

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 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 E-mail—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
Richard Nelson
Jackie Winkowski
David Kallio
Victoria Jenema (Alternate)

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



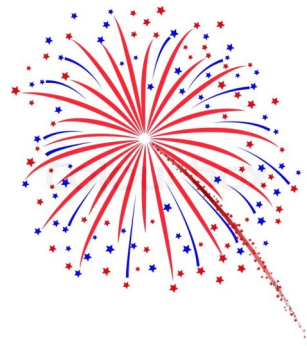
SCRAP TIRE CLEANUP

Sands Township was awarded a Scrap Tire grant from the DEQ, which means that we will have a **FREE TIRE COLLECTION on July 27, 2018 from 3:00 to 7:00 at our Transfer Station.** If you or someone you know has tires laying around, please take advantage of this opportunity. Tires of all sizes will be collected at no charge, including car tires with rims. You do not need to be a Township resident to bring in tires.

CELEBRATE SAFELY

With the 4th of July holiday near, the Fire Department would like to remind everyone to please be safe as you celebrate. Here are some fireworks safety tips:

- A responsible adult should always supervise fireworks. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Do not light fireworks if you have consumed alcohol.
- Wear safety glasses.
- Light one firework at a time and quickly move away.
- Use fireworks outdoors, away from buildings, vehicles, and people.
- Always have a water source nearby.
- Dispose of spent fireworks and “duds” by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can until the following day.
- Remember your pets. Never shoot fireworks near pets or bring pets to a fireworks display. Put pets in a safe, interior room to minimize exposure to sound and make sure they have a proper ID tag, in case they get scared and run away.
- Be courteous of neighbors. Shoot fireworks during reasonable hours and remember the Township Noise Ordinance sets quiet hours from 10 PM to 7 AM.



IMPROVEMENTS AT OUR OFFICE

Several improvements at the office complex, both indoors and out, have been completed recently. The outdoor tennis and basketball courts were resurfaced last fall, with an overwhelming positive response. A sunscreen dispenser was donated by the Just Believe Foundation.

Indoors, this spring was spent painting, cleaning, organizing and moving around offices. We created a new office space for the Assessor, and shuffled around the offices of the Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor, and Zoning. All of the office spaces were repainted and cleaned, and files were sorted through. Some new office furniture was purchased, and we are looking at getting new tables in the meeting room.

If you have business in the office, or want to see what we have done, feel free to stop in and check out the progress!

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION—KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

<p>Contact Us</p> <p>(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>2018 Garbage Holidays</p> <p>September 3 (Labor Day) - Pickup Sept 4 & 5</p> <p>December 24 & 25 (Christmas) - Pickup December 26 & 27</p> <p>December 31 & January 1 - Pickup January 2 & 3</p>	<p>2018 Election Dates</p> <p>August 7 Primary Election</p> <p>November 6 General Election</p> <p>Polls Open 7 am to 8 pm</p>
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TRANSFER STATION INFORMATION

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.

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 (Jan—Mar), it is open every Wednesday 4—7, and only the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 AM—5 PM.

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.



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, along with the current agenda. The public is welcome to attend all meetings..

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

Treasurer's News

2018 summer property tax statements will be mailed by July 1. If you do not receive 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 Friday, September 14, 2018. The winter tax bill will be mailed by December 1. Submitted by: Justin Murawski, Treasurer

Garbage Reminders:

Have your garbage out by 5 am.

Do not put out large items or bags heavier than 30 pounds for pickup. Use the Transfer Station for these.

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.

ANOTHER NEW ADDITION!

Carolyn, our Administrative Assistant, and her husband Mike will be welcoming another baby boy to their family in early October. As before, the office will be staffed by a temporary assistant during her maternity leave and we will work to make the transition as smooth as possible. However, please be patient if the temp has to put you on hold or call you back later with the answer to your question. The intent is for Carolyn to transition back to work with the baby, as she did with both Ella and Owen. Feel free to stop in and say hi to them both when they come back to work in December. We appreciate your patience during this time and look forward to having a baby in the office again.

ROAD INFORMATION

The extension of Silver Creek Road was our major road project for 2017. We submitted a list of road maintenance and repairs to the Road Commission for 2018, and bids came back in early June. Due to a higher-than-usual cost of asphalt, some of our intended projects will be put on hold until 2019. Other projects we submitted were not bid on by the contractor and will be looked at for next summer also.

We do hope to complete crack seal on Stephen Lee Drive and a section of Yelle Road this summer, along with chip & fog seal on Scenic Hills Drive and Sandwood Drive. Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

What is the Headlee Amendment? How Does It Affect My Taxes?

The Peter White Public Library has informed townships with an approved Library millage that they intend to seek a Headlee Override. Because Sands Township has millages, including a Library millage, we thought it would be helpful to give some general background on the Headlee Amendment, the impact it has on revenues, and what an override means.

In 1978, voters approved an amendment known as the Headlee Amendment, which included several provisions related to state and local taxes. One part of this Amendment requires that if the assessed value of a local tax unit's total taxable property increases by more than the inflation rate, the maximum property tax millage must be reduced so that the local unit's total taxable property yields the same gross revenue, adjusted for inflation. The entire tax unit's jurisdiction is considered, not each individual parcel.

This limitation means that if the tax base for a local unit increased from \$1 million to \$1.1 million, and the tax rate was one mill, the millage would be reduced from 1.0 mills to .909 mills, so that the total revenue would remain the same (\$1,000). This is referred to as the Headlee Rollback. This Rollback protects property owners from tax increases, but it has also limited local government revenue and caused budget concerns. When a millage comes up for renewal, it is renewed at the current rollback rate, not returned to the original approved millage rate.

In 1994, Proposal A was approved. Proposal A was intended to reform Michigan's educational finance system, and included two key provisions: 1) Growth on taxable value of individual parcels of property is limited to the lesser of inflation or 5 percent, and 2) when property is sold or transferred, the taxable is reset or "uncapped" to equal the state equalized value, which equals half of the property's cash value. As a result, communities with substantial market growth in existing property tax values are penalized by rolling back millage rates. Proposal A legislation also eliminated Headlee "roll-ups", which had previously been a way to allow local units to recapture tax base lost to rollbacks in prior years.

Both the Headlee Amendment, which limits revenue a local unit can receive from a millage, and Proposal A, which limits the growth in taxable value of an individual parcel, protect property owners from increases in taxes by rolling back the tax rate. However, they also limit local government revenue. This can lead to a local government unit turning to a Headlee Override. This involves asking voters to approve raising the millage rate to its original rate after it has been rolled back because of growth in property values. This Override will not be higher than the original millage rate approved by voters, but will raise the millage above its current rate. Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Things are changing and improving at Peter White Public Library (PWPL). An important change is the temporary relocation of the Children's Collection. Beginning in May and continuing until November a portion of the Children's Collection is available at the Westwood Mall next to the Bath and Body Works Store. If you are looking for children's books, please check the catalog on the www.pwpl.info website. Not all of the collection is on the shelves at the temporary location. You can request additional children's books or adult books for pick up at the mall location using the website catalog. During construction, the basement area will be closed until at least November. Check the website for updates.

The reconfiguration of the basement of the main building will better accommodate the many programs that PWPL offers for youth, children, and infants. Summer

reading programs for children are offered beginning June 9th. The schedule of Summer Reading Programs is available on the PWPL website. All children's programs will be at the Children's Branch in the Westwood Mall until November 2018. Programs for teens will continue at the main branch of the library.

The construction projects will save valuable funds by lowering energy costs for lighting and heating. There will also be improvements in accessibility with Barrier Free Updates to the Ridge Street entrance and in restrooms. The 1904 foundation system and roof need immediate repairs and those will be completed. A complete overview of the construction projects and costs is included on the PWPL website. Thank you for your continued patronage and support of Peter White Public Library. Read On!!

Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

GARBAGE & RECYCLING INFO

In 2017, the garbage truck picked up more than 838 tons (average 16.12 tons/week). Our Transfer Station collected another 129 tons, for a total of 967 tons collected last year. In tipping fees alone, this cost almost \$45,000! 2018 is looking to be even busier than previous years. The week of Memorial Day was a new record on the truck—21.5 tons of garbage picked up!

Recycling has been popular, which is great to see. In 2017, close to 43 tons were recycled. 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 people who take the time to separate recyclables and bring them to the Transfer Station. We will continue to evaluate our recycling system and do all that we can to make recycling as convenient as possible.



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 Rubbish/Compost Site is at the intersection of McClellan Avenue and Pioneer Road. Household Hazardous Waste Collection is at this site on July 11, August 8, September 12 and October 3.

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 18, August 15, September 26 and October 10.

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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office@sandstownship.org

www.sandstownship.org

We are also on facebook!