

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 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

TOWNSHIP GARBAGE PICKUP

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 Justin Yelle
Eric Anderson
Aaron Burbey
Shelley Brauer

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

As you know, Sands Township provides garbage pickup. There is no monthly bill for the service, and no special bags or tags to buy. Garbage pickup is paid for with a voter-approved millage on the winter tax bill, which also covers the cost of our recycling program. Any costs for these services not covered by the Sanitation millage are paid for by the Township General Fund. This service is intended only for Township residents and businesses, and is for garbage generated within our Township.

To give an idea on what garbage costs, a household with a Taxable Value of \$100,000 in Sands Township will pay less than \$100 per year for garbage pickup. By comparison, City of Marquette residents pay a monthly fee of \$16, and must buy special bags at \$1.50/bag. That means a household with 2 bags of garbage per week will pay \$348 per year for garbage. Chocoday Township residents must purchase special tags at \$9.50 for 5 bags. Two bags of garbage per week would cost about \$198 per year. City of Negaunee residents pay a monthly charge of \$14.55, for a cost of about \$175 per year. Negaunee Township residents pay \$36 quarterly, for a total of \$144 per year. Most of these other municipalities do not provide any garbage collection to businesses.

Services provided with garbage pickup vary between municipalities, but these numbers show that our residents pay much less than neighboring areas. That being said, we know there are households that allow family members or friends to bring in garbage to the Township for our pickup. This means that your tax dollars are going towards disposing of garbage not from our Township, so that others can save money. In order to keep our costs as low as possible and prevent having to pass extra costs on to our residents, we are asking for your help. ***Do not let people bring garbage over to be picked up by our truck. If you notice garbage being brought in and dumped with your neighbor's garbage, please give our office a call.***

We can't police every street and every household, but if you notice anything that seems out of the ordinary and you let the office know, we can look into any possible illegal dumping.

Because there is no bag limit in the Township, our guys asked for another reminder—***Please do not put more than 30 pounds in one bag.*** Use another bag if necessary. They will leave bags or items that are too heavy.

GARBAGE—WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

You're probably wondering why every newsletter recently has focused on recycling and garbage. Not only is this the Township's largest expense, next to road repairs, but it is something that relies on participation from our residents to run smoothly. I took the time to look back at some numbers over the last 5 years and found these interesting figures:

- We average about 825 tons of garbage per year on the garbage truck, which means that every week our garbage guys pick up almost 16 tons of garbage. Our transfer station collects another 90 tons per year. In tipping fees alone, this costs the Township \$41,633.
- February averages the least amount of garbage (55 tons/month) and May has the most (79 tons/month).
- Since November 2016, recycling has averaged around 3 ½ tons/month, most of which is fiber. Rigidis average almost 1 ton/month.
- Each time the Transfer Station is open, an average of 32 households bring in recycling. Wednesdays are busier for recycling than Saturdays.

WIND/TORNADO SAFETY

Here in the U.P., many of us do not think about tornadoes or other types of severe weather, except for snowstorms or blizzards. But, the strong wind storm this spring and the tornado warning last summer showed us that Marquette County is vulnerable too. Winds over 50 mph are considered damaging winds. What should you do to stay safe during a severe windstorm/thunderstorm or a tornado? Here are a few emergency safety tips:

BEFORE

- Every household should have an emergency kit for any type of emergency. Talk with children and other family members to come up with an emergency plan ahead of time, and regularly review the plan.

DURING

- Seek Shelter. Move to an interior room or basement. If you are in a mobile home, try to seek shelter in a sturdy building.
- If you are outside, try to find shelter. Get in a vehicle and try to drive to a safer area. Move to a low area, away from trees and other debris. Avoid power lines on the ground.
- Try to listen to local news or NOAA weather radio for updates. Tornado sirens are not used for warning in our area.

AFTER

- Avoid any down power lines and other debris.
- Check in with family and friends via texting or social media. Check the local news for updates.
- Use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns instead of candles if the power is out.
- Photograph any damage for insurance purposes, and do what you can to prevent further damage (cover damaged roofs with tarps, etc.).

Submitted by: Sands Township Emergency Services

Emergency Supply Kits Should Contain

- Food and Water for 3 days minimum
- Flashlight and Extra Batteries
- Battery or Hand Crank Radio, and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to Signal for Help
- Dust Mask, Duct Tape, and Plastic Sheeting (to shelter-in-place)
- Moist Towlettes, Garbage Bags, and Plastic Ties (for personal hygiene)
- Wrench or Pliers
- Local Maps
- Manual Can Opener
- Cell Phone with Chargers, Inverter, or Solar Charger
- A written list of phone numbers for family members and other important numbers and information

Go to www.ready.gov for more information.

FROM DREAM TO REALITY: SILVER CREEK ROAD TO M553

After more than twenty years of discussion and planning, the Silver Creek Road extension to M553 project is becoming a reality. The Township came close to realizing this project over twelve years ago: rights-of-way were secured, a basic engineering plan was drafted, and trees were cleared only to discover that project funding wasn't available. During the intervening years, a funding strategy was developed. With renewed momentum in the last two years, the one expired right-of-way was secured and the Township entered into an engineering and project management agreement with the Marquette County Road Commission.

The Silver Creek Road Extension project calls for 0.95 miles of road construction, including earth excavation, base construction, culverts, and an MDOT approved connection to M553. The result will be a county-standard gravel road,

finally offering a connection between the two sections of our Township.

At the Township Board meeting in May, the low bidder, Oberstar, was approved for the project. Bids ranged from a high of \$995,212 (out of our reach) to the awarded low bid of \$503,559. Construction start date is June 12th, with a completion date of October 31, 2017. The Marquette County Road Commission will provide project oversight and upon completion will roll the new road into their maintenance schedule. The Township will still have some responsibility, including annual dust control, and the road will be reviewed after three years of operation to assess the condition. We look forward to having an access road and additional egress from the Silver Creek area of the Township.

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

VOTING INFORMATION

There will be a Primary Election on August 8, 2017, and the General Election on November 7, 2017. Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

There are 4 Township millages up for renewal in August—Ambulance, Sanitation, Fire Department, and Road Repair. For voter information, to check registration status, or to view a sample ballot, visit www.michigan.gov/vote.

The entire State of Michigan is getting new voting equipment this year. This new equipment was paid for through grant money, so there are no up front costs to the Township. In addition to the new voting equipment, Sands Township will also begin using an electronic pollbook this year. This should speed up the check-in and ballot issuing process. However, because this equipment is new to everyone, please have patience with your election workers and fellow voters as we all learn how to use this new technology. Submitted by: Lee Yelle, Clerk

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION—KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY


Contact Us	2017 Garbage Holidays	2017 Election Dates
(906)249-9169 FAX 249-2120 987 S. M-553, Gwinn, MI 49841 office@sandstownship.org www.sandstownship.org	September 4 (Labor Day) - Pickup Sept 5 & 6 December 25 (Christmas) - Pickup December 26 & 27 January 1, 2018 - Pickup January 2 & 3	August 8 Primary Election November 7 General Election

TRANSFER STATION INFORMATION

Our Transfer Station is available for both recycling drop-off, and waste acceptance. This service is for residents only. There is no charge for recycling, but you must sort the fibers from rigids (please see reverse of this page). Waste is accepted for a charge, which starts at \$10 per truck load.

The Transfer Station does not accept household garbage, appliances with Freon, brush, concrete, or hazardous waste. For questions on what is accepted or how to dispose of these items, you may call the office at 249-9169.

The Transfer Station is open every Wednesday from 4—7 PM, and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 10 AM—5 PM. For the winter (January—March), it is open every Wednesday 4—7 PM, and only the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 AM—5 PM.

<p>Township Board meetings are the <u>2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.</u> Minutes are posted at the Township Office and Fire Hall #2. Approved minutes are available on our website.</p> <p>The public is welcome to attend all meetings.</p> <p>Monthly department reports are posted at the office. Stop in to keep updated on Township information.</p>	<p>The Fire Department meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM at Station 1. The public is welcome to attend.</p> 	<p>Garbage Crew Reminders:</p> <p>Have your garbage out by 5 am.</p> <p>Do not put out large items or bags heavier than 30 pounds for pickup.</p> <p>If animals get into your garbage, it is your responsibility to clean up.</p> <p>Do not allow others to bring garbage from other municipalities.</p> <p>Replace any cans that are cracked or broken.</p>
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STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR TOWNSHIP

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 and are posted in the office for public viewing.

GARBAGE ROUTE UPDATE

Notice to Residents on Silver Creek Road, Glen Meadows, Townline Road, Heather Lane, Heidi Drive, Ortman Road, Tracie Lane, South Tracie Lane, Deer Run, Stephen Lee, David Drive, and Andy Way.

With the new connection road being constructed between M-553 and Silver Creek Road, garbage collection will be changed to facilitate a more efficient pick-up route. The above named streets will be picked up at a much earlier time when the through road is completed. The day of pickup will remain the same.

The rule of having your garbage out by 5 AM always applies. Thank you, the Sands Township Sanitation Crew

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

Wendell Kurr, long time rider and former bike shop owner, wants to help you keep your road and mountain bike maintained for maximum fun and safety. So come out to the Sands Township Bike Clinic on Saturday, July 29 at 11:00 AM at the Township Office Complex for tips on maintenance, adjustment, and lubrication. We will also discuss some basic tools that are good to have at home. There is no charge for this workshop. Wendell will be happy to perform bike checks and adjustments if you bring your bike along. Submitted by: Recreation Committee



TREASURER'S NEWS

2017 summer property tax statements were mailed by July 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, summer taxes must be postmarked or paid in the office by Thursday, August 14, 2017. The winter tax bill will be mailed by December 1. Submitted by: Justin Murawski, Treasurer

PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Spring is a time for new beginnings; summer is a time to watch those beginnings grow. As I write this, the UP has not seen much spring weather, but Peter White Public Library (PWPL) is busy with spring "house cleaning" and the development of new ideas on space uses and programs.

Stop by PWPL and browse through the free books and tapes displayed in the main lobby. The staff are reviewing the materials currently on the shelves and making decisions on what needs to remain and what can be let go. Just like the annual purging of closets and drawers in your home, a library must regularly clean shelves to make room for new materials and discard materials no longer used. In addition, you will find a used book store on the second floor that has a great collection of slightly used books: hardcover, paperback, children's, fiction, non-fiction, and "coffee-table." There are also DVD's available. These materials are for sale at minimal costs.

Another development is the updated written "Code of Conduct," which was recently reviewed and accepted by staff and the PWPL Board. The code intends to protect the rights and services of all visitors as well as making PWPL a safe and pleasant place to visit. You can pick up a written copy of the "Code of Conduct" or visit the website (www.pwpl.info), under "Policies".

Summer is a busy time at the library. The Summer Reading Programs are many and varied, providing

something of interest for everyone. Regularly scheduled programs such as Book Babies, Mindful Mondays, STEAM, Teen Thursdays, and others continue and times can be found in a brochure available at PWPL or on the website. The theme of the Summer Reading Program is "Build a Better World", and you can find the dates/times/topics of programs in the brochure or on the website. A few examples of planned activities include SCIENCEPALOOZA with the MI Science Center (July 6), Lego Mania (July 14), Build a Better World with Pixilation Animation! (July 24), Build a Better World with Food (August 2), and Library Lock-In (August 9). These programs target various ages and some require prior registration. Check out the brochure or website for further information and additional programs.

Don't forget that PWPL welcomes community ideas and feedback. Consider stopping by during the "Director Chats" at 10:00-11:30 and 5:30-7:00 on the first Tuesday of each month (two exceptions: they will be held the second Tuesday in June--the 13th and in July--the 11th). You can also provide ideas online by going to the Home Page of the PWPL, and choosing "Contact". Take these opportunities to let the library know the things you appreciate and the things you would like to see in the future.

PWPL continues to grow and develop projects, making our library an even more integral part of the community. Stop in to enjoy all that is offered and/or explore the many services and materials online! Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

ORDINANCE REMINDERS

As a reminder, Sands Township has a Dog Ordinance. This means animals must be on a leash any time they are not on the owner's private property. Any pet waste not on the owner's property must be cleaned up immediately.

Sands Township also has a Noise Ordinance, which prohibits unusually loud noises which disturb the health and comfort of residents. With a few exceptions, quiet hours in the Township are 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM. For noise complaints, you can contact the office or you may call Randy Yelle at home, 346-4423, for after-hours complaints.

For questions, or to view these Ordinances and others, you may contact the office.



NEWSLETTER

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

Striving to protect your water & environment

HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP ENCLOSED

Hazardous Waste Collection

The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority holds several FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates throughout the summer. For information and a list of items acceptable for this collection, please go to www.mcswma.com, or call the Landfill at (906) 249-4108. ***Collections are on Wednesday evenings from 3—7 PM.***

The Marquette County Landfill is located in Sands Township, at 600 County Road NP (Off of County Road 480, near Lindberg's Gravel Pit). Household Hazardous Waste Collection is at this site on July 12, August 9, September 13 and October 11.

The West End Transfer Station located in West Ishpeming, just west of the DNR field station on the north side of U.S. 41. Collection dates for this facility are July 19, August 16, September 20 and October 4.

If you have hazardous waste, please take advantage of this free service and keep the harmful chemicals from entering the Landfill or our environment.

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

Want to Get Involved?

Are you interested in getting involved with the Township, but aren't sure how? We are always looking for people to join our Fire Department and EMS. We also can use more people on our Recreation Committee. We are looking for an alternate to serve on the Board of Appeals and the Board of Review. In busy election years we are always looking for more election inspectors.

Contact the office if any of these sound like something you are interested in. If none of these sound like a good fit, but you would still like to get involved, let us know and we will see how we can use your help!

Contact Us

(906)249-9169

FAX 249-2120

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