

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

OFFICE COMPLEX HOURS: MON, WED, THURS & FRI 10 AM-3 PM, TUES 1:30-6:30 PM
987 S. State Hwy M-553, Gwinn, MI 49841. Ph (906) 249-9169 Fax (906) 249-2120

Website—www.sandstownship.org E-mail—sandsadmin@sandstownship.info

CHECK OUT THE NEW PLAYGROUND!



**ELECTED
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**
Supervisor—Darlene Walch
249-9945

Clerk—Lee Yelle
346-4423

Treasurer—Cheryl Schram
346-9907

Trustee—Joe Wixtrom
250-8956

Trustee—Vacant; To be
appointed July 2015

**APPOINTED
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**
Zoning Administrator
Randall Yelle 346-4423

PLANNING COMMISSION
Ron Titter (Chair)
Joe Wixtrom Jane Noe
Shelley Brauer Russell Card
Eric Anderson
Aaron Burbey

**ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS**
Rick Nelson (Chair)
Ron Titter
Robert Vietzke
Jackie Winkowski
Pamela Lajewski-Pearson
(Alternate)

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Fire Chief—Rickey Wilson
346-7683
Assistant Chiefs
Hall #1—Lyn Nelson
249-3392
Hall #2—Terry Sleeter
249-9201

EMS Coordinator
Lyn Nelson
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator
Frank Rosado 249-3081

Last fall, the playground was expanded and new equipment was added, including new swings and some equipment for younger children. This equipment was purchased with funds from the Parks & Recreation millage and a donation from the Sandstormers Club. The playground, with the tennis courts, basketball courts, restrooms, and covered pavilion, is the perfect place for a family picnic.

BLUEBERRY RIDGE WARMING HUT

While visiting Blueberry Ridge, or even while driving on M-553, you may have noticed some construction activity. A new warming hut is being built, which will be a place to get warm, socialize, watch skiers go by, or just enjoy the abeyance after a nice ski. Still a work in progress, GE Builders has been working hard on construction for several months. The project is a partnership between the Superiorland Ski Club, Sands Township, and the DNR, and is funded by a grant from the DNR and matching donations raised by the Ski Club. No Township funds were allocated for the project, but the Township is considered the owner of the building, was awarded the grant, and leases the property the building sits on. The Superiorland Ski Club continues to raise additional funds needed to maintain and furnish the hut once construction is completed. If you are interested in donating, please contact the office. We hope to see many smiling faces using the new hut next winter!



A Recreation Passport is required to park at Blueberry Ridge (\$11/year, available at license renewal through the Secretary of State office or at a state park). These funds support recreation opportunities and make Blueberry Ridge eligible for grant money.

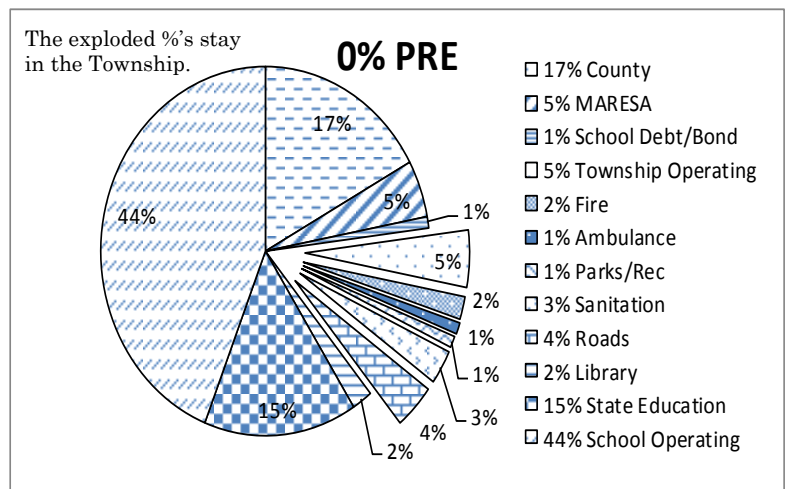
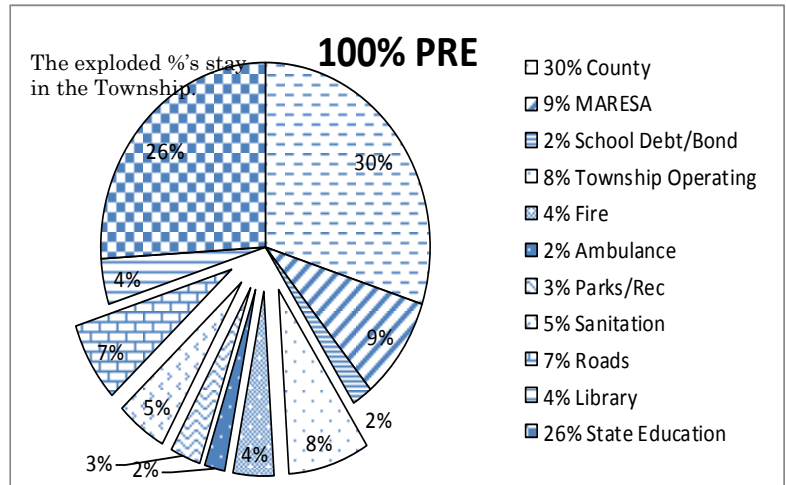
TREASURER'S NEWS

2015 Summer property tax statements were sent out June 29, 2015. If you have not received your statement or if your statement went to your escrow company and you would like a copy, please call the office. To avoid interest or penalty, summer taxes must be postmarked or paid in person by Monday, September 14, 2015. 2015 Winter tax statements will be mailed the end of November. Winter taxes must be postmarked or paid in person by Wednesday, February 17, 2016 to avoid a 3% penalty. Beginning Tuesday, March 1, 2016, summer and winter taxes must be paid at the Marquette County Treasurer's Office. I continue to update addresses in Sands Township. If you have an address change and your tax statement does not reflect this, please call our office so we can update our records.

In November 2013, a new law was enacted that provides disabled military veterans an exemption from property taxes on their primary residence. To qualify, the veteran or surviving spouse must be receiving veteran's benefits at the 100% level. For more information or if you feel you may qualify and have not yet filed the necessary paperwork, please contact the office.

The pie charts show where your tax dollars are spent. Both 100% and 0% Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) are shown.

Submitted by: Cheryl Schram, Treasurer



PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

The online catalog that helps you find library materials is getting an update. The new catalog version is called "Enterprise," and has a number of powerful new features in an easy-to-use interface.

Look for the new catalog linked from the library website pwpl.info.

Some of the improvements include:

- The catalog will remember your past checkout history, should you choose to enable this feature in your account settings. This has been one of the most requested enhancements, to help patrons remember their reading history.
- "Text this to me" - brief information for any item you find can be texted to our mobile phone. You may also email the information to yourself.
- View call number and item availability information from the 'search results' screen.
- Integration of downloadable ebooks and audiobook content - the catalog will know whether downloadable titles are available, and provide a simpler way to access them.
- If you can't find a title you are searching for, there is a button that will easily run your search in the statewide catalog.

- Separate children and teens portals.
- More intuitive behavior that web users have come to expect.
- The 'back' button on your browser will now work the way you expect it to, taking you to the previous page you were looking at in the catalog.
- "Fuzzy logic" searching. The database is able to handle misspellings so your search doesn't hit a dead end if you can't remember exactly how a word is spelled.
- "Faceted" searching. If search results are too broad, the left pane of the 'search results' screen gives many options to narrow the focus and find your item.

The new Enterprise catalog builds on the features people have come to expect from the existing catalog. PWPL users will still have access to the "Classic" version of the catalog for several months after the new catalog is available.

Smartphone users who have downloaded the BookMyne app to search for and manage their materials can expect it to continue working as usual. Set aside some time to learn to navigate these new enhancements! (Excerpted from PWPL Newsletter, Spring 2015)

Submitted by Carolyn Myers, PWPL Township Advisory Council



HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR A SEAT BELT

To provide optimal protection for any rider, and to be in compliance with Michigan law, the lap portion of a lap/shoulder belt must be worn low and snug across the hips, and the shoulder portion must be snug across the chest, away from the neck and face. The shoulder portion should NEVER be worn behind the back or under the arm. In older vehicles with separate lap and shoulder restraints, both systems must be used. Improperly wearing a seat belt carries the same penalty as failing to wear a seat belt, and can cause more injury in some crashes than if the belt was not used. Consult your vehicle's owner's manual to determine proper use.

So, what can you do if your seat belt doesn't fit comfortably? Some smaller people, especially children, may find that the shoulder portion of a lap/shoulder belt rubs on their face or neck. Moving the seat forward or backward or shifting slightly in the seat can often relieve uncomfortable rubbing. Additionally, many newer vehicles have restraint systems that can be adjusted. Booster seats can be utilized for children,

and provide more safety than the use of the vehicle's restraint system alone.

For larger people, if the vehicle's restraint system does not fit, the next step may be to purchase an aftermarket restraint system. Michigan law requires that any belt system installed must meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, so it's a good idea to have such a system installed professionally. Some manufacturer's produce seat belt extenders that do not meet the federal safety standards. Check packaging and labeling to determine compliance, and keep supporting documentation with your registration and insurance in the event of a traffic stop or a crash. Some extenders are provided free of charge by the dealer or manufacturer, if requested.

Devices used to introduce slack into the system do not meet federal safety standards. Using such a device is dangerous and put the occupant in violation of Michigan law. *From: Office of Highway Safety Planning, Michigan State Police*

Submitted by Lyn Nelson, EMS Coordinator

MEET YOUR EMS VOLUNTEERS



Back row left to right: Zach Blaksmith, Susan Andary, Dave Oysti, Frank Rosado, Randy Schwemin. Front row left to right: Charlie Bleau, Lyn Nelson, Matt Perala. Missing from photo: Matt Bathke and Thomas LaTourneau.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

The Parks and Recreation Committee is looking for people to get involved. Do you want to have a say in how Township Recreation monies are spent? *Contact the office at 249-9169 or Bob Kallio at 346-3502 and ask how you can get involved in your community.*

Everyone is invited to use the township recreation areas, including the Township park and Strawberry Lake. The multi-purpose room/gym is available for rent for graduation parties, weddings, birthday parties, bridal or baby showers, sports practices, or other events. The outdoor pavilion is available for reservation. Please check our website or call the office for details.

The Township Master Plan and Recreation Plan include future plans for hiking or nature trails, a soccer field, and a baseball diamond. The Recreation Committee is looking for input from residents on whether they would like to see these or other recreational facilities added to our existing recreation areas.

Pickleball is played regularly in the gym and outdoors. Please call the office for information or free one-on-one lessons.

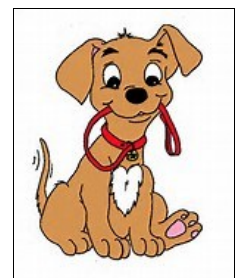
DO YOU HAVE A DOG?

As a dog owner, you have several responsibilities. In addition to keeping your pet healthy and providing sanitary living conditions, you must also follow the Sands Township Dog Ordinance. Please be courteous of others and follow these rules:

- ◆ Barking should not disturb neighbors.
- ◆ Dogs must be on a leash if they leave your property. They may not run free on any property you do not own.
- ◆ You must clean up and properly dispose of all waste left on any property other than your own.

- ◆ All dogs four months of age or older must be licensed by Marquette County.

The complete ordinance is available in the office. If you have a dog complaint or questions, please contact the office. An issue with a vicious dog or any other safety issue should be reported to the Sheriff's Office immediately by calling 911.



TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Our recycling program is well used and appreciated by many township residents. There are two dumpsters by the Township Office that are emptied three times per week (Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays).

It is wonderful to see the success of our recycling program. We appreciate the cooperation of all residents and ask everyone who participates to remember the following "Recycling Rules"

- Flatten all cardboard and break down any other large items to maximize space. This includes flattening milk jugs, water bottles, etc.
- Rinse food from containers
- *No household trash or food is to go in the dumpsters.*
- If the bins are full, please bring your recyclables back after the bins have been emptied. *Do not pile items around dumpsters or fill the dumpsters so full the lids cannot close.*

If you have any questions about recycling or a list of what items are accepted, please check our website or call the office. Thank you for your cooperation and participation!

Thank You!!

I would like to send a sincere Thank You to everyone for their patience, understanding, and kindness with having Baby Ella in the office. I absolutely loved being able to bring her with me to work and the positive comments and support we received from everyone was overwhelming. The extra time I got to spend with her is priceless and I am so grateful for the wonderful, supportive environment. Thank you, from Ella and Carolyn Kerkela (Administrative Assistant)

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Fire Department has had another busy year. We are still in need of people for the Department; applications can be picked up at the town hall or from any of the fire officers. Our meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month and we meet at the Cross Roads Station. We currently have two members in the Firefighter class and wish them the best of luck as test time rolls around.

After 38 years Billy Kapeller has retired from the Department. We were sorry to see him leave. He was a valuable member and spent many years as the Fire Chief. We wish him and Jo the best. Bill is pictured here with Chief Rickey Wilson (left) and Township Supervisor Ben Yelle (right).

Submitted by Rickey Wilson, Fire Chief



CEMETERY NEWS



Last year, the driveway was paved in the cemetery. Water is available at the fire tank for plants and flowers. Please **NO VEHICLES AT ANY TIME ON THE GRASS AREAS!**

Lots are available at a cost of \$250 for residents, and \$350 for non residents. General cemetery maintenance is done by Nick LaMere. Graves are dug by Jamin Wonch, and Ron Tervo performs the lawn maintenance. Our cemetery sexton is Tom Redlon. For information please call: Tom Redlon, Cemetery Sexton—346-6927, or the township office.

Submitted by Tom Redlon, Cemetery Sexton

ELECTION NEWS

It may seem early to be thinking about 2016 elections, but for residents who are considering running for a Sands Township Board position, the deadline to file a nominating petition in order to have your name on the August 16, 2016 Primary ballot is April 19, 2016.

A candidate must be a US Citizen, a township resident and at least 18 years of age. Nominating petitions can be obtained at the township office or the County Clerk office. For additional information please contact the township office.

Please Keep this Page Handy—Important Information

Contact Us:

(906) 249-9169

FAX 249-2120

sandsadmin
@sandstownship.info

www.sandstownship.org

Sands Township
987 S. M-553
Gwinn, MI 49841

2015 Election Dates:

**Special Election
August 4**

**There will also be a Presidential
Primary in March 2016.**

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please be prepared to show an ID when you show up to the polls. Please participate and make your voice heard on election day!

Submitted by: Lee Yelle, Clerk

The Sands Township Transfer Station is open the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from April—December, and only the 2nd Saturday of the month from January—March. Hours of operation are 10 AM—5 PM.

Township Board meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. Minutes are posted at the Township Office and Fire Hall #2. Approved minutes are available on our website.

The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

GARBAGE REMINDERS

Monday & Tuesday are normal pickup days. Please have garbage out by **6 am**. This pickup is for *normal household trash only!* The following items will not be picked up:

- Items too large to put in the truck
- Building materials or Lumber
- Carpeting
- Scrap metal
- Leaves or brush
- Bags weighing more than 30 pounds. *Please do not overfill garbage bags.*

We recommend using garbage cans to place garbage for pickup. There is no garbage collection on holidays. If Monday is a holiday, Monday's collection will be on Tuesday and Tuesday's will be on Wednesday.

If you have a question regarding garbage, pickup dates, items for disposal, or other related questions, please call the Township office.

Garbage in cracked or broken cans is very difficult to remove. If the garbage crew determines your can is no longer usable, they will tag it and will no longer pick up garbage in it. Please help the guys out and replace damaged cans. Thank you!!

2015-16 Holidays:

Labor Day (pickup Sept 8 & 9)

President's Day, 2016
(Pickup February 16 & 17)

Memorial Day, 2016
(pickup May 31 & June 1)

4th of July, 2016
(pickup July 5 & 6)

WHAT IS THE OFFICE FOR?

You have probably come to the Township Office to vote. You may have even stopped in to pay taxes, ask a question about property, or wanted recycling information. Did you know there is a lot more the Office can help you with?

- **Notary Public**—A notary public is available at no charge during office hours.
- **Copying, Printing & Faxing**—Black & White copies up to 11" x 17" and Color copies up to 8 1/2" x 11" are available for a charge. Faxing is also available for a charge per page.
- **Fluorescent Bulb & Ink Cartridge Recycling** - Bring your bulbs and old ink cartridges to the office. These items should not be thrown in the garbage.
- **General Information**—This includes property information, information from Township Ordinances, information on disposal of items (electronics, paint, furniture, compostable materials, shingles, building material, appliances, household hazardous waste, etc.), and other questions we may be able to help with.
- **Rental**—You can rent the gym area or reserve the pavilion for your next event!
- **Absentee Ballots**—If you will be out of town for the election or otherwise qualify for an absentee ballot, contact the office so you can receive a ballot by mail.
- **Landfill Permits**—If you have items to dispose of and are not able to use the transfer station, you can get a permit to haul to the landfill.



NEWSLETTER

987 S. State Hwy M-553
Gwinn, MI 49841

Striving to protect your water & environment

HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP ENCLOSED

SANDS TOWNSHIP TRANSFER STATION

The Transfer Station is available to residents only and open 10 am to 5 pm on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month April—December, and on the 2nd Saturday of the month January—March, for disposal of items that are not picked up on normal garbage pickup. Disposal fees are \$10 charge and up. The transfer station is located on the east side of M-553 and south of the fairgrounds on CR NA. If lift trucks or dump trucks/trailers are used to haul items to the transfer station, the items must be removed by hand. Roofing shingles and concrete are not accepted. Contact the office 249-9169 for disposal procedure.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Township meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month, starting at 7:00 PM, at the Township Complex. Public attendance is encouraged. Minutes are available online, and are posted at #2 Fire Hall on Silver Creek Rd. and at the Township Office Complex.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous waste collections are cost free. If you have hazardous waste to dispose of, bring it to one of the collection sites. HHW collections take place from 9 am until 1 pm. **There will be an HHW collection at the Forsyth Township Transfer Station in Gwinn on October 3.** Collection dates for the Marquette Service Center, located at 850 W. Baraga Ave in Marquette, are: July 11, August 8, September 19, and October 10. Collection dates for the West End Transfer Station, located on the north side of U.S. 41 west of Ishpeming, just west of the DNR field station, are: July 18 and September 12. There are no collections during the winter. Go to www.mcswwma.com for information on Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority's waste acceptance, or call 249-4108 Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4 pm.



Your newsletter is paid for with your tax dollars. We welcome your opinions and comments. Please contact the Township office or a Township Official with your suggestions or topics of concern you would like addressed.