



# Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Winter 2017

7450 14 Mile Rd.  
Rockford MI 49341

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday:  
9:00-Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 PM

**CLOSED FRIDAYS**

Phone: (616)866-0622

Fax: (616)866-3451

Burning Permits:  
(616)813-2961

Building Permits:  
Imperial Municipal Svcs.  
(616)863-9294

Electrical Permits:  
Casey Kalee (616)874-6289

### Township Officials

Supervisor: Chuck Porter  
Treasurer: Colleen Brown  
Clerk: Sandy Frandsen  
Trustees: Matt McConnon,  
Mary Ann Andersen,  
Kimberly McIntyre,  
Mike Krygier,  
Assessor: Jane Kolbe

### Meeting Schedule

All meetings at 7:00 PM

Township Board:  
1st Wednesday  
Planning Commission:  
3rd Tuesday  
ZBA: 2nd Wednesday

### Holiday Hours

Township Offices closed:  
Dec. 26 & Jan. 2, 2017  
[www.courtlandtwp.org](http://www.courtlandtwp.org)  
Township Calendar  
Taxes & Assessing Information  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoning Ordinances



### 2016 WINTER TAXES

**DUE FEBRUARY 14, 2017**  
On Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> a 3% penalty will be added to the open balance of your taxes. 2016 property taxes can be paid here at the Township Offices until Feb. 28, 2017. After March 1, 2017 unpaid amounts will be considered delinquent and turned over to the Kent County Treasurer. Call the Kent County Treasurer's office at (616) 632-7500 to get your balance and payment information. Their website is [www.accesskent.com](http://www.accesskent.com)

### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

**In person:** A cashier or personal check is preferred. If paying in cash, please bring **EXACT CHANGE.**

**By mail:** For a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your **ENTIRE** tax bill. Mail early, *postmarks are not accepted.*

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

**Online Payments:** Pay your taxes online with a credit card or e-check with a link from our Township website: [www.courtlandtwp.org/link](http://www.courtlandtwp.org/link).

**\*\*Convenience fees do apply\*\***  
From the link you will access BS&A search, either to 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 noted per transaction (A credit card run as a debit card is not an option.) A transaction receipt can be emailed to you.

The Treasurer's Office is not responsible for payment on the wrong property.

**Principle Residence Exemption:** Check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the Principal Residence Exemption

(P.R.E.) if you qualify. To qualify for this year, you must own and occupy your residence before June 1st for summer and Nov. 1st for winter.

**Dog Licenses:** We will continue to issue dog licenses year-round. Licenses will expire at the end of the month that the dog's rabies vaccination expires. Several local veterinary clinics are also participating in license sales, providing a convenient way for clients to both vaccinate and license their dogs in one stop. A license cannot be purchased without a record of neutering and updated proof of rabies vaccines. Renewals may also be done online @ [www.accesskent.com](http://www.accesskent.com) under Online Services. **Taxes and dog licenses MUST BE paid separately.**

The Courtland Township Annual Budget is adopted at our March Regular Township Board Meeting yearly. Our Fund Balances are available upon request at the Treasurer's Office. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions/concerns throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy Holidays & Safe Travels,  
*Colleen Brown, Treasurer*

### FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Our new addition to Fire Station #1 is completed and being used. Feel free to stop by and check it out. There is a new meeting room /training area for our firefighters and new restrooms can be used from dawn to dusk for the park. The township board is looking at creating a disc golf course and extended walking path on the west side of the Twp. Land that extends to Myers Lake Rd. There seems to be a lot of interest in this type of use and not very expensive to put in. The intersection of M-57 & Myers Lake Rd. has growing safety concerns with traffic there. MDOT studied the traffic flow and have agreed to put in a STOP light there in the Spring of 2017. No cost to Twp. Kent County Road Commission and Courtland Twp. are committed to keeping our roads safe and in good condition. Any roads you as residents feel need work done on in 2017, please call or email me.



*Chuck Porter, Supervisor*



## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

We are looking for fire fighters, no experience needed, we will train you. Please stop by to talk to me Chief Mojzuk @ Station 1—7480 14Mile Rd., M-F 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If you heat your house with wood please use seasoned wood and clean your chimney often. The creosote builds up and that's what causes chimney fires that can turn into a house fire real quickly.

911 Emergency Address Signs: Green & white reflective address signs are available for \$10.00. Call the Township Hall to order 616-866-0622.

Our *Coats for Charity* drive has begun. Please bring your gently used coats (snow pants, hats, gloves and boots, too) to the Township Hall, and we will donate them to a local charity.

*Christmas trees* may be dropped off through Jan. 31st behind Fire Station #1 (14 Mile Rd.), on the south side of the driveway. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags. Please keep your trees watered often so they don't dry out and cause fires also.



*Note:* Both fire stations are equipped with generators in case of power outages or other weather-related emergencies. Drinking water will be available at both stations. Please bring your own containers.

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors every six months. Every home should also have a good quality carbon monoxide (CO) detector.

*Steve Mojzuk, Fire Dept. Chief*

## CLERK'S COMMENTS

I look forward with excitement for this opportunity to serve my township. Thank you to those who have supported me and shared their well wishes. I'd like to thank all the Election Workers who put in long hours to make the 2016 elections run smoothly. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

*Sandy Frandsen, Clerk*

## ASSESSOR'S DESK

Residential sales are still showing an increase in value this year in Courtland Township. The Inflation Rate Multiplier for next year will be low again at 0.9%. This means most residential assessed values will be increasing much more than taxable values in most cases, with some exceptions such as uncapping and new construction.

The assessing department has been working on field reviews per guidelines from the State Tax Commission. Sections one through six have been completed in the past two years.

Look for your *Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Classification* to be mailed in late February. Check this notice for your classification, principal residence exemption %, current and prior year assessed and taxable values, and March Board of Review appeal dates.

If you have any questions on these or any assessment topics, please call or email me.

*Jane Kolbe, Assessor*  
[jkolbe@courtlandtwp.org](mailto:jkolbe@courtlandtwp.org)

## SEWER NEWS

*If you have a sewer emergency call Al Evink at Main-Tech Services (616) 874-8866.*

**HELP PREVENT SEWER BACK UPS**  
Sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three things: used water, human waste and toilet paper.

You can help reduce your maintenance costs, and also protect the environment by following some simple rules.

**DO:** Place a waste basket in the bathroom to dispose of dental floss, disposable diapers, wipes, condoms and personal hygiene products. Also, make sure foreign objects such as rags and disposable toilet paper wipes, and toys don't get into the toilet.

**DO:** Collect cooking grease, fats and oils in a container and dispose of it in the garbage. Never put these things in the toilet or down the drain.

**DO NOT:** Discharge sump pumps or heat pumps into the sewer as this is illegal.

**DO NOT:** Remove manhole covers. This allows storm water and debris into the sanitary sewer system.

**DO:** Report tampering with manhole covers, or other damage to the system

When a sewer overflows, it is usually the result of inappropriate materials in the sewer system. Most sewer back-ups occur between the house and the Township's sewer main, where the property owner is responsible for correcting the problem. Most basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover sewer or basement drain backups. Contact your insurance agent for more information on adding this to your policy.

*Theresa Towersey, Sewer Admin.*