

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

OFFICE COMPLEX HOURS: Monday - Friday, 10 AM-3 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—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—Tom Wahlstrom
239-4967

Assistant Chief
Hall #1—Ben Yelle
236-2796

Assistant Chief
Hall #2—Brian Kleven
361-3128

EMS Coordinator
Lyn Nelson
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator Frank
Rosado 249-3081

***TEMPORARY CHANGE TO TRASH PICK-UP ***

Starting Tuesday, July 19th ALL residential trash will be picked up on Tuesdays only by North Country Disposal. If your trash day is normally on Wednesday, you must have your trash out for pick up by 4:00 am on Tuesday, July 19th. This temporary schedule change will continue thru at least Tuesday, August 2nd. Please check the Sands Township Website or Facebook page for any adjustments to this temporary schedule change. You can also call our office at 249-9169 or contact the front office by email: office@sandstownship.org.

PURGING UNWANTED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Do you have old electronic equipment stashed in a closet or drawer that you aren't sure how to get rid of? We may soon have a solution for you. Sands Township applied for a grant from the MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to establish an electronics recycling program at our Recycling & Transfer Station. If awarded, the grant will help us get containers, equipment and transport services necessary to recycle items such as old TVs, monitors, keyboards, mice, cables, game consoles, DVD and VHS players, and computers. Our grant application includes two recycling events plus regularly scheduled collections at our facility. We also plan to incorporate recycling for lithium and rechargeable batteries. It's very beneficial to keep these items out of our landfill. We remember those fires at the Marquette County Landfill that began with batteries in the trash, and reusable materials can be harvested from old electronic equipment. Watch for updates – by mid-July we should learn whether our grant application is approved.

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

SANITATION REMINDERS AND RECYCLING NEWS

Have your garbage out by 4 am.

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

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 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. If you leave out curbside recycling, it will be picked up as trash.

Transfer Station Hours:

Every Wednesday 4:00 PM—7:00 PM

Every Thursday 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month – 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM

The Sands Township Office is a battery recycling collection site. DO NOT throw used batteries in the trash. We accept the following:

Alkaline Batteries: 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.

Rechargeable Batteries: 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.

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.



FREE SCRAP TIRE COLLECTION

Sands Township will hold a free scrap tire collection for **Sands Township Residents only** on Thursday, August 25th from 4-7 PM at the Transfer Station. Residents may bring up to 10 tires at a time. Car and truck tires that are 22.5 inches in diameter or less will be accepted including tires on rims. Larger tires, tractor tires, tires on split rims and tires from businesses will not be accepted. Please contact the Landfill directly for information on disposing these types of tires.

RECYCLING NEWS

From 1 January to 30 June 2022, Sands Township had **1,920** recycling visits to the Transfer Station to drop off **24.65** tons of single stream recycling and **5.03** tons of glass. Single stream recycling decreased slightly by 1.19 tons compared to this time last year, however glass recycling increased by a half ton. This past February, the Township purchased their own 40 yard roll-off to allow for larger amounts of recyclable scrap metal to be received at the Transfer Station. When the bin is full, it is transported to Alter Metal in Negaunee Township. The Transfer Station also has rubbish bins for larger items that you can drop off for a small fee. We do not accept household trash at the Transfer Station.



*Want to help make
the world a better
place? **RECYCLE!***

TREASURER'S NEWS

2022 Summer property tax statements were mailed on July 1st and are due to the Sands Treasurer by 5:00 PM on September 14, 2022. Please allow 7 days for mailed payments to arrive. Beginning September 15th and each month thereafter, an additional 1% is added to the base tax due. Beginning February 15th, 2023 a 3% penalty will be added. Beginning March 1st, 2023 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 allpaid Website. The fee charged for Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover is 2.95%. To pay online, please visit the Sands Township Website at sandstownship.org and click on the Tax Credit Card Tab.

Submitted by: Kent Koehn, Treasurer

ELECTION NEWS FROM THE CLERK

Our office has been busy preparing for this 2022 Election season. The Primary Election is **August 2** and the General Election is **November 8**. Polls are open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Election Day. To find information regarding your registration status, request or track an Absentee Ballot, or to view your ballot, you can go to www.mi.gov/vote.

On the ballot for the Primary Election, you will see a Partisan Section and a Proposal Section. As a reminder, **you may not cross party lines in the Partisan Section**. Please read your voting instructions carefully, which are enclosed with all Absentee Ballots and on the Secrecy Sleeve given with the ballots at the polls for In-Person voting. If you have any questions, please reach out to our office or ask an Election Inspector.

The August Proposal Section has four Township Millage Renewal Requests. The Ambulance, Fire Department, and Road Repair Millage Renewal Requests all ask to renew these millages at their current rate for a 4 year term. Our Sanitation Operating Millage Renewal request asks to renew the millage at its original rate of 1.0 mills for 4 years, which had been reduced slightly over the years due to the Headlee Rollback Amendment. This request for a renewal and restoration increase will help cover the expenses for our Sanitation Department as costs continue to climb for fuel, waste disposal, vehicle maintenance and repairs, and other expenses.

For voters who choose to vote Absentee, applications for Absentee ballots can be requested through our office, are available in several formats from the political parties and are available for printing online, or can be filled out online at www.mi.gov/vote. For voters who are already on our Permanent AV List, applications were mailed out that will cover both August and November elections. Absentee ballots may be returned by mail, in person, or by utilizing the Ballot Drop Box in our parking lot. A security camera was purchased recently using funds from the State of Michigan specifically for election security and monitors the drop box 24/7. The drop box is checked daily.

If you have questions or concerns about elections in Sands Township or wish to learn more about working elections as an inspector, please contact Carolyn Kerkela, Township Clerk, at clerk@sandstownship.org or by calling the office.

Submitted by: Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Township has recently experienced an increase in complaints regarding residents allowing their pets to run freely. As a reminder, Sands Township has a Dog Ordinance. All dogs must be on a leash any time they are not on the owner's private property and any pet waste not on the owner's property must be cleaned up immediately. Loud, frequent or persistent barking that causes annoyance or disturbance to neighbors is prohibited. Dogs four months of age or older need to be licensed as required by Marquette County. Residents who violate the Dog Ordinance may be issued Civil Infraction Citations and fines. The complete Dog Ordinance can be reviewed at the Townhall or at www.sandstownship.org.

Submitted by: Randall Yelle, Zoning Administrator

PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Summer has finally arrived! The Upper Peninsula is a beautiful place for outdoor activities and beautiful scenery. Another great place to enjoy this summer is the Peter White Public Library. You might just relax for a few hours with a great book; check out materials from a large variety; browse the latest art displays; or use a few of their new resources. Even better, you can do all these things in comfortable air-conditioned spaces and free of charge.

One of the new resources that might be of particular interest to you is the Memory Lab. The Memory Lab is in the north balcony on the second floor. The equipment features hardware and software to digitize photographs, oversize photographs and documents, slides, negatives, and certain video formats. The goal of the lab is to provide ways to help people move older materials onto digital USB or external hard drives or to save their newly digitized materials to a personal cloud storage account. Patrons can purchase flash drives, DVDs, and CDs at the library, if needed. Hours for the Memory Lab are M-Th 10 am to 2 pm and 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. F-Sat. 10 am to 2 pm. Checkout period is up to 4 hours per session.

A few helpful things to know if you wish to use the Lab are:

1. Best to make an appointment, but if the lab is available, it is first come, first serve.
2. Users must be a card holder in "good standing" (i.e., fines under \$25).
3. Users must be over the age of 17 or be accompanied by an adult.
4. Anyone damaging or stealing the equipment will be banned from future use of it and may be required to pay restitution and/or be subject to criminal prosecution.
5. NO FOOD or drink allowed in the lab.

If you wish to try the new Memory Lab, please follow these steps:

1. Book an appointment online: <https://form.jotform.com/220453852187054>
2. Arrive for your first session 15 minutes early.
3. Check in with staff and they will point you to the lab.
4. Step-by-step instructions are available in print and on the computer; refer to the Reference Desk or Binder in the lab.
5. Please delete your files from the Memory Lab computer after you save it elsewhere.

For questions, call the library at 906-226-4311/4312 or email: refdesk@pwpl.info

***All of this information is taken directly from and is available at PWPL's website.

Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

SANDS TOWNSHIP PARK



A new outdoor grill has been installed by the park pavilion. You must provide your own charcoal and we ask that you soak the hot coals completely with water when you are finished grilling. Water can be accessed from the outdoor spigot near the pavilion drinking fountain. Please leave the used coals in the grill and they will be cleaned out by our recreation staff.

- ◆ Help to keep our park clean by depositing your trash in the cans provided. If you have reserved the outdoor pavilion for an event, your garbage must be hauled away. Do not pile it around or stuff it in the park trash cans.
- ◆ Alcohol is NOT allowed in any of the outdoor park areas including the pavilion. Please refrain from all tobacco use in and near the playground.
- ◆ Clean up after your pets. There are dog waste bags available near the playground.
- ◆ Please stop by and enjoy what the park has to offer!

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, 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. Due to the General Election on Tuesday, November 8th, the November Board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15th. Draft Minutes are posted at the Township Office, Fire Hall #2 and on our Website. There is also a meeting summary posted each month in the Mining Journal.

The public is welcome to attend all meetings in person or by Zoom access.

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.



RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Recreation Committee Members:

Chairperson- Missy Lehtomaki -Vice Chair- Carrie Lusk - Secretary- Rich Storm- Members – Bob Kallio, Wendell Kurr-Bill Kapeller-Wendy Maas-Shawn Sitar- Kirsten Matthews.

Our goal as a Recreation Committee is to improve on all aspects of how our community utilizes the current and future facilities and trails. Looking forward, we would like to see motorized and non-motorized trail improvements along with additional sports field space for all. The Committee would appreciate any input on the upcoming draft for the 5 year township recreation plan. That is our first step in the right direction before pursuing any improvements and additions.

Please contact the Sands Township Office for information on the next Recreation Committee meeting. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Remaining 2022 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

Wednesday, August 10th from 3-7 PM, West End Transfer Station, 2150 US 41 West, Ishpeming

Thursday, September 8th from 3-7 PM, Marquette Rubbish/Compost Site, 1415 Pioneer Rd, Marquette

Wednesday, October 5th from 3-7 PM, West End Transfer Station, 2150 US 41 West, Ishpeming

Visit RECYCLE906.com for a complete listing of accepted materials.

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 continually looking for people to join our Fire Department and EMS. We can always use 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!



NEWSLETTER

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

Striving to protect your water & environment

HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP ENCLOSED

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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.

There will be a free scrap tire collection for Sands Township residents only. Please see page 2 for details!

Contact Us

(906)249-9169

FAX 249-2120

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