

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

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—office@sandstownship.org

OUR RECYCLING STORY—NEXT CHAPTER

ELECTED TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Supervisor—Darlene Walch
249-9945

Clerk—Lee Yelle
346-4423

Treasurer—
Justin Murawski
281-3983

Trustee—Justin Yelle
360-3038

Trustee—David Kallio
249-3418

APPOINTED TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Zoning Administrator
Randall Yelle 346-4423

PLANNING COMMISSION

Ron Titter (Chair)
Jane Noe Shelley Brauer
Russell Card
Eric Anderson
Aaron Burbey
Justin Yelle

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert Vietzke (Chair)
Ron Titter
Richard Nelson
Jackie Winkowski
David Kallio
Pamela Lajewski-Pearson
(Alternate)

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief—Terry Sleeter
249-9201

Assistant Chiefs
Hall #1—Lyn Nelson
249-3392
Hall #2—Benjamin Yelle
236-2796

EMS Coordinator
Lyn Nelson
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator
Frank Rosado 249-3081

The saga continues as we find ways to accommodate our Township's recycling needs. After moving the recycling bins to the Transfer Station, we quickly discovered that our two lovely blue bins were not large enough to handle the volume of recycling. That volume is a good thing – not having enough dumpster space to accept the recycling is not so good. So once again we needed to make changes to our recycling program.

Our first step was to expand service hours by opening the Transfer Station every Wednesday from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. The next step was to investigate options for recycling services and bins. To reduce costs in the long-term, we joined the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA) recycling program which provides a modest income based on the weight of recycled materials taken for processing. Their program currently serves nearly every community within Marquette County.

As a participant in the MCSWMA program, we have to separate recyclables into rigids and fibers and the recycling program accepts materials on an alternating weeks schedule: fibers one week, rigids the next week. The recycling program also requires that fibers be collected in a covered bin or at an indoor location to keep rain and snow off the fiber materials. No heaps of soggy cardboard and paper allowed!

To increase our capacity for collecting recyclables we needed bigger, covered bins. Toward that end we contracted with Great American Disposal (GAD) who now provides us with two 30-yard covered bins. We also want to be able to accept both rigids and fibers whenever the Transfer Station is open, so we designated one bin for fibers, the other for rigids. It's been a challenge to predict when to have the bins emptied, keeping in mind the alternating schedule for rigids and fibers. We are working with GAD to set up a schedule that will hopefully ensure enough space in the bins to handle what is brought to the Transfer Station each time it is open.

We are pleased to see the amount of recycling our residents are bringing to the bins. Recycling more fibers and rigids means that the landfill gets filled more slowly and we are supporting the responsible reuse of materials. The Township picks up extra income for the added weight of materials to be recycled and that added income helps offset costs associated with recycling.

Next spring we'll be evaluating our Transfer Station facility with an eye toward further improvements. We appreciate your patience as we work through glitches that occurred during these last few months. Submitted by Darlene Walch, Supervisor

TRANSFER STATION & RECYCLING HOURS

Winter hours for the Transfer Station and Recycling have been set for January -March 2017.

The facility will be open every Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Saturday dates are January 14, February 11, and March 11.

Summer hours will begin in April with the Transfer Station & Recycling facility open every Wednesday and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.

PUTTING OUT YOUR GARBAGE

Our garbage staff has asked a few reminders to be printed about putting your garbage out for pickup.

- Please use garbage cans if you decide to place your garbage in a container. Do not use barrels or other large containers when you put your garbage out for pickup. The garbage is too hard to remove from barrels and they are cumbersome to try and lift and empty.
- Have your garbage out by 5 am! The route begins early and you may miss us if we are ahead of schedule and you wait to put the garbage out.
- Please do not put more than 30 pounds in one bag. Anything heavier is too hard to lift into the truck and we will leave any bags that are too heavy.
- If you have items that are not allowed in the truck or are too bulky for regular pickup, please use the transfer station or call the office for proper disposal information.
- Please do not continue to use cracked or broken garbage cans. If we tag a can as unacceptable, please replace it. Garbage gets stuck in broken cans and is hard to remove.

2017 Garbage Holidays:

President's Day (pickup February 21 & 22)

Memorial Day (pickup May 30 & 31)

4th of July (Tuesday pickup will be July 5)

Labor Day (pickup September 5 & 6)

Christmas Day (pickup December 26 & 27)

New Years Day 2018 (pickup January 2 & 3)

SILVER CREEK TO M-553 ROAD PROJECT

The extension road to connect Silver Creek with M553 is on track for an anticipated 2017 construction. As with any construction project, the completion date is subject to change if unforeseen circumstances come up, however the project is progressing as planned.

All permissions have been secured for a 150-foot-wide right-of-way. Last autumn we contracted with the Marquette County Road Commission to perform the required engineering. Because the County Road Commission is preparing the engineering specifications for the road, we are confident construction plans will meet the standards required for the Marquette County Road Commission to

adopt the road into their maintained road system. Additionally, they will assist with construction bidding and with engineering oversight once road construction is underway.

The right-of-way and road center line have been marked. The engineering portion of the project should be completed by late winter, which will enable project bidding to start in the spring before construction season begins. Township officials and our Fire, EMS and Sanitation staff are excited about the prospect of completing the road extension, a project that has been dreamed of for over twenty years.

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEEDS YOU

Everybody needs help once in a while and Sands Township is no exception. We offer a range of opportunities for you to get involved with your Township. In some cases, we need to fill current vacancies and in other instances we want to have a list of people to contact as vacancies occur.

Currently we need an individual to serve on the Peter White Public Library Township Advisory Council. The Council usually meets once every three months at the Library. We are also looking for people to be on our Recreation Committee, which is advisory to the Sands Township Board, and to be our representative to the Marquette County Commission on Aging.

Our Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) routinely take applications from individuals interested in becoming members of these departments. We can provide you with information on qualifications and training requirements for these positions.

Additionally, we seek individuals interested in functions such as Election Inspector, Taxation Board of Review, Sands Township Planning Commission, and Sands Zoning Board of Appeals. Although there may not be vacancies at the moment, we welcome applications.

If you are interested in any of these positions or if you want to know more about becoming active in your township, contact the Sands Township Office. Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

WELCOME TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In November, we said goodbye to two Township Board members, Cheryl Schram and Joe Wixtrom. In their place, we welcomed two new members, Justin Murawski and Justin Yelle.

Cheryl Schram began her career with the Township as Deputy Clerk, a position she held for ten years before being elected Treasurer in 1988. Cheryl continued as the Treasurer for 28 years before deciding to retire in November. During her years in office, Cheryl served on the Peter White Public Library Township Relations Committee and the Personnel Committee.

Joe Wixtrom began his time with the Township on the Zoning Board of Appeals in 1994. He continued on the ZBA until he was elected as Trustee in 2008. Joe also served as a member of the Planning Commission since 2011.

Justin Murawski was elected Treasurer in November. Prior to that, he had been appointed Deputy Treasurer by Cheryl in April 2015. Justin has also served as a member of our Fire Department since 2013.

Justin Yelle was elected as Trustee in November. Justin is a life-long resident of Sands Township and has also been appointed to serve on the Township Planning Commission.

We thank Cheryl and Joe for their contributions to the Township and their years of service, and we wish them the best of luck in the future. We also welcome Justin and Justin to the Board. Submitted by Lee Yelle, Clerk

TREASURER'S NEWS

2016 winter property tax statements were mailed by December 1. 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, winter taxes must be postmarked or paid in the office by Tuesday, February 14, 2017. All unpaid 2016 taxes will be sent to the Marquette County Treasurer on March 1, 2017. Taxes paid after that date must be paid to the County Treasurer's office in Marquette.

If you need information on property taxes for your income taxes, please call the office at 249-9169 or e-mail Carolyn at office@sandstownship.org. Submitted by: Justin Murawski, Treasurer

PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

The Peter White Public Library (PWPL) is expanding its programs as it works to best meet the needs of all patrons. Andrea Ingmire, the new Director of Peter White Public Library (PWPL), invites all residents of Sands Township to offer their ideas for improving and/or expanding the library's programs. Ms. Ingmire holds monthly "Director Chats" in which anyone can sit down and chat with her about the library and its offerings. These chats are held the 1st Tuesday of each month, at 10:00-11:30 A.M. and 5:30-7:00 P.M. on the main floor in the Circulation Lobby.

A few currently available programs are listed below. For more information, stop by the library and/or visit the PWPL website at www.pwpl.info.

For help with computers, tablets, and smart phones, PWPL offers weekly "Computer Coaching" in the PWPL Computer Lab at 3:00 P.M. on the following Mondays through February 2017: **1st and 3rd Mondays:** Download E-books & Audio Books; **2nd Monday:** New computer apps; **4th Monday:** Questions & Answers for your devices.

For children in grades 2-5, PWPL offers a "Harry Potter Fan Club" that meets in the Community Room on the 2nd Monday of the month at 4:15 P.M. Meetings are scheduled through May.

For children ages 5 and up, the Youth Services Department has a Lego Club which includes stories and Lego activities. This club meets on Tuesdays at 4:30 P.M. in the Youth Services Atrium and is scheduled through May.

For older youth in grades 6-12, a creative writing club, "The Scribblers" is offered. This group meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 P.M. in the Shiras Room through May.

For students in grades 5-8 who are interested in volunteering, the Junior Teen Advisory Board (JTAB) helps plan events for those in their age group. JTAB meetings also include books, games, and new friends. JTAB's meetings are scheduled through May and alternate locations between the Community Room and the Shiras Room.

These are just a few of the multitude of programs offered at PWPL. As the winter weather settles in, remember PWPL is available to help you learn, meet new friends, and get involved. Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative



NEWSLETTER

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

Striving to protect your water & environment

HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP ENCLOSED

Check out our website for the latest Township information!

www.sandstownship.org

Here you will find approved board minutes, zoning information, the transfer station schedule, garbage holidays, facility rental information, and a News page with the latest information for our residents.

Monthly reports are submitted by several departments and committees. These reports are posted in the office. Check them out to see what is happening in the Township.

Your newsletter is paid for with your tax dollars. We welcome your opinions and comments. Please contact the Township office or a Township Official

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.

Contact Us

(906)249-9169

FAX 249-2120

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