

COURTLAND CLIPPINGS

WINTER 2020



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: Susan Hartman

TRUSTEES: Mary Ann Andersen, Kimberly

McIntyre, Michele Mojzuk, Terry Bartels

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: Dec. 24 - 25, 2019

New Year's: Dec. 31, 2019 - Jan. 1, 2020



DOG LICENSES

Licenses may be purchased online year around at the Kent County Animal Shelter. Call 616-632-7300 or visit www.accesskent.com to purchase online or available at various local veterinary offices and the Township.

SUPERVISOR NOTES

It appears that winter is making a test run but hopefully it will decide to wait before coming to stay. We had a busy summer in the township with many road projects completed and a very active building season that saw the addition of about 25 new homes and 58 new manufactured homes.

I have been informed by MDOT that they may eliminate the left turn cycles for the Northland Drive traffic off 14 Mile. The turn signal was installed during the construction on US-131 last year. Since construction is complete, MDOT is evaluating the traffic flows and will be making a determination in the near future.

I want to take the opportunity to say thank you to Sandy Frandsen for her nearly three years of service to the township as the Clerk. She resigned from her post effective September 30 for personal reasons. She was a very hard working and kind individual who will be missed. With that, the board was blessed to have the opportunity to meet with candidates and selected Sue Hartman for the position. She has a great deal of experience to aid in her duties as Clerk for our township.

We recently finished installing new playground equipment and upgrading some of the older pieces behind the township hall and will be ready for play next year. We also had a walking trail cut around the disc golf course. We are in the process of requesting bids to have gravel installed and look forward to paving next year if bids are favorable. I welcome suggestions for ways to develop our park property, so please drop me a line if you would like to share ideas.

In an attempt to communicate more regularly with our residents, I am working on starting a contact list for anyone wishing to be included. We will be adding a way to register on our website soon and also have a place at the bottom of your tax bill provide contact information.

Matt McConnon, Township Supervisor

NEWS FLASH

Stay up-to-date with Township news by providing your email address and phone number on the bottom portion of your tax bill.

TREASURER NOTES

Winter Taxes 2019 Due:

Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 by 4:30 PM.

Additional interest & penalty applies after
February 14, 2020

On March 1, 2020 all taxes still owing must be sent to the Kent County Treasurer's office, who keeps all records of delinquent taxes. Offices will be closed December 24-25, and December 31, 2019 - January 1, 2020.



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 on Fri., Feb. 14, 2020 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/links. **Convenience fees 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 \$2.00 fee with your credit card as a separate transaction to continue. Once you have found your parcel though 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 \$3.00 for e-check. 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, 2020. **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 message is noted in red under the Property Information area that a copy of this bill has been sent to your mortgage provider. You are receiving this copy for informational purposes only IF that message is on your tax bill. 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.

Courtland Township Annual Budget is adopted annually at our March Township Board Meeting. Our fund balances are available upon request at the Treasurer's Office. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions throughout the year.

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 2019 for Summer and Nov. 1st 2019 for Winter.

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.

May your fire be warm and your home be bright! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Colleen Brown, Treasurer
Milissa Soderstrom, Deputy Treasurer*



FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Lately Michigan has had too many fire related deaths. **Close Before You Doze**, 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 and practice getting out, if you have an incident, you already know what to do.

Please change your batteries in your Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

Test them every month by pushing the test button on them. 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. If you have wired together detectors and need to replace them, buy new ones and we will come over free of charge and replace them for you. Just call Chief at 616-813-2961.

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. Even in subdivisions it is very hard for us to see the address on your house. We have the Green & White reflective address signs available for \$10.00. Call the Township office to order 616-866-0622. If you do not have one of these address signs, please have your address on both sides of your mailbox.

Burn Permits: Please, before you burn E-Mail firechief@courtlandtwp.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.

With winter on the way please do not have portable heaters plugged into an extension cord or have them too close to any flammables. When we have power outages, please do not run portable generators inside garages or enclosed porches, the C.O. can kill you!

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.

Have a safe Holiday season and Merry Christmas.

Steve Mojzuk, Courtland Fire Chief

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

Two recent laws changed the land division process for Michigan property. The first law requires the Surveyor to record a survey used to change parcel lines. The second law requires certification that no delinquent taxes are on a parcel before a land division. The Kent County Treasurer's office created

a Land Division Tax Payment Certification Form to meet this requirement, and the property owner will be responsible for the \$5.00 certification fee required with this form.

This year, field reviews were completed for sections 13-16 in the Township. Also, the tables for valuing residential metes and bounds land in the township was restructured. This change may result in some initial increases or decreases in some properties but should result in a much smoother and accurate valuation going forward.

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

Jane Kolbe, Assessor

CLERK'S CORNER

With the 2020 elections in our sights, the dread of standing in long lines seems inevitable. Fortunately, we have great news! Anyone age 18 and over can sign up to be an Absentee Voter and miss the lines! All you need to do is call the Township Clerk or Deputy Clerk and request to have an Absentee Ballot Application Form sent to you.

If you so desire, you can also be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter List. This enables you to avoid calling before each election.

Please contact us with any questions regarding the Absentee Voter process. We are also available for group presentations.

If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming an Election Inspector, please feel free to contact us. The first training session will be in January 2020. Additional classes will be scheduled as needed.

We look forward to serving you.

*Sue Hartman, Clerk
Nyha French, Deputy Clerk*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Special Thank You to **Tom Harkema** who devoted a lot of time to research & update our cemetery records for Veterans to be honored. He personally put flags in the cemetery on all veterans graves.