontownship.org, or you are welcome to stop into the office. I do attend many meetings, so it is always best to call first.

Have a great summer- Bob

BUILDING DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT

This year we have seen an increase in permits issued and construction of more residential homes than we have for the past few years. There are a total of 10 homes that are currently in the process of construction that should all be completed this year. We have also been busy with updating changes to the Zoning Ordinance that have recently been approved and more should be approved in June. All of the information that you need to know regarding building projects and ordinance changes can be found on our website at www.PortHuronTownship.org. Please feel free to call or come in if you have any questions and ask to speak with the Building Official, Kirk Lavigne, or leave a message for me based on the following schedule:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 to 9:30 | Generally available in the office for walk-ins, meetings and phone calls |
| 9:30 to 1:00 | Generally out of the office for Inspections and lunch. Meetings by appt. only. |
| 1:00 to 2:00 | Generally available in the office for walk-ins, meetings and phone calls |
| 2:00 to 4:00 | Generally out of the office for Inspections. Meetings by Appointment Only. |

Information regarding Ordinance Enforcement can be found on the our website as well. That officer, Ted Jahn, is generally available Wednesdays in the office until 9:30 am for meetings, walk-ins and phone calls. Please be aware that all complaints must include caller's name, return phone number, caller's address, address of complaint, if known, and/or the location of that property in relationship to the caller's property. If neither of us is available, please stop at the counter across from our office and speak with Amy Hurd, the Permit Tech.

TREASURER

Hi, My Name is Peter Shonka, and I am your new Township Treasurer. I am excited to serve our residents to the best of my ability. My previous experience as a Township Trustee along with my years of running several businesses locally has enabled me to understand the needs of our residents and businesses and keep safe the hard earned money of our taxpayers.

The Summer 2017 tax bills will be mailed out on or around July 1st. Please be aware that if you purchased your home in mid June through the first few days of July, updated owner information may not have been received before the time of printing. It is very important that you contact our office if you do not receive a tax bill.

If you have any tax payment questions or concerns, please call the Township Hall at 810-987-6600 extension 22 or 23 and either I, or my Deputy Treasurer, Jennifer Fleming can answer any questions you may have. Please have a safe and fun summer.

Peter Shonka, Treasurer

CLERK'S CORNER

WOODLAND CEMETERY NEWS

We are in the planning process of several projects in our cemetery.

- A Scatter Garden - This is an option many choose for cremation remains. This garden would be a tranquil setting attracting birds, butterflies & such where remains could be scattered and would also feature memorial options.
- New Columbariums – We currently have 3 of these that are just about at capacity so we are looking into adding more of this popular option.
- Quiet sitting place in one of our New Sections – here we would like to feature a concrete pad, benches, shrubbery, & perhaps a statue for a semi-private, peaceful space.
- Watch for more information about these plans as well as donation opportunities to honor a loved one, or a memorial on behalf of a family that has been life-long residents of Port Huron Township.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

BURNING PERMITS

Just a reminder that a burning permit is needed for bonfires or clearing and burning yard waste. You can get your permit for the year by stopping at the Fire Station 3848 Lapeer Rd between 8am and 6pm any day; the cost is \$15. For more information, call us at 982-3543 or go to www.porthurontownship.org/fire

FIREWORKS



If fireworks are in your celebration plans, be sure to do it safely! Only adults over 18 can discharge the devices. Fireworks must go up and come down on the property with the owner's permission, never in a public road or unauthorized area. Never use alcohol or operate fireworks while on medications that

may alter your judgment. Fireworks must be used per the manufacturer's directions. Never discharge fireworks at another person or hold the device to your body. Keep fire control items, like an extinguisher or a bucket of water close by.

Remember to be a good neighbor. Fireworks discharged after 10:00 pm are a violation of the Township's noise ordinance. The Sheriff's Office may issue a ticket if a complaint is filed. These are not merely suggestions, but rules, that if violated may lead to damage, injury, and even death! You are responsible for your display. Fires caused by your fireworks can result in prosecution and you paying the cost for damage as well as the fire department response. Use them wisely, be safe and have fun!

NEW FOR 2017 NEXT GENERATION VOTING EQUIPMENT

St. Clair County has opted to partner with Election Source/Dominion for the State approved optical-scan voting system for use in our elections over the next 10 years. The new equipment allows speed and convenience as well as accurate election night reporting while allowing voters to use paper ballot voting. The State of Michigan and the Federal Help America Vote Act money will pay for the new equipment as well as 5 years of extended service & maintenance. My staff and I will begin training on this new equipment in June, and hope to provide some training opportunities for our Election Officials as well. Voters can expect to be using the new equipment with our next upcoming election, which isn't expected until 2018.

DDA

The future of “Big Box Retail” is slowly coming to an end. The speed and convenience of online purchasing has decreased the need for this type of shopping experience. We are working on repurposing large retail locations like Super Kmart. Our smaller retail sights are thriving and easily refilled. Fast food companies are looking for more and new sites to relocate or construct new buildings, and Port Huron Township is in great shape to provide that needed space. We have a great business climate for new business recruitment. We’ve noticed an increase in the need for Light Industrial sites, so this is a new addition to our watch list. The new Passenger Rail Station in the Township is moving forward. The Federal and State grant for the Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study was recently given the green light to proceed. I will continue to keep you updated on developments via the newsletter. You can also keep up on the latest developments by visiting our website at www.porthurontownship.org.

Paul G. Maxwell, DDA Director

St. Clair County’s Pollution Hotline 810-987-5306

Port Huron Township is committed to protecting and enhancing our waterways by improving recreational opportunities on our waterways, controlling invasive species, and educating our residents on the importance of our natural resources.

We all play a part in keeping our lakes, rivers, and streams clean. YOU can be a good environmental steward by reporting activities that are causing water pollution.

What kind of activities should you report?

- Contamination to lakes, rivers, and streams
- Pollution entering a storm drain or surface water
- Suspicious dumping to drains and/or surface waters
- Suspicious discharges from pipes
- Large numbers of dead fish
- Construction site soil erosion entering surface waters
- Polluted storm water runoff from storage piles and dumpsters

Please provide the following information when you call:

- Your name and phone number
(you can remain anonymous if you choose)
- The source of pollution and what was spilled
- Quantity of spill
- Body of water impacted
- When the spill occurred
- Major crossroads of spill or known address

Phone calls made after regular business hours can be made to the St. Clair County Central Dispatch Center at: 810-985-8115 or the MDEQ Pollution Alert System (PEAS) at: 800-292-4706.



For more information, visit the St. Clair County Health Department website at: http://www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health/storm_water.aspx.

SPRING & SUMMER LAWN CARE FOR CLEANER RIVERS, LAKES & BEACHES

Follow these tips to grow a green lawn while protecting our rivers, lakes and beaches:

- **Select earth-friendly fertilizers**
Choose fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen and low phosphorus content to protect water quality and support healthy grass. Avoid weed-and-feed products which can add unnecessary herbicides to your landscape.
- **Create fertilizer-free zones**
Keep a 15-foot buffer along waterfronts in your yard by not fertilizing or just letting the grass grow. A buffer helps to keep grass clippings and fertilizer from entering the water and causing algae problems. A buffer can also help discourage geese.
- **Keep fertilizer and lawn clippings on the lawn**
Sweep or blow fertilizer and grass clippings back onto the lawn and not into the street to prevent them from getting into storm drains and ditches, which lead to our rivers, lakes, and beaches. Don’t dump lawn clippings into drains or ditches.
- **Mow high and leave the clippings**
Set your mower deck high (3 inches) to establish strong, healthy roots and shade out weeds. Leave clippings on your lawn to return nutrients to the soil.
- **Hire a knowledgeable contractor**
Check out [Michigan Green Industry Association’s](#) endorsed companies for the Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection.
- **Reduce your lawn area**
Making your lawn smaller by creating more planting areas with native plants will help infiltrate more water and reduce the amount getting into storm drains.

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP OFFICE

3800 Lapeer Road
Port Huron, MI 48060

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CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Port Huron, MI 48060
Permit No. 747



Only toilet paper down the toilet

Convenience wipes such as baby, hygienic, cleaning, and disinfectant, as well as toilet bowl scrubbers and paper towels might be labeled as 'disposable' or 'flushable', but these items should **not** go down the

drain. Products like these do not break down in the Township sewer system, causing plugs in sewer pipes and pumps, resulting in sewage backups, costly cleanups, and environmental consequences that can result in rate increases.

What Can YOU Do to Help?

1. Do not flush objects down the toilet such as: wipes, diapers, feminine hygiene products, or dental floss.
2. Dispose of these items in your household or business trash receptacles.
3. Inform those who clean your house or business of proper disposal methods for convenience products.
4. Select cleaning supplies that can be washed and reused.
5. Spread the word! Inform your friends and family of the dangers of flushing wipes down the drain.

WATER DEPARTMENT

2016 Water Quality Report Available

The 2016 Water Quality Report, *which describes the source and quality of your drinking water, is available at www.porthurontownship.org/2016waterqualityreport. If you would like to receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact cmaxbauer@porthurontownship.org or call 810-987-6600 x 21.*

The Township's online billing payment program (Payment Service Network) has been up and running for about six months now. After working through a few issues in the beginning, it seems to now be running smoothly. We have 328 customers who have registered to pay their utility bills online and 84 customers who have opted out of receiving paper billing statements. If you would like to pay your bills (utilities, taxes, cost recovery, business license renewals, etc) online you can go to the Township website www.porthurontownship.org and click on the "Pay Fees and Bills Online" link on the homepage or you can call Payment Service Network (PSN) directly at 1-877-885-7968. You will need your 12 digit account number to register to pay your utility bills and your Parcel Identification Number to pay your taxes online. If you pay online using a checking or savings account the cost is \$1.00. If you pay online using a debit or credit card the fee is 2.75%.