

**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

Fire Chief Mark Barnes 375-0487

Ordinance Enforcement Rick Suwarksy 216-5227

**How Do You Want to Receive YOUR Newsletter?**

As we advised in the December newsletter, the rising cost of printing/ mailing has inspired the Clerk's Office to offer different options to access the newsletter – this edition will be the last one automatically mailed to every residence in the Township. There are still three ways to access the newsletter:

- To continue receiving a mailed "hardcopy" newsletter, please contact the Clerk's Office at 216.5224, email [deverett@oshtemo.org](mailto:deverett@oshtemo.org), or stop by the Township Office and add your name to the list at the front counter.
- To receive the newsletter electronically, go to the home page of our web site [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org) and subscribe.
- View the newsletter on our website ([www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org)) along with archived copies.



**BLOOD DRIVE NEWS!!**

**Wednesday, April 23rd from 11am—6 p.m.**

Come in for Lasagna & Salad and a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

Then again on **Wednesday, June 25th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

The December gift card winner was Joe Wiggers!!

Blood Drives are held at  
Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main

**Health Care Enrollment Assistance**

A coalition of health and social services agencies will be offering information and one-on-one assistance with enrollment for health care plans through the Affordable Care Act

**March 12th— 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview**

For more information contact  
Kalamazoo County H&HS at 373.5061.

**Township Office Hours**

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

(1st Thurs each month open at 9 am)

We will be **CLOSED** **May 26 —Memorial Day**

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

**BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Oshtemo Charter Township Board of Review for 2014 will be held at Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 4, 9 a.m.—Organizational meeting

Monday, March 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet at the above dates and times for the purpose of hearing appeals and correcting the assessment rolls. For appointment call (269) 216-5225 by March 7, 2014.

Written appeals received on or before  
March 10, 2014 will be accepted  
in lieu of appearance.

The dates listed provide a total of at least 12 hours during the week of March 10, with at least 3 hours held after 6 p.m. as required by statute.

## 2014 DUMP DAYS

Township Hall Parking Lot  
7275 West Main Street

9 am—3pm Proof of residency required.

March 29	April 12	April 26	May 10
May 31	June 28	July 26	August 30
Sept 27	Oct 25	Nov 8	Nov 22

Yard waste, kitchen garbage, dead animals, hazardous materials, or large quantities of building materials cannot be accepted.

Leaf drop off days will be Nov 8 & Nov 22

### Who Do I Contact For?????

#### Road Maintenance & Snow Plowing

First contact should be with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission at 381.3171 or on line at [www.kalamazooountyroads.com/contact.php/](http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/contact.php/) A second option is to reach out to the Road Commission, Oshtemo Township Liaison, Dan Moyle at (269) 668-2198. The "Maintenance" tab on their home page provides information on their policies for road maintenance and snow plowing.

#### Streetlight Outage

Report a streetlight problem to Consumers Energy at [www.consumersenergy.com](http://www.consumersenergy.com) and type "streetlight out" in the search box. You can also call 1.800.477.5050.

#### Disposal of Oil, Paint, Batteries, Computers, and other Hazardous Materials

Contact Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center at 373.5211 or visit their web page at [www.kalcounty.com/hhw](http://www.kalcounty.com/hhw)



**OSHTEMO ROTARY**  
**34TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
**Ted & Marie's Colonial Inn Restaurant**  
**8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**August 16th**  
**Oshtemo Rotary 17th Annual**  
**Fun Day at Flesher Field**

## 2014 Election News

This year brings three elections to our voters:

May 6<sup>th</sup> – School Election

August 5<sup>th</sup> – Primary Election

November 4<sup>th</sup> – General Election



The May ballot will have the following issues:

#### Kalamazoo Public Schools

**KRESA Enhancement millage renewal**

**Kalamazoo Public Library millage renewal**

#### Mattawan Consolidated Schools

**Kalamazoo Public Library millage renewal**

#### Otsego Public Schools

**18 mill non-homestead millage renewal**

**Kalamazoo Public Library millage renewal**

The last day to register to be eligible to vote in the May 6<sup>th</sup> election is April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Clerk's Office at 216.5224 to verify your registration, polling place or to obtain an absentee ballot application.

Voters 60 and over or those permanently disabled can ask to be placed on our Permanent Absentee voter list to automatically receive an application for an absentee ballot each election.

### Tree Seedling Sale

With Spring around the corner, now is the time to plan your landscaping and conservation planting projects. The Kalamazoo Conservation District is accepting orders for tree and shrub seedlings through March 28<sup>th</sup>. A wide variety of evergreen trees, shade trees, understory trees, and shrubs are offered. Seedlings are sold separately or in bundles of 5, 10, 25 or more and ready for pickup on April 18th and 19th. Order forms are available at [kalamazooconservation.org](http://kalamazooconservation.org) or by calling 269.382.5121.



### LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you are interested in serving on a board or committee please contact Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell at 216.5220 or [libbyhc@oshtemo.org](mailto:libbyhc@oshtemo.org), or submit a Board Appointment Application available on our website at [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org) under the Applications link. Citizens serve on the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Downtown Development Authority, Parks Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and ad hoc committees as needed.





# consumers sunburst run

Join us for the 5th Annual Consumers Sunburst Run!

On April 26th, join us for a day of fun and fitness to support our local community parks and family programs! The day's events include a 10K run and 5K run/walk over road, trail, tunnel and bridge through the scenic Oshtemo countryside. Results are provided by Classic Race Management, and we offer unique gifts to our winners.

Following the main event, kids 12 and under run free in the annual one-mile Family Fun Run and a pancake breakfast will be served. Donations will be welcome for the breakfast.

Proceeds earned from the run are used in partnership with local organizations that support our parks and family programs, such as Oshtemo Parks, the Kalamazoo Public Library, Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, and Greater Kalamazoo Girls on the Run. Last year's event supported the 2014 Fleisher Field renovation project, Kalamazoo River Valley Trail's Trick or Trail event, and the Kalamazoo Public Library's Family Movie Nights in the Park.

Visit [ConsumersSunburst.org](http://ConsumersSunburst.org) to register today or fill out form below and mail complete form and payment to: Consumers Sunburst, Attn: Ron Martin, P.O. Box 525, Oshtemo, MI 49077.

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Saturday, April 26, 2014 \* Immanuel Fellowship Church, 6015 West H Avenue, Kalamazoo

7:30 am - 10K Run \* 9:00 am - 5K Run/Walk \* 10:00 am - One-mile Family Fun Run

- 10K Run - Adult - \$30
- 10K Run - Student (ages 13-22) - \$25
- 10K Run - Under 13 - \$20
- 5K Run/Walk - Adult - \$30
- 5K Run/Walk - Student (ages 13-22) - \$25
- 5K Run/Walk - Under 13 - \$20
- Family Fun Run Only - Over 13 - \$20
- Family Fun Run - Child (Under 13) - FREE

- Male
- Female

*\*If you register for the 10K Run, you are more than welcome to participate in the 5K Run/Walk and the one-mile Family Fun Run for no additional cost. If you register for the 5K Run/Walk, you can participate in the one-mile Family Fun Run for no additional cost.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ER Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_  Men's  Women's  Youth

**Waiver must be signed:**

In registering for the "Consumers Sunburst Run", I am fully aware, understand, and assume the risk and responsibility for participating in this race on a course that is partially open to vehicular traffic and has some challenges on it. I have fully conditioned myself to the appropriate level of fitness and waive all claims against the race directors and sponsors, the host site, and all that are involved in putting on this event, etc. I am also aware that if the race gets cancelled due to weather or other reason beyond the race sponsors control that the race entry fee is non-refundable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature required (parent sign if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date signed



## TOWNSHIP CREATING CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY FOR DRAKE ROAD ENHANCEMENTS

The CIA is coming to Oshtemo Township. No, not that CIA (at least not that we are aware of.) The Township Board is undertaking the steps necessary to establish a Corridor Improvement Authority (also known as a CIA) within the Township.

A CIA is an entity established by the Township in a specific area for the purposes of making improvements within that area. CIA's specifically focus on established commercial corridors and provide improvements within the corridor in order to enhance the quality of the surrounding area.

The Township Board is focusing its efforts to establish a CIA along the Drake Road corridor, specifically from West Main Street to Stadium Drive. The proposed boundary includes properties in this area with frontage on the west side of Drake Road or within 500 feet of Drake Road, as well as properties along KL Avenue.

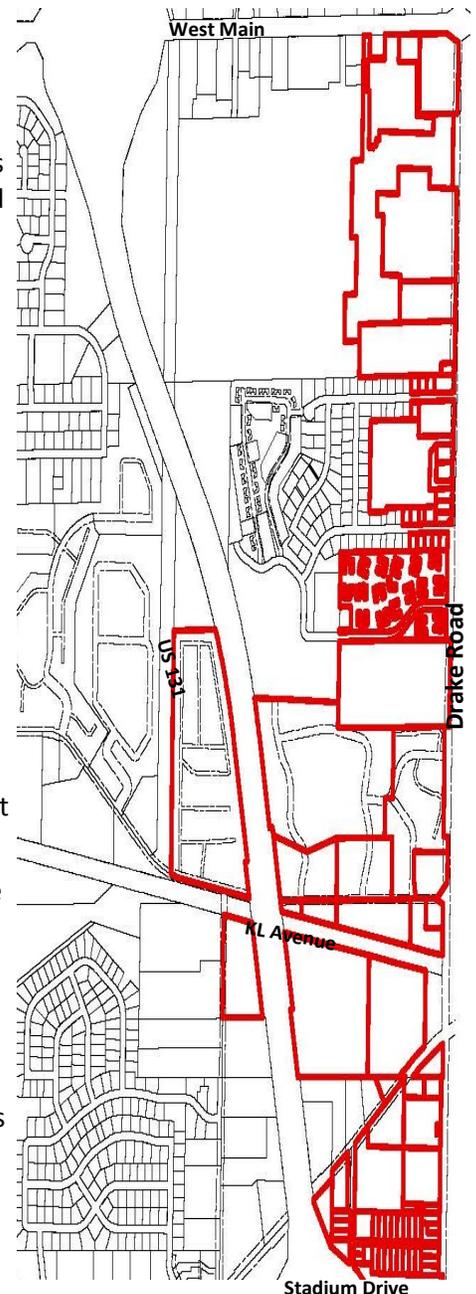
A CIA is very similar to a DDA (Downtown Development Authority), which was established in the Village Area of the Township around 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Stadium Drive about 10 years ago. A CIA is one of the few economic development tools available to Townships from the State. It is relatively new as it was only enacted by the State in 2005.

Much like a DDA, a CIA is given fairly broad authority in an effort to improve the designated corridor. One of the tools available to the CIA is tax increment financing or TIF. This allows the authority to capture the increase in taxes created by the improvements in the district as well as any new development that occurs.

It is important to note that establishment of the CIA will not result in an increase in property taxes nor will the authority have the unilateral ability to raise taxes. Nor is this an effort to change zoning or shift the vision for future development along Drake Road. For the individual property owner within the district, there will be little to no impact from the establishment of the CIA other than the benefits gained from improvements that occur within the area.

Ultimately, it will be up to the CIA board to determine what those improvements will be and what the CIA will focus on achieving. That being said, the Township Board has stated that their priority and the reason for undertaking this effort is in order to help fund the development of a bike path or sidewalk along Drake Road.

It is anticipated that the Board will take action on the establishment of the CIA at the end of March. If created, a board will also be appointed and charged with quickly going to work on the improvement of the Drake Road corridor. If you have questions about this, please contact Greg Milliken, Planning Director, 269.216.5223.



### GROW YOUR OWN VEGGIES

Voyage Church is again offering individual garden spots to those who wish to grow their own vegetables, but don't have space for a garden. The spots are 10' x 15', will be rototilled in preparation, and have water available. There is no charge, and each family/individual will be responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned area.

The number of spots is limited and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

The church is located at 6339 Atlantic Avenue. To reserve a spot call Ward at 267.7395 or Rosemary at 375.1248.

## More Grant Funds for Flesher Field Improvements

A new playground, a second picnic shelter, a new gazebo with garden space, and relocation of two wiffleball fields will soon be coming to Flesher Field, thanks in part to a \$300,000 development grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). These improvements are expected to be complete in late fall. They will complement the new restroom building, parking lot and .17 mile paved loop trail, funded by a previous MNRTF grant, which are expected to open in early June. "We're thrilled to be able to upgrade Flesher Field," said Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Oshtemo Township Supervisor. "Kids and parents will love the new playground, and we're certain that the new gazebo and garden space will be a wonderful venue for family gatherings, weddings, and birthday celebrations." All of the park improvements will provide barrier-free access to those with disabilities. Flesher Field is located on South 9<sup>th</sup> Street just south of Stadium Drive. It features mowed areas for soccer, football, and other types of active recreation and a wooded area with hiking trails. For more information about the park or the upcoming improvements, contact Karen High, Parks Administrator, at 216-5223.



**OSHTEMO FRIENDS OF THE PARKS** will be busy this year with several events planned in support of our parks! We will be assisting with the community breakfast at the Consumers Sunburst Run on April 26th. Activities at the Township Park will include a nature/bird watching walk and helping build a rain garden in the spring, and serving popcorn at the "Movies In the Park" during the summer.

If you have a passion for our parks and a little time to share, we invite you to join Oshtemo Friends of the Parks as we work to maintain and further develop these community treasures. To learn more please visit our new, developing website at [www.oshtemofriends.org](http://www.oshtemofriends.org) or like us on Facebook!

**MORE PARKS NEWS.....**The Parks Committee and Township staff have been working to develop plans for upgrading and renovating the Grange Hall for more accessible use. Fund raising in the form of seeking grants, private donations, and partnerships with the users of the facility will be pursued to move this project forward. In addition, with donations specifically named for a small playground at the Grange Hall, work is underway to complete a design.

If you're looking for an event space for family gatherings, wedding or baby showers, or a picnic, did you know information is available on our webpage about facilities the Township has available for residents to rent?

The Oshtemo Community Center and Grange Hall are available to residents for a nominal fee; the Township Park pavilion is available to all. Applications and fee schedules are available at [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org) on the home page Rental Facilities link with access to calendars so you can check if your desired date is available.

The smaller picnic pavilion at the Township Park and the shelter at Flesher Field are not available for reservation but on a first come, first served basis. When the additional shelter is added to Flesher Field, we anticipate one will then become available for reservations.



Did you know.....there is an Oshtemo Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to support our parks and recreation projects for generations to come? If you are interested in making a gift, please contact Township Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell or Parks Administrator Karen High at 375-4260. Gifts may also be made directly to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation at [www.kalfound.org](http://www.kalfound.org).

## OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Let's put winter behind us and think about spring! We have some interesting programs in the months ahead. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to join us. All programs are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 7275 W. Main Street, unless stated otherwise. Visitors are always welcome to these free programs.



**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – **“The History of Oshtemo Underfoot”**: glacial and geological History of the Oshtemo area. Speaker, Dr. Tara Kneeshaw, Geology Department, Grand Valley State University.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** - **“Gangster Era of Berrien County”**. This illustrated program explores the Gangster Era (1920's) and identifies local sites that exist today. Presented by Robert C. Meyers, Curator, History Center of Berrien County Historical Association.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** – **“Letters from a Michigan Civil War Soldier”**. Dressed in the part, Steve Rigoni, high school teacher and collector of historical memorabilia, will give voice to letters written to a soldier's wife during the war.

For more information about the Oshtemo Historical Society, please visit our website at [www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org).

Postal Customer

\*\*\*ECSRWSS\*\*\*

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