

Summer Tax Bill

Important Messages for Taxpayers:

Summer property taxes are payable July 01 to September 15 by mail to 2801 S Forest Hill Rd St Johns, in person at the Township Hall on M-21 on Monday September 15 from 9am-5pm, or by appointment (call 517-927-9273). Review your tax bill for interest/penalty information for past due taxes. Checks or money orders are preferred; however, cash payments for the exact amount owed will also be accepted (there is no cash drawer in the office to make change). Thank you.

Deferment of Summer Taxes: Remember that September 15, 2014 is the last day to file for the Summer Deferment per MCL 211.51(7). Certain taxpayers can apply to have their summer property taxes deferred until February 14, 2015. ***All of the requirements and application form may be found at www.michigan.gov/treasury.

In general, there are two ways to qualify for this deferment: 1) gross household income of \$40,000 or less and falling into an exemption classification or 2) owning an agricultural or horticultural operation for which gross receipts are not less than household income.

Need a receipt? Receipts for tax payments are sent out only upon request. If you need a receipt, please let us know and we will gladly mail one to you.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR PAYING YOUR TAXES ON TIME!

NEW ONLINE SERVICE: Property information and historical tax payments (only those paid **directly** to Bengal Township) can be viewed by the property owner online at www.accessmygov.com. You will be prompted to create an account with password to gain access to your property information, copy of tax bill, and payment receipt for free. Non-owners can view this information for a \$2/view fee (paid online to BS&A Software). BS&A provides the technical help using this webpage (1-855-BSA-SOFT).

Moving? Be sure you give your forwarding address to our Township Treasurer as soon as possible.

2014 Road Maintenance Schedule

The following are the road maintenance contracts signed with the Clinton County Road Commission:

- **Chloride:** 49.59 miles of gravel roads, three applications.
- **Brush spray on various roads**
- **Gravel on:**
 - Taft - Forest Hill to Francis (1 mile)
 - Taft - Grove to Airport (1 mile)
 - Essex Center - Kinley to Walker (1.09 miles)
 - Grove - Parks to Centerline (2.02 miles)
 - Parks - Wacousta to Forest Hill NB (Double Chip Seal)
 - Walker - Lowell to Airport (2 miles)
 - Lowell - Walker to Kinley (1.08 miles)
 - Centerline - Francis to Airport (3.01 miles)

Township Hall Update

There appears to be interest from the Regional AYSO, Fowler Little League and SJYBA about Bengal Township developing the vacant land by the township hall into a ball diamond and soccer field. The Bengal Township Board is further exploring this and will research grant opportunities.

Notes from Clinton County

Plans: Plans have been initiated to accommodate public use of the 270 acre property across from Motz Park. The lake will not have a boat launch as the only boat access will require one to carry the boat in from the parking area. The purpose is to keep it a low impact area and also reduce chances of invasive species. The lake (not yet named) has been stocked with a variety of fish by the DNR. Some of the land area will be planted into native grasses following the soybean crop this year. Other parts of the property contain a beach and walking areas. The intent is to keep this a passive, low impact, low maintenance and peaceful place for people to visit.

Budget: One of the volatile budget areas for the County is juvenile & child care expenses. In the last few years, with Juvenile Court leadership and various child care staff initiated actions, these costs have been reduced significantly. Much of this is proactive vs reactive.

For transportation funding, the Clinton County Road Commission received \$390,000 for the added Winter maintenance costs. The managers comment that it doesn't take care of everything but it sure does help.

Supervisor	Treasurer	Clerk	Trustee	Trustee	Township Assessor
Stephen Mahoney 224-4361	Denice Schultheiss 517-927-9273	Deborah Schafer 593-2325	Marilyn Irrer 224-7685	Sharon Bassette 224-7239	Greg Armbrustmacher 593-3279

Burning Permits

Bengal Township residents living **West of Francis Road** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **Dallas Township Fire Department at 989-593-3146**. Residents will be asked to leave their name, address, and phone number, what they are burning, and which days they wish to burn. Please call at least 24 hours in advance. If residents have any questions, call **Vern Feldpausch, Dallas Township Supervisor, at 989-593-2768**.

Bengal Township residents living **East of Francis Road** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **City of St. Johns Police Department at 989-224-6721**. You will be asked your name and address, what you are burning, how much you are burning, and when you wish to burn. Here, it is best to actually speak with someone to confirm your burning permit is approved.

Fire and Rescue Runs

In the event of a fire run within the township, Bengal Township is charged **\$1000.00 when a fire truck or \$450.00 when a first responder leaves the fire station**. Bengal Township is charged \$1000.00 for the first two hours and \$500.00 for every hour after that for fire service. **When Bengal Township gets billed, the person upon whom the service is provided will be billed.** Please check your insurance to see if Fire or First Responder is covered. Typically, basic homeowners insurance only covers up to \$500.00. A small increase in your premium could save you hundreds!!

Suspicious Activity

Reports by the county sheriff's department have indicated an increasing concern about criminal activity in remote areas of Clinton County (including meth usage and labs). The Bengal Township board encourages residents to remain vigilant and not hesitate in reporting suspicious activity to the sheriff's department (call **911**).

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office has been involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program since 1993. Residents interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch Newsletters and/or Alerts by email can sign up at www.clinton-county.org/LawJustice/SheriffOffice.aspx.

Township Hall Rental

To rent the township hall contact Deborah Schafer at:
7857 West Parks Road
St. Johns, Michigan 48879
989-593-2325

On the Ballot for August 5, 2014

-MILLAGE PROPOSAL TO RENEW PRESENT TAX LIMITATIONS FOR DUST CONTROL TO READ: Shall the tax limitation imposed on general ad valorem taxes within Bengal Township imposed under Article IX, Sec 6 of the Michigan Constitution renews for the millage that expired with 2013 taxes levy said Township 1.25 mills (\$1.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2014 to 2017 inclusive for the dust control of Township roads; and shall the Township levy such renewal in Millage for said purpose, thereby, raising in the first year an estimated \$58,167.50?

-MILLAGE PROPOSAL TO RENEW PRESENT TAX LIMITATIONS FOR MAINTENCE AND IMPROVEMENTS OF ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES: Shall the tax limitation imposed on general ad valorem taxes within Bengal Township imposed under Article IX, Sec 6 of the Michigan Constitution renews for the millage that expired with 2013 taxes levy said Township 3.25 mills (\$3.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the period of 2014 to 2017 inclusive for maintenance and or improvement of roads and construction of bridges within the Township; and shall the Township levy such renewal in millage for said purpose, thereby, raising in the first year an estimated \$151,235.50?

-Unofficial Candidate List:

Township Supervisor

Rep. Stephen Mahoney (incumbent)

Township Trustee

Rep. Sharon Bassette (incumbent)

Rep. Elizabeth Ayoub

Note from Clinton County:

There will be a proposal on the August primary ballot to reduce, and in many cases eliminate, the personal property tax for businesses, both large and small. This does not include utilities. With this proposal, revenue lost by local governments will be reimbursed by the State of Michigan. Other proposals that have been proposed do not reimburse local units of Government.

Wind Turbine Appeal Update

The date for the Wind Turbine Appeal oral argument is July 16 at 11 am. The location will be the Hall of Justice in Lansing. Our assigned judges are Amy Krause, Kurt Wilder and Cynthia Stephens.

The Bengal Township Board wishes everyone a safe and fun filled summer season!!