

# SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

**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)

## 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)  
Suzanne Sundell  
Justin Yelle Eric Anderson  
Aaron Burbey  
Shelley Brauer  
Pamela Lajewski-Pearson

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert Vietzke (Chair)  
Ron Titter  
David Kallio  
Victoria Jenema

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief—Ben Yelle  
236-2796

Assistant Chiefs  
Hall #1—Andrew Sicotte  
869-6029

Hall #2—Terry Sleeter  
360-5733

EMS Coordinator  
Lyn Nelson  
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator  
Frank Rosado 249-3081



## WHO'S ON THAT GARBAGE TRUCK?

Our Sanitation Department, aka the “garbage crew,” has seen changes over the last several months. We typically have a regular 3-man crew along with a list of substitutes. Late last winter Jim Goin retired from the crew as the primary Driver and Department Head. After successfully completing CDL training, Ken Contois moved from the back of the truck to being the Department Head and Driver. Gary Aho became a regular on the back of the truck, working along side Jim Smithson. In mid-November, Jim Smithson retired after 26 years of service. We are pleased to welcome Andy Kachmarsky to the crew. Andy also has a CDL so can substitute as a driver when needed. We also have Ward Glass and Bill Kosa as substitutes, who are willing to hop aboard when needed. One of our goals is to have our substitutes on a rotation schedule so they each become familiar with the routes. We're grateful to have our dedicated sanitation crew for it seems everyone likes to have their garbage picked up on a regular schedule!

## GARBAGE & RECYCLING HIGHLIGHTS


In 2018, the garbage truck picked up more than 883 tons (average 17 tons/week). Our Transfer Station collected another 139 tons, for a total of 1,022 tons collected last year, our highest yearly total yet. In tipping fees alone, this cost almost \$50,000!

Recycling remains popular, which is good. While the tonnage for 2018 is less than 2017, we have more households bringing recycling to our transfer station. The program stopped accepting glass the end of 2017, which is why the tonnage was lower for 2018. Everything recycled helps extend the life of the Marquette County Landfill and we hope more families choose to recycle in the future. We realize bringing recycling to the Transfer Station is not exactly convenient, and it can be congested during busy times. We appreciate the residents who take the time to separate recyclables and bring them to the Transfer Station. We will continue to evaluate our recycling system and watch for updates from the Landfill, to do all that we can to

make recycling as convenient as possible.

	Garbage Truck (Tons)	Transfer Station (Tons)	Total	Tipping Fee	Recycling (Tons)
2017	838	129	967	\$46,965.50	43
2018	883	139	1022	\$49,579.61	38

## TOWNSHIP INFORMATION—KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contact Us</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(906)249-9169 FAX 249-2120 987 S. M-553, Gwinn, MI 49841 office@sandstownship.org www.sandstownship.org Check us out on Facebook also!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2019 Garbage Holidays</b></p> <p>With the adjustment of our garbage pickup to a Tuesday/Wednesday schedule, the next schedule change due to a holiday is Christmas 2019.</p> <p>We appreciate everyone adjusting to the new schedule.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scrap Tires</b></p> <p>Our Scrap Tire Collection last summer was a huge success and we hope to do the same this summer. Stay tuned for details on a date and time.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSFER STATION INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Our Transfer Station is available for both recycling drop-off, and waste acceptance. There is no charge for recycling. 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, you may call the office.</p> <p>The Transfer Station is open every Wednesday from 4—7 PM and, from January—March, the 2nd Saturday of the month 10 AM—5 PM. Beginning in April, they are open every Wednesday from 4-7 PM, and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 10 AM—5 PM.</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> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<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, along with the current agenda. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.</p> <p>Monthly department reports are posted at the office. Stop in to keep updated.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer's News</b></p> <p>To avoid interest or penalty, winter taxes must be postmarked or paid in the office by Thursday, February 14, 2019. All unpaid 2018 property taxes will be sent to the Marquette County Treasurer's office for collection on March 1.</p> <p>If you would like a summary of the amount of taxes paid for the year by your escrow company (or yourself), please contact the office. Submitted by: Justin Murawski, Treasurer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Garbage Reminders:</b></p> <p>Have your garbage out by 4 AM.</p> <p>Do not put out large items or bags heavier than 30 pounds for pickup. Use the Transfer Station for these.</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>

## UPDATE FROM LANDFILL CHAIRMAN REGARDING RECYCLING

The Landfill Authority is activity pursuing moving from its present dual stream recycling program to a single stream program, with no separation of rigids and fibers. They are also pursuing glass recycling, up to and including gallon size glass containers. If this glass program moves forward the glass would be collected separately, containers would need to be empty but not cleaned, caps would not need to be removed, and all color glass would be accepted. The glass would be turned into a fine, gravel-like substance usable in many different applications. If this program moves forward, which includes support from the Marquette County Constituent Municipalities and the Marquette County Board of Trustees, and funding is secured (through grants, tipping fees, bonds, loans, millage, etc.), it could be in part and/or full operation by 2020.

I have samples of the finished glass product in my office if anyone is interested in seeing them. As your Sands Township appointed Chairperson, I am excited about the possibility of the program becoming reality and, as long as I am in this position, I will continue to pursue this type of program.

In the past few years, your Landfill has implemented many new programs, including the collection of HHW, junk tires, waste oil, metal, junk/old mobile homes, batteries and more. 2018 was a busy construction year at the Landfill. A new bridge on County Road NP, which leads to the Landfill, replaced the temporary bridge installed in 1988. The Landfill entrance/exit was upgraded, along with two new structures (including an administration building and new board room), and three new scales were added that allow for a quicker and safer flow of traffic. We offer tours of the upgraded landfill through the year; contact the Landfill office (249-4125). Submitted by Randall L. Yelle, MCSWMA Chairman

## ROAD INFORMATION

In October 2017, the new Silver Creek connection road was finished and open for vehicles. After the first summer season and seeing the amount of traffic on the road, it became clear that more maintenance is needed than originally anticipated. The dust control the Road Commission uses on other roads did not work, even when applied at much higher concentrations. As more vehicles traveled the road, washboarding occurred and bumps formed, making for rough travel. After several discussions with the Marquette County Road Commission, the Township Board approved paving the first 2/10 of a mile East of M-553. For the remaining gravel portion of the road, we are working on partnering with the Road Commission to experiment with a double chip seal. This has been done with success on gravel roads in other areas, but not yet in Marquette County. We are hoping these improvements will maintain a better road surface without the need to pave the entire road at this time.

Several calls have been made to the office regarding speed limits—on the Connection Road, on County side roads throughout the Township, and even on M-553. Speed limits are set by State statute and the process to have them considered to be lowered is a lengthy process, which includes a speed study, with no guarantee they will change.

High asphalt costs and other factors led to us postponing some of our planned road projects in 2018. We will soon be looking at our 5 year road maintenance schedule to plan for 2019 and 2020 projects, in addition to the upgrades on the Silver Creek Road.

## PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Peter White Public Library undertook major preservation and renovation projects in 2018. All has proceeded well despite the challenges of remaining open and offering a full menu of services during the construction. The results will be financial savings and improved efficiency.

The children's library is now open for in its inviting new room in the basement. Children's programs begin again in January (check the website for dates, times, and programs).

An unexpected challenge was reconstruction of the front steps to the 1904 building. As repairs on the foundation progressed, safety issues in the supports under the stairs were discovered and repaired immediately.

With the arrival of winter, work began on the second floor to improve the energy efficiency of lighting and



stacks will be moved for laying carpet, making some

install carpeting. In January and February, main floor improvements begin. The elevator will have extensive repairs completed. The library will not have an elevator for 2 ½ to three weeks once this work begins. In addition, main floor

areas unavailable for browsing. To accommodate the needs of patrons, the library is setting up a system for ordering materials online or by phone and having those orders picked up at the circulation desk or at the township office. For further information, please check the website ([www.pwpl.info](http://www.pwpl.info)) or call the library (228-9510). Materials may also be requested in person at the circulation desk, and staff may retrieve them.

The parking lot has new signage to direct the traffic pattern and prevent accidents, especially at the book drop box. Please follow these signs to assure safety for all.

All of these improvements at the library should be completed in March or April. If you wish to be informed about library happenings through your email, you can sign up for "The Insider," a newsletter. Signing up is easy and located on the main webpage of the library. Current information is also available on the website and/or by phone.

Winter has arrived! Use these cold, snowy days to read a good book, do some research, or check out a video. Your library is here to serve you. Stop by and explore the improvements! Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

**You can now call to reserve and check out your library books, and have them delivered to the Township Office for you to pick up.**

## RECYCLING REMINDERS

Please note these reminders about recycling at our Transfer Station:

- We do not accept plastic shopping bags. Those can be recycled at several stores throughout the area.
- Please make sure containers are clean. Plastic motor oil bottles are not accepted and should be thrown in trash.
- No glass is currently accepted for recycling.
- Used paper towels, Kleenex, etc. should be thrown in trash.



## 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 (May—October). 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.

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

Note: Latex paint is not considered hazardous. You must dry out the paint and the can first, but they can then be thrown in your regular garbage.

### Contact Us

**(906)249-9169**

**FAX 249-2120**

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**We are also on facebook!**

## Want to Get Involved?

### Zoning Board of Appeals, EMS and more.

Are you interested in getting involved with the Township, but aren't sure how? We are looking for both another member and an alternate to serve on the Board of Appeals, and an alternate for Board of Review. We are always looking for people to join our Fire Department and EMS.

We also can use more people on our Recreation Committee. 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!

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.