

# SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

**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](http://www.sandstownship.org) E-mail—[office@sandstownship.org](mailto:office@sandstownship.org)

## RECYCLING CHANGES

You may have already heard the news, but the MCSWMA recycling program, which we participate in, will no longer be accepting glass as a recyclable item. Unfortunately, there is currently no market for glass that makes it worthwhile to sort and process. It also causes excessive wear to equipment at the landfill, contaminates other recyclable products, and is a safety hazard to employees. So, glass is to be thrown in the trash.

This decision was not made easily, and landfill staff will continue to monitor the recycling program to ensure they are providing a realistic, sustainable, and financially feasible service that benefits the entire County.

**Glass will no longer be accepted for recycling.**



## WE HAVE A ROAD!!

October 25, 2017 was a big day for Sands Township: on that date the Silver Creek Road connection to M553 officially opened. The road was a 2-year project that was over 20 years in the making. This more direct route cuts travel time for our Township Fire, Emergency and Sanitation vehicles as well as for residents traveling across the township. Slated for completion by October 31<sup>st</sup>, our contractor, Oberstar, finished the job early while the Marquette County Road Commission provided engineering and construction oversight services. The County Road Commission formally adopted the road and will conduct routine maintenance. Soon we'll have a street sign on M553 saying Silver Creek Rd!

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor



Supervisor Darlene Walch cuts the ribbon during the official opening of the Silver Creek Connection Road on October 25.

### 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  
Pamela Lajewski-Pearson**

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

**Robert Vietzke (Chair)  
Ron Titter  
Richard Nelson  
Jackie Winkowski  
David Kallio**

### 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**

## RECYCLING INFORMATION

The response to recycling has been encouraging, and we hope that even more households decide to participate in the future. Our Transfer Station staff has asked for these reminders regarding proper recycling:

- Materials must be clean. Rinse out your containers.
- Used napkins, Kleenex, and paper towel are NOT recyclable. Those items belong in the trash. Rolls from toilet paper and paper towel can be recycled.
- Unfortunately, plastic bags and plastic wrap are not recyclable through our program. Many stores offer recycling for plastic bags.
- Flatten items when possible. This includes cardboard boxes, but also plastic jugs, water bottles, etc.
- Glass is no longer accepted.

## TOWNSHIP SURVEYS

We want to make sure we are keeping in touch with residents and communicating Township information effectively, and in ways our residents want. Our Recreation Committee also would like to hear from our residents to learn more about what you want to see offered for recreation in our Township.

We have put together 2 short surveys and would appreciate you taking the time to complete them. They are available online with a link on our website, [www.sandstownship.org](http://www.sandstownship.org). If you prefer a hard copy, you may stop in the office or call and we can mail them to you.

Even just completing one of the surveys is a help to us to hear from our residents. Please take a few minutes and let us know what you want to see in our Township.

## WINTER VEHICLE SAFETY

Even the most seasoned winter driver can find themselves in an emergency situation involving winter driving. Here are some winter survival tips in case you become stuck and are awaiting rescue.

- Carry a Winter Survival Kit in your car that includes—a shovel; windshield scraper and brush; flashlight with extra batteries; battery or crank powered radio; water; snack food and energy bars; matches and small candles; extra hats, mittens and socks; a first aid kit; pocketknife; blankets or sleeping bag; tow strap or rope; road salt, sand, or cat litter; jumper cables; emergency flares and reflectors; fluorescent distress flag and whistle; and a cell phone adapter to plug into vehicle lighter.
- Prepare your vehicle: Make sure you keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Be easy to find: Tell someone where you are going and the route you will take.
- If stuck: Tie a fluorescent flag (from your kit) on your antenna or hang it out the window. At night, your dome light may be seen by rescuers. To reduce battery drain, use emergency flashers only if you hear approaching vehicles. If you're with someone else, make sure at least one person is awake and keeping watch for help at all times.
- Stay in your vehicle: Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You might become lost or exhausted. Your vehicle is a good shelter.
- If you must leave your vehicle, write down your name, contact information and destination. Leave the note inside the front windshield for someone to see.
- Avoid Overexertion: Shoveling snow or pushing your car takes a lot of effort in storm conditions. Don't risk a heart attack or injury. That work can also make you hot and sweaty. Wet clothing loses insulation value, making you susceptible to hypothermia.
- Fresh Air: It's better to be cold and awake than comfortably warm and sleepy. Snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your car. Only run the engine a few minutes an hour and make sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow. Keeping a window open a crack while running the engine is also a good idea.
- Don't expect to be comfortable: You want to survive until you're found.
- Call 911 on your cell phone. Provide your location, condition of everyone in the vehicle, and the problem you're experiencing. Follow instructions and do not hang up until you know who you have spoken with and what will happen next. Where cell phone signal strength is sketchy, a text may go through.

Submitted by: Sands Township Emergency Services

### When to call 911 for a medical emergency:

- Is the condition life or limb threatening?
- Could the condition worsen quickly on the way to the hospital?
- If you move the victim, will it cause further injury?
- Does the person need skills or equipment that paramedics or EMT's carry right away?
- Would distance or traffic cause a delay in getting the person to the hospital?

If the answer is yes to any of these....**call 9-1-1**

## TOWNSHIP INFORMATION—KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

### Contact Us

(906)249-9169  
FAX 249-2120  
987 S. M-553, Gwinn, MI 49841  
office@sandstownship.org  
www.sandstownship.org

### 2018 Election Dates

August 7  
Primary Election  
  
November 6  
General Election

### Garbage Holidays

December 25, 2017 (Christmas) - Pickup December 26 & 27  
  
January 1, 2018 - Pickup January 2 & 3  
  
February 19, 2018 (President's Day) - Pickup February 20 & 21  
  
May 28, 2018 (Memorial Day) - Pickup May 29 & 30  
  
September 3, 2018 (Labor Day) - Pickup September 4 & 5  
  
November 12, 2018 (Veteran's Day) - Pickup November 13 & 14  
  
December 24 & December 25, 2018 (Christmas Eve & Day) - Pickup  
December 26 & 27  
  
December 31, 2018 & January 1, 2019 (New Years Eve & Day) - Pickup  
January 2 & 3

## 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 separate the fibers from rigids. 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. From January—March, it is open only the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 AM—5 PM. Beginning in April, it is open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 10 AM—5 PM, in addition to every Wednesday.

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.

Monthly department reports are posted at the office. Stop in to keep updated on Township information.

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.



### Garbage Crew Reminders:

Have your garbage out by 5 am.  
  
Do not put out large items or bags heavier than 30 pounds for pickup.  
  
If animals get into your garbage, it is your responsibility to clean up.  
  
Do not allow others to bring garbage from other municipalities.  
  
Replace any cans that are cracked or broken.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR TOWNSHIP

Check out our website for the latest Township information—[www.sandstownship.org](http://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 and postings for our residents. Monthly reports are submitted by several departments and committees and are posted in the office for public viewing. We are also looking at creating a Facebook page for the Township, so look for that to come in 2018.

## COURT RESURFACING

This past summer, the tennis courts and basketball courts at the Township Park were resurfaced with a new sports surface. In addition to the two tennis / pickleball courts and two basketball courts that were already there, four more pickleball courts were lined on the basketball courts. Even though the work was completed late in the season, several groups of people got to enjoy the new playing surfaces and the positive responses were overwhelming. We hope to see even more people using the park and the courts next summer.



### WHAT IS THIS?

No, this strange contraption on our basketball court is not garbage, something left over from the resurfacing, a disc golf basket, or a UFO. It is snow measuring equipment from NASA placed there by Michigan Technological University. NASA and MTU are partnering on a project to measure snowfall at several areas throughout the Upper Peninsula and we thought it was an interesting project and agreed to be one of the measuring sites. Students from MTU set the equipment up in November and will be monitoring it throughout the winter season.

## MARIHUANA FACILITIES ORDINANCE

Given changes in Michigan law and inquiries from entrepreneurs, the Sands Township Board adopted a Marihuana Facilities Ordinance. Michigan's Medical Marihuana Act (2008) allowing qualified patients and caregivers to use and provide marihuana for specified medical conditions has not changed. That law was amended in 2016 to clarify specifics regarding parts of plants allowed. Also passed in 2016 was the MI Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA). We note that marihuana is spelled with an "h" rather than a "j" to be consistent with federal statutes. Currently 29 states and the District of Columbia allow either medicinal or medicinal and recreational use of marihuana.

The MMFLA states that facilities may be allowed by township, village or city ordinance in conjunction with State of Michigan licensing. The law included an implementation delay of 365 days – until December 15, 2017 – so MI Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs (LARA) could develop a licensing system. MMFLA authorizes five types of facilities, establishes a Medical Marihuana Licensing Board, limits cross-ownership of some facilities, requires seed-to-sale tracking, and imposes taxes and fees on medical marihuana facilities. Facilities allowed by law are growers, processors, provisioning centers, safety compliance, and secure transporters. Local ordinances specify which type and how many of these facilities are allowed. Once a local permit is obtained, prospective business owners must apply to the State of Michigan for licensure, a process similar to securing a liquor license.

Sands Township considered allowing facilities for several reasons. These include supporting appropriate medicinal marihuana uses provided by the 2008 law; business opportunities for light industry consistent with the Township's 5 Year Master Plan; employment opportunities for highly skilled, professionally trained people (e.g. chemists in safety compliance); and revenue sources (property taxes on businesses, annual administrative fees, state shared revenue from retail sales).

The Township Board held an informational forum on October 10, 2017 after which the proposed ordinance was revised for the November board meeting. It was shared with the Planning Commission for their review and on December 12<sup>th</sup>, a public hearing on the ordinance was held. As a result of the public hearing, the Township Board adopted the Sands Township Marihuana Facilities Ordinance. Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

## CEMETERY INFORMATION



The Sands Township Cemetery is located on Miller Road. Water is available at the fire tank for plants and flowers. Please NO VEHICLES AT ANY TIME ON THE GRASS AREAS!

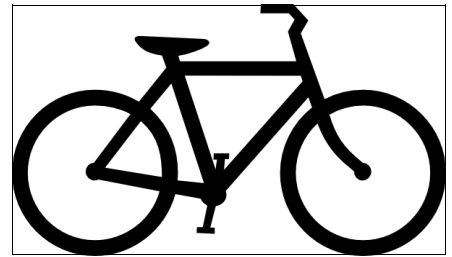
Lots are available at a cost of \$250 for residents, and \$350 for non residents. General cemetery maintenance is done by Nick LaMere. Graves are dug by Jamin Wonch, and Ron Tervo performs the lawn maintenance. Our cemetery sexton is Tom Redlon. For information please call: Tom Redlon, Cemetery Sexton—346-6927,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

Submitted by Tom Redlon, Cemetery Sexton



## BICYCLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 19, 2018 / Township Office / 10:30-Noon. The Sands Township Recreation Committee will again offer a free tune-up clinic to help you get your bicycle ready for the summer. Bring your bike so we can check all basic adjustments. We will also discuss what you can do to maintain your bike throughout the riding season. Submitted by: Sands Township Recreation Committee



## TREASURER'S NEWS

2017 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 Wednesday, February 14, 2018. On March 1, 2018, any unpaid 2017 taxes must be paid to the Marquette County Treasurer's office.

## PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Staff are busy at Peter White Public Library as they continue to develop a variety of services and opportunities for all ages. Technology usage is an ever-growing area at the library. The technology coordinator, Nicki Malave, manages three networks, 90 computers, and a variety of other devices such as laptops and tablets. There are numerous computers available for use by patrons, and Nicki enjoys helping patrons with technology support. Stop by, say hello to Nicki, and learn some new tips on using a computer and/or mobile devices!

During the fall, special programs on health issues were offered by various local physicians in collaboration with Upper Peninsula Health Systems. For example, in September, Dr. Amanda Johnson spoke to an audience about "Memory Care & the Role of Neuropsychology," and Dr. Conway McLean presented to an audience about "Care of the Diabetic Foot." Overviews and dates for these programs are published in the *Mining Journal* and on the library's website: [www.pwpl.info](http://www.pwpl.info). Watch for programs on issues of interest to you.

In addition to the programs above, the library features a variety of movies in the Community Room. For instance,

there are "Bring Your Own Dinner" movies; matinee movies; DocuMonday movies that focus on issues geared toward specific interests; and classic movies. If you cannot make it to the movies at the library, check out the large collection of DVDs for home viewing.

Musical events such as *Bluesday Tuesdays* are popular evenings in the Community Room at PWPL. Check the website for upcoming musical events.

The library staff purged "seldom checked-out" materials throughout the fall. These materials were offered to the public on tables labeled "Free Books" in the main lobby. And, of course, the second floor "Used Book" area is a great place to pick up slightly used materials at a low cost, in addition to the semi-annual "Used Book Sales."

Information about all of the many events at PWPL can be found on the website. Information about many of these events is also published in the *Mining Journal*. With winter settling in, be sure to explore all that PWPL offers to you each month to entertain you, inform you, and help you enjoy the long winter months.

Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

## Recycling Rewards

Not only does recycling benefit our environment and extend the life of our Landfill, but it can lead to an extra benefit for you and your pocketbook! Beginning in December, the Landfill is implementing a new program to reward people who participate in recycling and are doing so properly.

The Landfill will be purchasing \$25 gift cards to local businesses, and then working with our Transfer Station staff to choose a household to reward with one of the gift cards quarterly. They will be doing this program in each municipality that participates in their recycling program. That means 4 households in Sands Township will be chosen for the rewards each year. Will your household be chosen as our next one?

We encourage everyone to participate in recycling!



## 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](http://www.mcswma.com), or call the Landfill at (906) 249-4108. **Please note—collections are May—October only.**

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

## Scrap Tire Collection

The Township has applied for a scrap tire grant with the DEQ, which would allow us to hold a tire collection at no charge to our residents. We will not hear back on this until the spring, but hope to offer this collection in August. Check the next newsletter, our website, or contact the office in the summer for more details.

Tires can always be brought to our Transfer Station for a fee.

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!

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