

BENGAL TOWNSHIP NEWS

July
2019

Clinton County, Michigan

www.bengaltownship.com

SUMMER TAX BILL MESSAGES

Summer property taxes are payable July 01 to September 16 by:

- Mail to 2801 S Forest Hill Rd St Johns
- In person at the Township Hall on M-21 on Monday, September 16 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 14 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. ***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! ☺

ASSESSOR CONTACT INFO

For assessing questions:

Dr. Mark W. Holley
(Assistant Assessor: Barbara Moss)
111 E. Front Street PO Box 656
Ovid, MI 48866

989-834-5611
Mholley4444@gmail.com

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The County Sheriff's Office remains involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program. To receive Neighborhood Watch Newsletters and/or Alerts by email, sign up at www.clinton-county.org/LawJustice/SheriffOffice.aspx.

MOVING?

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

PARKING LOT

For hall rentals, meetings, elections and other events, please note the parking lot has been expanded to the East side of the building. Approximately 40 additional spaces will be available, and repairs of previous flooding causes have been made.

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

To arrange to rent the township hall contact Sharon Bassette at **989-640-4750**. Rental charge for Township residents is \$100; non-residents \$150 (plus security deposit of \$150 for each rental). The rental agreement and other rental information may be found at www.bengaltownship.com.

<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Trustee</i>	<i>Township Assessor</i>
Deborah Schafer 989-593-2325	Denice Schultheiss 517-927-9273	Sharon Bassette 989-640-4750	Bill Kushmaul 616-240-4100	Nick McDonald 517-819-6127	Mark Holley 989-834-5611

BURNING PERMITS

Residents living **West of Francis Rd** can obtain a burning permit by contacting the **Dallas Township Fire Department at 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 24 hours in advance. If you have any questions, please call Vern Feldpausch 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 Dept. 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.

REMEMBER: Burn permits are required by residents. When either the Dallas Township or St. Johns Fire Department responds to a fire/rescue call, the **property owner** is billed.

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!!

2019 ROAD MAINTENANCE

The road maintenance projects planned for 2019:

- Chloride & BrushSpray
- Overband/Fill: Francis to Forest Hill (SB)
- Culverts: Forest Hill (South of Taft) & Bauer Rd (Between Taft & Dexter Trail)
- Spot Gravel:
 - Parks Rd: Wacousta NB Bauer
 - Walker Rd: Essex Center to Lowell
 - Essex Center Rd: Walker to M21
 - Bauer Rd: M21 to Kinley & Parks to Townsend
 - Wacousta Rd: Walker to Kinley
 - Taft Rd: Bauer to Wacousta
 - Forest Hill: Parks to Townsend
 - Dexter Trail – Bauer to Centerline

NOTES FROM CLINTON COUNTY

Last Summer I outlined a status report. This will be an update with some emphasis on the challenges that lie ahead:

- The County facilities are all 30 years old or less (except Greenhaven Youth Home) and debt free. We are encountering some of the normal maintenance issues to keep the facilities in top operating efficiency.
- The Pension and Retiree Health Care are fully funded. In looking forward, some of the assumptions that are used in future projections are being updated. The expected returns on invested funds are being lowered by MERS (the fund manager) from 7.75% to 7.35%, which in 2 years means it takes more upfront contributions to maintain fund soundness. Also increased longevity of retirees creates greater long term liability. This combination will require some additional fund contribution by the County.
- The 911 technical system will need to be updated as the current system will no longer be supported after 2021. This will entail considerable expense. Also, the authority to levy phone surcharges sunsets at the end of 2021. To continue with the surcharge will require the legislature to extend or remove the sunset. The current \$2.75 is becoming inadequate as the technical changes are expensive and the number of phone lines is actually decreasing. The only other alternative is to adopt a voter approved millage to fully or partially fund the 911 service or if allowable some combination of the two.
- We are attempting to be proactive in an effort to minimize the impact on County finances.

David W. Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner District 2

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

