

COURTLAND CLIPPINGS

WINTER 2019



7450 14 Mile Rd NE
Rockford, MI 49341
www.courtlandtwp.org

 facebook.com/courtlandtwp

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00-Noon & 1:00-4:30pm
CLOSED FRIDAYS

PHONE: (616) 866-0622

FAX: (616) 866-3451

BURN PERMITS:

firechief@courtlandtwp.org

or call/text (616) 813-2961

BUILDING, PLUMBING, AND HEATING PERMITS:

Imperial Municipal Services

(616) 863-9294

ELECTRICAL PERMITS:

Casey Kalee (616) 874-6289

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

SUPERVISOR: Matt McConnon

TREASURER & ZA*: Colleen Brown

CLERK: Sandra Frandsen

TRUSTEES: Mary Ann Andersen, Kimberly

McIntyre, Michele Mojzuk

ASSESSOR: Jane Kolbe

*Zoning Administrator

MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings at 7:00 PM

TOWNSHIP BOARD: 1st Wednesday

PLANNING COMMISSION: 3rd Tuesday

ZBA: 2nd Wednesday

HOLIDAY HOURS

TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED:

Christmas: December 24-25, 2018

New Year's: December 31-January 1

SUPERVISOR NOTES

The first thing I would like to do as the newly elected Supervisor of Courtland Township is thank all of you for your support and trust in me. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve you all in this new capacity and hope that you will be patient with me as I learn the responsibilities of this position. I am humbled by the confidence you have shown me in the election. I want to make myself available to all residents to express things that you believe we are doing well as a township and also get input for areas that we can make changes. With that said, I welcome your comments and will do my best to represent everyone in the township to the best of my ability. Please stop in, call, or email me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Secondly, I want to thank you all for your support of the fire millage renewal. This ensures that our fire department personnel have the training, equipment, and resources needed to perform their duties of protecting our residents and property. We are blessed to have a great group of dedicated personnel on our department to serve our families, friends and neighbors. Your renewal of the millage generates over \$300,000 annually which goes directly to the department.

Matt McConnon, Township Supervisor

TREASURER NOTES



WINTER TAXES 2018 DUE: Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 by 4:30 PM - Additional interest applies after February 14, 2019. On Friday, March 1, 2019 all taxes still owing must be sent to the Kent County Treasurer's office. The Kent County Treasurer keeps all records of delinquent taxes, please call 616-632-7500 for that information. Offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 24th, Tuesday, Dec. 25th, Monday, Dec. 31st, 2018 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

In Person: A cashier or personal check is preferred. If paying in cash, please bring EXACT amount.

By Mail: For a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your ENTIRE tax bill. Mail Early - Must be received by Courtland Twp. Office in Thurs., Feb. 14, 2019 mail. POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

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

Online Payments: Pay your taxes online with a credit card or e-check only with a link from our Township Website: www.courtlandtwp.org/link. Convenience fees do apply as noted. From the link you will access BS&A search, either choose to set up an account as property owner for free access, or pay the \$2 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 3% of the credit card amount or \$3 for an e-check. (A credit card run as a debit card is not an option). Be sure to have a transaction receipt emailed to you as proof of payment accepted. Credit Card & e-check payments are accepted through Feb. 23, 2019. We do not accept Credit card payments at the office. *The Treasurer's office is not responsible for payment on the wrong property.*

MORTGAGE ESCROW PAYMENTS: We sent your tax bill to the mortgage company IF the mortgage company requested the bill. The message "Informational Copy" means that your tax bill has been sent to your mortgage company or the tax service they utilize. If your taxes are escrowed and your bill wasn't sent to your mortgage company, make a copy of the bill for your records and forward the original tax bill to your mortgage company.

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION: Check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the PRE if you qualify. To qualify for this year, you must own and occupy your residence before June 1st, 2018 for Summer and Nov. 1st 2018 for Winter.

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.

The State of Michigan offers help to eligible taxpayers in the form of the Property Tax Credit, Home Heating Credit, and Military Tax Relief. For more information visit the State of Michigan's website.

Please feel free to contact our office anytime. We welcome your questions and input. May your fire be warm and your home be bright! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Colleen Brown, Treasurer
Theresa Towersey, Deputy Treasurer*



FIRE CHIEF'S DESK

911 EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGNS: If you or a loved one is having a medical emergency it is very difficult for us to respond to your house quickly with no address out by the road. We have the Green & White reflective address signs available for \$10. Call the Township office to order. If you do not have one of these address signs, please have your address on both sides of your mail box.

BURN PERMITS: Please, before you burn E-Mail firechief@courtlandtp.org, Text or call 616-813-2961. Remember, all burning must be done during daylight hours, and burning should be a safe distance from all buildings, tall grass and trees. Do not leave fires unattended and have a garden hose handy. Burning of tires, roofing, construction materials, treated lumber, garbage, plastics, rubber or petroleum products is prohibited.

PFAS TESTING: We had our four wells tested for PFAS around Station 1 and all came back with no PFAS detected.

With Winter season please do not have portable heaters plugged into an extension cord or have them too close to any flammables.

Keep your Christmas trees watered. After Christmas you may drop off real, undecorated, unbagged trees for recycling behind the

Courtland Fire Station 1 at 7480 14 Mile Rd. Please change your batteries in your Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Did you know you should replace the entire smoke detector every ten years? We have free smoke detectors at the Township Hall and Fire Station.

When you sleep at night, please close your bedroom door it could save your life. A closed door will slow down a fire from spreading room to room. Always look for two ways out of any room or building in case of a fire or a life-threatening incident.

Have you ever thought of being a Fire Fighter? We are always looking for help, no experience needed. We will train you. Please stop by and see me at Station 1, M-F 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Have a safe Holiday season and a Merry Christmas!

Steve Mojzuk, Courtland Fire Chief

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

NEW COST MANUAL: When valuing property, there are three main methods: Sales Comparison, Income Capitalization, and Cost Approach. The Sales approach is most often used for fee simple appraisals and the income approach for income-producing properties. The cost approach is widely used in mass appraising and is the method Assessors use most for residential properties in Michigan. The cost approach formula is as follows: (Reproduction or Replacement Cost New – Depreciation) + Land Value. We have been using the 2003 State Tax Commission (STC) manual for quite a while, and the STC has recently contracted with Marshall and Swift/Boeckh, LLC for cost schedules for a new manual which will be implemented for the 2019 tax year.

What does this mean for you? Marshall and Swift/Boeckh, LLC will have differences from the 2003 STC manual values which could affect your assessed value. Keep in mind that your taxable value will only go up by the CPI or 5%, whichever is less regardless of any increases to the assessed value next year (unless you have new construction, losses, or purchased the property in 2018.) The assessing department will do their best to make the transition as smooth as possible. Please let me know asap when you receive your assessment notice in February if you feel that your assessed value is far from 50% of what you could currently sell the property.

Don't just look at the change from the previous year, but ask the question, "Is this close or reasonable to half of what I could sell the property?"

If you have any questions on this or any assessment topic, please call or email me at jkolbe@courtlandtp.org

Jane Kolbe, Assessor

CLERK'S CORNER

My deputy and I have the August Primary behind us. After Election day we were advised there would be a possible recount request. After the Board of Canvassers certified the election a recount request was received. On September 10, the staff from the County as well as some of our neighboring township staff came here to Courtland to do the actual physical hand counting. All is well, we did our jobs and the recount agreed with the original tabulated results!

We have been very busy since September preparing for the mid-term November election. As of today, November 4, 2018 Andrea has issued 1,008 absentee ballots with 766 ballots returned thus far. These numbers compare with the 2016 Presidential Election with 1075 absentee ballots being issued.

As the holidays approach, take the time to be grateful for your blessings. Show your appreciation to those you come in contact with. Take nothing for granted.

*Sandy Frandsen, Clerk
Andrea VanSetters, Deputy Clerk*

RACE Community Award



The Rockford Area Community Endowment is accepting nominations for its biannual Community Recognition Award. This award is given to an individual or community organization that has achieved significant accomplishment in their lifetime through career, community, or personal success. Nominees must be or have been a resident of the Rockford Public School District. Desirable characteristics may include, but not exclusive to, the following: Courage, Initiative, Achievement, Time Commitment, or Effectiveness.

Nominations should be submitted in writing by March 30, 2019 to: **Rockford Area Community Endowment, Att: Awards, PO Box 561, Rockford, MI 49341**

The written nomination shall outline, in one typed page or less, the qualities that exemplify why the candidate should be considered for the award. The Board of Directors will consider each nominee on his/her merits. The Community Recognition Award will be presented at the R.A.C.E commemoration banquet to be held at the Rockford Sportsmen's Club on May 3, 2019.