

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

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

BATTERY RECYCLING

**ELECTED
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**
Supervisor—Darlene Walch
249-9945

Clerk—Carolyn Kerkela
361-0630

Treasurer—
Kent Koehn
360-9305

Trustee—Justin Yelle
360-3038

Trustee—David Kallio
249-3418

**APPOINTED
TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**
Zoning Administrator
Randall Yelle 346-4423

PLANNING COMMISSION
Shelley Brauer (Chair)
Justin Yelle
Suzanne Sundell
Pamela Lajewski-Pearson
Cory Bushong

**ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS**

Robert Vietzke (Chair)
Shelley Brauer
David Kallio
Victoria Jenema
Jane Noe

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Fire Chief—Andrew Sicotte
869-6029

Assistant Chief
Hall #1—Ben Yelle
236-2796

EMS Coordinator
Lyn Nelson
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator
Frank Rosado 249-3081

Batteries seem to rule nearly everything these days. Battery types include primary single-use alkaline, rechargeable, and wet-cell (e.g., car battery). Sands Township is embarking on recycling both primary single-use and rechargeable batteries (we cannot recycle car batteries).

Alkaline Batteries: We already collect alkaline batteries to recycle. These batteries are used in items like flashlights, toys, TV remote controls, computer mice and calculators. Common alkaline batteries include AA, AAA, 9 Volt, C, and D. We currently collect these batteries at the Sands Township Office.

Rechargeable Batteries: Soon we'll be collecting these batteries also. They contain reusable heavy metals and most certainly should be kept out of the trash. The recent landfill fire was started by a battery and there have been instances of battery fires starting in garbage trucks. This type of battery includes lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, nickel cadmium, and small sealed lead acid. You'll find them in products such as power tools, digital cameras, 2-way radios, cordless phones, laptops, and mobility scooters. Staff have been trained to prepare batteries for recycling and we'll start collecting them as soon as we receive containers from Call2Recycle.

Cell phones: We also accept old cell phones. If you have an old flip phone or other retired cell phone, please bring it to us for recycling. Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

ZONING INFORMATION

That's A Good Idea!

Good Idea #1: Our garden is great and we love our home-grown produce. Let's get chickens!

Good Idea #2: Now that we have a pool, a privacy hedge or fence would be a nice addition.

Good Idea #3: I've been making pet treats, toys and bedding and they're selling really well. I have everything set up in my basement and if I put up a sign and then hire someone to help me package my products, I'll have a successful home business.

These seem like good ideas. But before you spend any money, time or energy, we encourage you to check with Sands Township Zoning to become familiar with ordinances that might affect your project. We can help determine if and how your project fits within your zoning district before you make an investment. There are several zoning districts within the township: residential, rural residential, commercial, forestry & agriculture, industrial, open space, public lands, and planned unit development. The Zoning Ordinances clarify what is permitted in each of those zoning districts and help maintain the character of each district. An attorney once said he could keep a person out of trouble easier than he could get a person out of trouble. Let the Zoning department help keep you out of a troublesome scenario. Now that's a good idea!

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

FREE SCRAP TIRE DISPOSAL

The Marquette County landfill has again received a Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant from EGLE. All Marquette County residents are welcome to bring their scrap tires to any of the collections. Residents may bring in up to 10



tires at a time. Car and truck tires that are 22.5 inches in diameter or less will be accepted at these collections, including tires on rims. Larger tires, tractor tires and tires on split rims will not be accepted. Tires from businesses will not be accepted. Please go to <https://mcswwa.com/scrap-tires/>

for information on how to dispose of these larger tires. For any questions call the landfill at (906) 249-4125.

Remaining FREE tire collection dates for 2021:

Tuesday, July 27th West End Transfer Station in Ishpeming (3:00—7:00)

Thursday, August 5th City of Marquette Rubbish/Compost Site (3:00—7:00)

Monday, August 23 Sands Township Transfer Station (3:00—7:00)

Saturday, August 28th City of Ishpeming Compost Site (9:00—2:00)

Saturday, September 4th Skandia/West Branch Transfer Station (9:00—3:00)

GARBAGE CREW REMINDERS

There are NO 2021 Holidays on our scheduled garbage pick up days! Please put your trash out on your designated pick up day for the remainder of 2021.

Have your garbage out by 4 am.

Please when needed wash your can out. Replace any cans that are cracked or broken.

During the winter months please shovel out your cans and keep your garbage area clear. Place cans or bags where they are visible with snowbanks, such as the far side of your driveway from the direction we approach.

If animals get into your garbage, it is your responsibility to clean up.

DO NOT put out large items or bags heavier than 30 pounds. These items will not be taken.

Our garbage crew will not pick up building materials, appliances, furniture, carpeting or metal. Please call our office at 249-9169 for further information or to find out how to dispose of these items at the Transfer Station or the Marquette County Landfill.

Sands Township does not offer curbside recycling. Your recycling can be brought to the Transfer Station free of charge during the hours listed below. If you leave out curbside recycling, it will be picked up as trash.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Every Wednesday from 4-7 PM (Entire Year)

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 10 AM—5 PM (April—December)

2nd Saturday of each month ONLY from 10 AM—5 PM (January—March)

Recycling is free for our Township Residents! Please see our website for what is accepted for recycling and also the waste charges. Glass is now accepted but must be kept separate from other recycling. The Transfer Station does not accept household garbage, appliances with freon, brush, concrete or hazardous waste. Please contact our office at 249-9169 with any questions.

TREASURER'S NEWS

2021 Summer property tax statements were mailed on July 1st and are due to the Sands Treasurer by 5:00 PM on September 14th, 2021. Please allow 7 days for mailed payments to arrive. Beginning September 15th and each month thereafter, an additional 1% interest is added to the tax due. Beginning February 15th, 2022 a 3% penalty will be added. Beginning March 1st, 2022 all taxes must be paid directly to the Marquette County Treasurer. If you have not received your tax statement or if your statement went to your escrow company and you would like a copy, please call the office at 249-9169.

Residents now have the option to pay their taxes online via the secure GovPros Website. The fee charged for VISA, Mastercard, AMEX and Discover is 3.5% (\$60.00 maximum) with a \$1.95 minimum. To pay online, please visit the Sands Township Website at sandstownship.org and click on the Tax Credit Card Tab or you can access the QR code pictured below. Submitted by: Kent Koehn, Treasurer



PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

As I write news about Peter White Public Library (PWPL) it is late May. I am hopeful that we will be moving out of the COVID-19 restrictions to daily life soon. In the coming weeks there will be positive changes coming at the library. Watch the library's website (www.pwpl.info) or its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/peterwhitepubliclibrary) to find the latest information.

Numerous events are scheduled for the summer including author talks, music programs, book clubs, pop-up poetry, displays of artists' works, food and craft programs, stress relief programs such as Yoga and Meditation, and children's events. If you need help with genealogy or are looking for unusual items to borrow such as a telescope, shaped baking pans, or blu-ray players, PWPL has a collection of "things" that may be checked out. If you have been cleaning your bookshelves during the pandemic and wish to donate books that are in good shape, but no longer need to live at your house, donate them to the PWPL Friends. The Friends have a second-hand bookstore on the main floor of the library. You might find some good books to replace the ones you no longer wish to own at cheap prices and know that you are supporting the library's many programs as all profits go to PWPL needs.

You have a voice at PWPL. Questions, suggestions, or concerns can be shared in many ways. Director Andrea Ingmire holds regular times for drop-in chats on the main floor. Check the website or give a call to 228-9510 to confirm times each month. You can also contact your township representatives to the PWPL Township Advisory Council: Suzanne Standerford and Kerrie Heikes by calling the township office with a message for us. PWPL Board Meetings are open to the public and always have a time for "public comments." Check the website for date and time each month. Finally, on the PWPL web homepage you can scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Contact Us. At the bottom of this page is a form you can easily fill out, and the appropriate staff member will contact you. Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you at the library!

Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

STRAWBERRY LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA



Sands Township residents are encouraged to visit and enjoy the park-like setting at Strawberry Lake. It is a small, scenic lake rimmed with tall pines and mixed hardwoods. There is a small picnic area along with a cabin which is provided for the caretaker who maintains the park grounds and monitors activities on the lake from May 1st —September 30th.

A variety of outdoor activities are available at the lake to include fishing, bird watching, dog walking, hiking and berry picking. Wild strawberries are abundant during season on the sunny hillside sloping down to the lake for those who have the patience to pick them.

The lake, regulated by the DNR, is a Class D trout lake planted with brook trout. It is a non-motorized, artificial lures only lake. Before you try your luck, be sure to read the full list of regulations posted on the signboard within the picnic area. Fishing from the shore is difficult due to the brushy shoreline, but can be done. Some anglers will get out on the water using canoes, kayaks or float tubes however please be advised there is not a boat launch available.

Strawberry Lake is located south of Sands Township Office & Park Complex, and you can get access off of State Hwy. M- 553. Use the driveway to the Marquette County Fairgrounds, and before entering the gate-entrance to the Fairgrounds, turn left onto the gravel and dirt road. From State Hwy. M-553, it is approximately 9/10th of a mile. The road does follow west along the fairgrounds.

Submitted by: Ron Tervo, Strawberry Lake Caretaker

ELECTION NEWS

Sands Township will not have an August election this year, and it does not look like there will be a November election either. In 2022, there will be an August primary and a November election, which will include some Township millage renewal requests.

If you want to register to vote or check your registration status, view a ballot, request an absentee ballot, or have other election related questions you may go online at www.michigan.gov/vote.

You may have heard about proposed changes to election laws and how Michigan elections are conducted. Our Clerk's office is working to stay updated on all requirements so that Sands Township elections are conducted smoothly and securely and in compliance with all laws and requirements. If you have any questions or concerns regarding elections or are interested in becoming an election inspector, please contact the office at 249-9169 or email clerk@sandstownship.org.

Submitted by: Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

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 and postings for our residents to include Zoom Links for board meetings. Monthly reports are submitted by several departments and committees and are posted in the office for public viewing. We are also on Facebook—Like our page to keep up-to-date on Township information.

For last minute information such as weather related closings, garbage pickup changes, office closures and other information, we will try to update the outgoing phone message when possible, especially if the office is closed. We will also try to update Facebook and our website. For garbage delays due to weather, TV6 will also be notified.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

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.

COVID UPDATE

The Sands Township Office is now fully open to the public. Both the gym and pavilion are once again available for reservations. The playground area has recently had a refurbish of fresh mulch and is open for the public to enjoy. The Sands Township Board thanks both our employees and residents for their support and understanding during the long COVID shutdown and restrictions.

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.
Marquette Rubbish/Compost Site collections—August 12, September 9 and October 7 from 3:00—7:00

West End Transfer Station collections—August 11, September 8 and October 6 from 3:00—7:00

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Sands Township Fire Department meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM at Station 1. The public is always welcome to attend.



2021 ROAD PROJECTS



We have a 5 year road maintenance plan in place, which is reviewed and updated annually to help ensure all roads in the Township get proper maintenance when needed. This plan is not set in stone, but gives a guideline of what projects we will request to be put out for bids each season. After the Marquette County Road Commission bids out the projects, the Township Board reviews the cost of each and makes a decision based on available money in our Road Millage Fund. For the 2021 construction season, the Board approved resurfacing 0.53 miles of Ortman Road from the Township line to N. Tracie Lane.



NEWSLETTER

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

Striving to protect your water & environment

HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP ENCLOSED

There are NO 2021 Holidays on our scheduled garbage pick up days! Please put your trash out by 4:00 AM on your designated pick up day for the remainder of 2021. If you miss your scheduled trash pick up, you will need to store your trash until the following week.

Want to Get Involved?

Are you interested in getting involved with the Township, but aren't sure how? We always need subs on our garbage truck. We are always looking for people to join our Fire Department and EMS. We also can use more people on our Recreation Committee! 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!

SANDS TOWNSHIP SCRAP TIRE COLLECTION DAY

***Monday, August 23 Sands Township Transfer
Station (3:00—7:00)***

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.

Contact Us

**(906)249-9169
FAX 249-2120**

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