

How to contact your Oshtemo Township Officials:

General Information 375-4260
 Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell 216-5220
 Clerk Deb Everett 216-5224
 Treasurer Nancy Culp 216-5221

Assessor Cathy Harrell 216-5225
 Planning Director Greg Milliken 216-5223
 Building Official Jerry Reitenour 216-5222
 Fire Chief Mark Barnes 375-0487



BLOOD DRIVE NEWS!!

Wednesday, October 24, 2012 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Come in for a Sloppy Joe **and** a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Comensoli's.

Wednesday, December 26, 2012 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Come in for chili **and** a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to LaPinata.

June winners were Kerri Billings & Jerry Reitenour
 August winners were Cindy Bushouse & Burt Corsette

Door prizes provided by donations from some Oshtemo Township Employees. *Winners are typically drawn and notified the day after the blood drive.*



Blood Drives are held at
 Oshtemo Township Hall
 7275 West Main

2012 FLU SHOT CLINICS
Oshtemo Township Hall
7275 West Main Street

Bronson Home Health
 Tuesday, September 25th
 10:00 a.m. to noon
 Questions? Call 341.6400
 web site: www.flushot.borgess.com

Borgess Home Care
 Wednesday, October 17th
 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 Questions? Call 382.6735
 web site: <http://www.bronsonhealth.com/flu>



2012 Dump Days

Sept 29 Oct 27 Nov 17

Leaf Drop Off Dates

Nov 3 & Nov 17

Paper bags may be placed in the truck—plastic bags must be emptied.

9 am—3 pm

Township Hall

7275 West Main

Proof of Residency Required



COMING SOON
OUR NEW WEB SITE!

www.oshtemo.org

will soon have a new look!

We have been working with a web page designer and will unveil our updated and more user friendly web site in mid to late September!

October 9th—Last day to register to vote for the November 6th General Election

Township Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm
 (1st Thurs each month open at 9 am after staff meeting)

Holiday Schedule

Oshtemo Township will be CLOSED

Nov 11-Veterans Day

Nov 22 & 23-Thanksgiving



ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

For the past of couple years, code enforcement issues in the Township have been addressed by the Building Department. Not only did this keep Staff busy during the downturn in construction, but it also addressed some key issues in the community. With the pending transition to the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) and the recent increase in building activity, the Township looked to fill this important enforcement position.

Oshtemo Township introduces Rick Suwarsky as its new Ordinance Enforcement Officer. Rick comes to the Township by way of early retirement from the City of Kalamazoo where he has worked for the last 23 years. He spent the last 12 years of that tenure in Ordinance Enforcement as a Housing Inspector, Anti-Blight Inspector, and Dangerous Buildings Board Coordinator. He focused on addressing nuisance issues, blight, dangerous buildings, and non-compliant property owners. The Township Staff is pleased to welcome Rick, his wife Tami, and two children Kevin and Kara to the team.

The Ordinance Enforcement Officer works with the Township Supervisor and other Staff to administer and enforce the Township Ordinances. Issues he will commonly address in his half-time position include abandoned and junk vehicles, public nuisance and noise issues, overgrown vegetation and weeds, trash and debris, sign violations, and other nuisances that affect the quality of life for Township residents.

We need your help to continue to identify potential issues throughout the community and bring them under control before too much time passes. If you have a question or a concern about a potential violation, here are three ways for you to get in touch with the Ordinance Enforcement Officer:

Email – rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org

Phone – (269) 375-4260

Visit – Come to Township Hall (7275 W. Main Street) and fill out a Complaint Form

Complaint forms will also be made available on the Township website www.oshtemo.org soon.

Be A Good Neighbor When Burning Leaves



With fall approaching we will see folks burning leaves—please be considerate of your neighbors.

Township Ordinance requires:

- ◆ A burning permit must be obtained from the Fire Department. You can now obtain a burning permit on our website at www.oshtemo.org or call the Fire Department at 375.0487.
- ◆ Burning is permitted only when time and atmospheric conditions are favorable.
- ◆ Burning cannot be conducted within 50 feet of any structure or other combustible material or 25 feet if the pile is less than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet tall. Burning may not be conducted at any time on the surface of any public or private street.
- ◆ Fire extinguishing equipment; a bucket, shovel, garden hose or fire extinguisher must be readily available.
- ◆ Burning materials shall be attended at all times until the fire is extinguished.
- ◆ The Fire Department is authorized to require open burning be immediately discontinued if they determine smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding properties or considered to constitute a hazardous condition.

Other Options.....

Composting leaves is also a good source of mulch for your flower beds and garden.

Your refuse/recycle hauler may provide yard waste pick up service.

More information on these options can be found at www.kalcounty.com/hhw/recyard.htm

The Township will offer two leaf drop off days, **November 3rd and 17th** at the Township Hall from **9 am to 3 pm**. Paper bags may be placed in the truck, plastic bags must be emptied.



We welcome to our staff Jennie Miller, Administrative Assistant to the Assessor and Barbara Jean, Administrative Assistant to the Treasurer. They will each be working 12 hours per week for their respective departments.

From Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell...

The M43 traffic corridor from 9th Street to Maple Hill Drive accident review study by MDOT is ongoing. Findings will be presented to property owners and the Township in early fall.

In 2014 the bridge at Stadium Drive over Highway 131 will be completely reconstructed as a "SPUI" (single point urban interchange) according to MDOT. At that time a 10' non-motorized path will be constructed on the south side of the new bridge, and a 5' sidewalk on the north. MDOT is developing "maintenance of traffic" plans for the construction period. The new path will increase connectivity in Oshtemo Township for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorized traffic.

I would like to thank the 30-member Citizen Ad Hoc Police Protection Committee (CAHPPC) for tremendous work in 2012. Many citizens volunteered for this group, and I am heartened by the interest residents showed in it. The township is always looking for volunteers to serve on various boards and committees. Take a look at our website to find information about these groups and a volunteer form.

Through many lengthy discussions of the CAHPPC large group and sub-groups, we have much greater understanding of past crime statistics. These stats are helping your township officials make informed decisions. Actions taken include adding a full time traffic deputy and requesting the Michigan State Police add a supplemental township patrol. I organized a multi-housing crime prevention training session in late August with apartment complex owners, managers, deputies, and the township. The findings of the committee will be extremely useful to guide decisions for police contracting in 2013 and beyond. You may remember that for 2013 the contract for police protection with the County will be year two of a three year phase in of increased cost. The increase to the Township will be approximately \$15,000 per deputy, and \$100,000 overall.

Andrew Knapp, a graduate student in Public Administration at Central Michigan University, is a volunteer intern this fall in the Township. Andrew will focus work on the launch of the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority and in identifying opportunities for government efficiencies through technology.

The Board reviewed the 2011 audited financial statements at their meeting on July 12th. The Township remains in excellent financial health, and is responsive in balancing demands for funding. The Township Board will conduct several budget workshops to develop the 2013 budget. If interested in observing these Board discussions, follow the posting of notices for meeting days and times on the website under "Agendas" at <http://oshtemo.org/AGENDAS/agendas-tb.htm>. Later in the fall a public hearing will be held, as a formal means of accepting public input on the budget. Prior to this formal hearing, public comment is welcome via phone (216-5220), email (libbyhc@oshtemo.org), face-to-face meetings, and written letter.

The public will have an opportunity to tour the new KL Avenue Nature Preserve—see the invitation from the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy below.

DISCOVER KL AVE NATURE PRESERVE: SEPTEMBER 15

The KL Avenue Nature Preserve in Oshtemo Township was gifted to the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) by township resident Dick Malott in December 2011. The preserve is a scenic place for a walk, with interesting topographic relief and beautiful trees and understory plants. While SWMLC has a vision for restoring degraded portions of the property back to health, we also understand the community need to accommodate public use and want to make it a place the community will appreciate. Ultimately, the preserve will be permanently open to the public.

WHAT: An opportunity to tour the preserve, hear about SWMLC's restoration vision and provide input about how the preserve should be used.

WHEN: Saturday, September 15th, 9:00 am—11:30 am

WHERE: The main entrance to KL Avenue Nature Preserve is located on the south side of KL Avenue just east of 4th Street. Look for signs.



Consumer's Sunburst Run 2012 Recap!

Rain again? No problem say the runners of the 3rd annual Consumer's Sunburst Run. Who wouldn't want a cooler morning when running in the hottest month of the year! With a great breakfast of bagels, yogurt, and bananas provided to the 248 participants, runners and walkers had enough energy to get them through the tunnel, down the trail, and over the bridge....literally!!!

The beautifully lush Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, challenging hills of Oshtemo Township, inspiring 1/2 way music of The Bagpipers, and the well stocked participant bags provided by run sponsors.....made for a uniquely challenging and rewarding event!!!

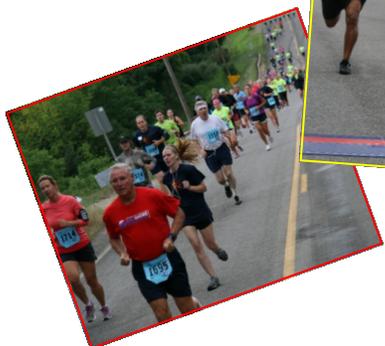
First place men's finisher was Ken Brooks of Portage Michigan and first place women's finisher was Kristen Bacher of Austin Texas. To view other results and see additional pictures from the run, please visit www.consumerssunburst.org.

Although a large portion of this years sponsorship dollars went towards the creation of a stand alone website for the run, the event still made enough money to be able to once again plan some great community events for next summer. This year's events (paid for with Sunburst 2011 funds) included a "kids only" run event in the Township Park and three "Movie in the Park" evenings with popcorn for all! These events were attended well and we expect to bring back similar events for next summer. A very heartfelt thank you to all who participated, volunteered, or sponsored this life enriching, community and family event!!

Speaking of Sponsors:

**CONSUMER'S CREDIT UNION
OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP
WESTERN MI UNIVERSITY**

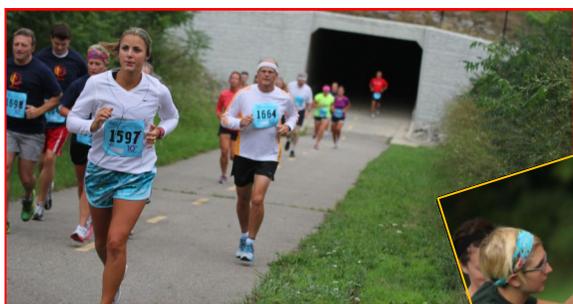
Meijer, Kohls, Steensma, Hartleb Agency, Adams Outdoor Signs, Walgreens, Secant, Paw Paw Wine Distributors, Halli's Auto Care, Megee/West Colony, Canneys Water, Wondermint-Gifts.com, Siegfried Crandall, Kalamazoo County Parks, Canopium, SolSpring, Republic Waste, Gazelle Sports, Life EMS, The Rock, Husted's Market, CenterPoint Church, The Bagpipers, Double JJ's DJ Service, & Oshtemo Fire Department!!



What to look forward to next year??? A new style shirt is planned for next year as designed medals, a new spin on the family fun run, bigger and better prizes for top

well as specifically finishers, more face

painting & blood pressure screening, and of course.....the same great scenery and fabulous participant bags you have enjoyed in previous years!!! See you next year!!



Parks Update—September 2012

With summer coming to an end and the beginning of fall around the corner we can reflect on the exciting summer our parks experienced:

Township Park—Summer started out with a fun filled dedication of the newly renovated Township Park in May. The event was a collaboration between Oshtemo Friends of the Parks, the Kalamazoo Public Library and Township staff. The weather cooperated and hundreds of residents came to join in the celebration. Also during the summer there were three “Movies in the Park” events sponsored by the Consumers Sunburst Run and the Kalamazoo Public Library for all to enjoy. Kalamazoo Public Library also had a storyteller program that was well attended. The new playground equipment, trails to the new overlook deck, and basketball courts were well used this summer. The large pavilion can now be reserved. Call the Clerk’s Office at 216.5224 for availability/fees.



Oshtemo family settles in for Movies in the Park!!

The rental application is also available at www.oshtemo.org under the Applications link.

Flesher Field— the whiffle balls fields were in full swing and for the first time a vintage baseball game played in the open field. To end the summer there was a very successful Oshtemo Fun Day, sponsored by Oshtemo Rotary, another partner in parks enhancements. The Flesher Field Phase One Master Plan redevelopment application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program remains pending, the Trust Fund will notify the Township in December.

Grange Hall—The Park Committee is working on a design for a small playground at the Grange Hall. Donations of \$10,000 have been received for this improvement.

Our hat is off to all the dedicated volunteers who donated their time to make all these programs a success. Residents who have had the opportunity to experience our parks realize they enhance our quality of life here in Oshtemo. We all look forward to a colorful fall in our parks as the leaves change and we enjoy the beauty of our Oshtemo parks.

The Park Committee



This group formed in 2011 is seeking volunteers for special park projects. Two members, Grace Borgfjord and Peggy Warlick, have been very busy this summer with “Wednesday Weeding” at Flesher Field, keeping the sundial maintained. The group also has an ongoing fund raising campaign offering memorial plaques on the new benches in the Township Park. Funds raised by the group will facilitate park programming.

For more information contact Grace Borgfjord at 375.6058 or gborgfjord@oshtemo.org

Pickleball Anyone?

After hearing from several interested residents, the Park Committee proceeded with adding striping to the new tennis courts at the Township Park to accommodate an up and coming sport— Pickleball. This added yet another recreational opportunity to the newly renovated park!



Pickleball is a sport described as a combination of ping-pong, tennis, and badminton and typically played on a badminton court with a net that is lowered to 34 inches in the middle. Players use a baseball sized whiffle ball and a paddle, similar to a large ping-pong paddle, to volley the ball back and forth.

A Pickleball clinic will be held at the Township Park on September 25th at 10:00 a.m. with a rain date of September 27th. All levels all welcome! For more information please call 491.2933.

From Clerk Deb Everett...

As outlined in detail in the June newsletter, due to the 2010 census and redistricting, some precinct lines have been moved. Effective with the August 7th primary, some voters moved to new polling locations. The reasons include moving precinct lines to follow school district lines and others due to the need to find new polling locations; these changes have also resulted in the addition of a new precinct. (See the map)

Michigan Election Law requires fully accessible municipal, non-profit or quasi-public facilities be used for polling locations and we look for those that have ample parking, space to accommodate lines during the larger turnout elections, and adequate facilities for the precinct workers. We are fortunate that we have several very generous hosts who provide this valuable community service. Recently some voters have been inconvenienced by having to change locations or use temporary facilities. Again, every attempt is made to maintain precincts in the same location; however, at times circumstances are beyond my control.

State law also required new voter identification cards be mailed to each voter; cards were mailed in May. If you have not received your new voter ID card, please contact my office. While you do not have to have your card in order to vote, it does **indicate your polling location** as well as the district numbers for the county, state and federal offices.

**REMINDER– Michigan Election Law requires you to register at least 30 days prior to Election Day
The deadline to register for the November 6th General Election is October 9th.**

PRECINCTS WITH CHANGES EFFECTIVE WITH THE AUGUST 7, 2012 ELECTION:

Precinct #1 Oshtemo Township Hall – 7275 West Main Street

This precinct will now be the location for **all** voters located in the Otsego Public Schools district.

Mattawan Consolidated Schools residents who voted here will now be in Precinct #2 and vote at Fire Station #2 located at 3500 South 6th Street.

Kalamazoo Public Schools residents who voted here will now be in Precinct #9 and vote at the Oshtemo Branch Library located on West Main next to the Township Hall.

Precinct #2 Oshtemo Fire Station #2 – 3500 South 6th Street (just north of Stadium Dr.)

This precinct will now be the location for **all** voters located in the Mattawan Consolidated Schools District.

Kalamazoo Public Schools residents who voted here will now be in Precinct #10 and vote at the Oshtemo Methodist Church located at 6574 Stadium Drive, just west of 9th Street.

Precinct #3 People’s Church – 1234 North 10th Street

Kalamazoo Public Schools residents who had been voting at the Fire Station on West Main will move to this location.

Otsego Public Schools residents who voted at the Fire Station on West Main will now be in Precinct #1 and vote at the Township Hall.

Precinct #9 Oshtemo Branch Library – 7265 West Main Street

Kalamazoo Public Schools residents who had been voting at the Centerpoint Community Center on North 10th Street will move to this location.

Otsego Public Schools residents who voted at the Centerpoint Community Center will now be in Precinct #1 and vote at the Township Hall.

Precinct #10 Oshtemo United Methodist Church – 6574 Stadium Drive

This will be the new location for voters in the Kalamazoo Public School district who previously voted at Fire Station #2 on South 6th Street.

PRECINCTS WITH NO CHANGES:

Precinct #4 **Fourth Reformed Church** – Fellowship Hall – 6339 Atlantic Avenue

Precinct #5 **West Kalamazoo Christian Church** – 454 South Drake Road

Precinct #6 **Summer Ridge Apartments Clubhouse** – off Maple Hill Drive

Precinct #7 **Fourth Reformed Church** – Gym – 6339 Atlantic Avenue

Precinct #8 **Oshtemo Community Center** – 6407 Parkview Avenue

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

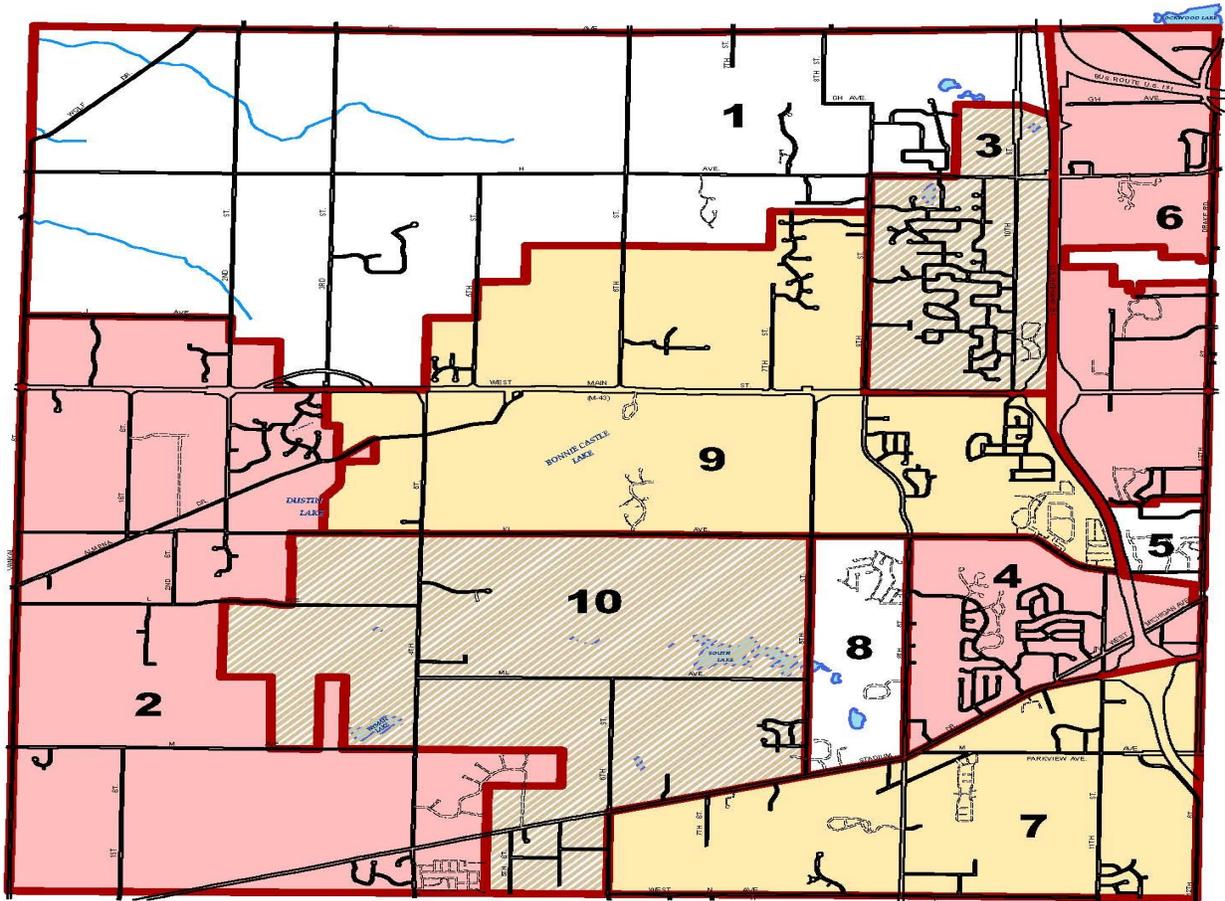
Voters age 60 or older or those with a permanent disability can request to be placed on our permanent absentee voter list and will automatically receive an application for an absentee ballot prior to each election. Any voter meeting the required criteria can request an absentee ballot application by phone or complete the application available on our website under the "Applications" link. A ballot can also be requested by mail—provide your name, registered address, the address where the ballot should be mailed, date of birth and the reason for needing to vote by absentee ballot.

Required Criteria are:

- *age 60 years old or older
- *unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- *expecting to be out of town on election day
- *in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- *unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- *appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence

Please call the Clerk's Office at 216.5224 if you have any questions regarding your voter registration, polling location or requesting an absentee ballot.

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP PRECINCT MAP



- Precinct 1 - Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street
- Precinct 2 - Oshtemo Fire Station No. 2, 3500 South 6th Street
- Precinct 3 - Peoples Church, 1758 North 10th Street
- Precinct 4 - Fourth Reformed Church Fellowship Hall, 6339 Atlantic Ave
- Precinct 5 - West Kalamazoo Christian Church, 454 South Drake Road
- Precinct 6 - Summer Ridge Apts Clubhouse, 5545 Summer Ridge Blvd
- Precinct 7 - Fourth Reformed Church Gym, 6339 Atlantic Ave
- Precinct 8 - Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Ave
- Precinct 9 - Oshtemo Branch Library, 7265 West Main Street
- Precinct 10 - Oshtemo United Methodist Church, 6574 Stadium Drive

OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS



Stella Branch entertains from the Drake House front porch with her violin!



Anderson DeWaters Family descendants accepting their Certificate of Recognition.

On July 21st, the Oshtemo Historical Society along with the Oshtemo Township Board, held Pioneer Day to honor 34 of our early settler families. There were close to 50 family descendants who were present and received certificates recognizing these early citizens. The well attended event offered tours of the Drake House, where there were needle-craft demonstrations inside with additional demonstrations by Tillers International outside. There were also musicians on the porch and old time games for children on the lawn.

This fall we are pleased to present the following speakers. Please join us for these programs, which are held at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 W. Main Street, starting at 7:00 p.m.

- September 20th** Ilah Henderson will share the history of the **Oshtemo Methodist Church**, as it celebrates 150 years in our community.
- October 18th** Come and learn about the **Kalamazoo State Hospital's Colony Farm** property. Mark Hoffman will tell how it developed from the farm of early Oshtemo settler, Neal Hines.
- November 15th** Martha Starmann will discuss the **White Pigeon Land Office**, opened in the early 1830's, from which territorial and then state land throughout Western Michigan was purchased.

For more information about the Oshtemo Historical Society, please visit our website at

www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org

Postal Customer

ECSRWSS

Fx375-7180

Ph375-4260

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

7275 West Main Street



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LAKE MICHIGAN MAILERS, INC.