




charter township  
**oshtemo NEWSLETTER**  
est. 1839

March 2013

**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 Officer Rick Suwarsky 216-5227

**BLOOD DRIVE NEWS!!**  
**Wednesday, April 24, 2013**  
**11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
Come in for a BBQ lunch/dinner and a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

**Wednesday, June 26, 2013**  
**11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Food for this date is yet to be determined, but you know its gonna be yummy!!

December winner was Sophia Darling. Door prizes provided by donations from some Oshtemo Township Employees. *Winners are drawn and notified the day after the blood drive.*




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

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

**Oshtemo Township will be CLOSED**  
**May 27, 2013 in observance of Memorial Day**



**2013 Dump Days**

	March 30	April 13	April 27
	May 11	May 25	June 29
	July 27	August 31	Sept 28
	Oct 26	Nov 23	

Leaf Days = November 2nd & 23rd  
9AM—3PM @ Township Hall Parking Lot  
7275 West Main

**OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The 2013 March Board of Review will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 5	9 am Organizational meeting
Monday, March 11	9 am to 4 pm
Tuesday, March 12	3 pm to 9 pm
Wednesday, March 13	10 am to 3 pm

The Board of Review will meet at the above dates and times for the purpose of hearing appeals and correcting the 2013 assessment roll. For appointment call 269.216.5225 by March 11, 2013. Written appeals received on or before March 8th will be accepted in lieu of appearance.

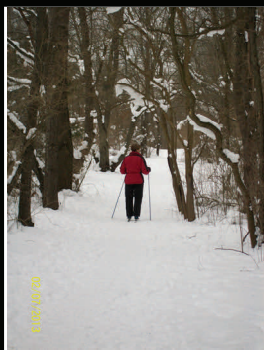
The dates listed provide a total of at least 12 hours during the week of March 11th, with at least 3 hours held after 6 pm as required by statute.

The tentative multipliers for each class of real property for 2013 are as follows:

Agriculture	1.05153	Industrial	.87998
Commercial	.96563	Residential	1.03051

Cathy Harrell, Assessor  
Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Township Supervisor

**It's easy to report a streetlight problem online at**  
**[www.consumersenergy.com](http://www.consumersenergy.com)**  
**Search "streetlight repair"**



### Grants Aid Township Parks

Oshtemo Township residents will soon enjoy major park improvements at Flesher Field, thanks in part to a \$300,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The Township's second largest park, Flesher Field is well-loved for its open green areas

used for soccer, wiffleball, and softball and its colorful playground. The park is also home to Oshtemo Fun Day, a Rotary-sponsored community event enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors each August.

Improvements to Flesher Field will include reconfiguration of the entry drive and parking lot for increased safety, a new universally accessible restroom building, and an accessible .17 mi. paved loop trail. Project cost is estimated at \$435,300. Oshtemo Township will provide \$135,300 to match grant funds, much of which was already set aside for anticipated parking lot maintenance and paving.

The Township plans to continue seeking grants for future phases of park improvements at Flesher Field. Future phases may include a new playground, a new garden space with a small pavilion for events, a second picnic shelter designed to complement the existing shelter that will remain, and a hard surface/water play area. In the wooded portion of the park, trail improvements, an overlook, and forest restoration work is proposed. Planned improvements follow the recommendations of the Flesher Field Master Plan prepared following community workshops and public design sessions led by landscape architecture firm OCBA.

Recent improvements to Township Park were also constructed with funding from an MNRTF grant. \$500,000 was awarded in 2010 for a new playground, picnic shelter, paved loop trail, restroom building, basketball court, tennis court, and expanded parking area. The new park was dedicated in May of 2012, and the number of park visitors has increased significantly as a result. According to Township Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell, "It's certainly rewarding to see so many people enjoying the Township Park. I'm sure that the improvements to Flesher Field will be equally positive for our community."

*For more information, contact Karen High, Parks Administrator, at (269) 216-5223 or [khoshtwp@oshtemo.org](mailto:khoshtwp@oshtemo.org).*



**KABA—KALAMAZOO AREA BUILDING AUTHORITY.....**As of October 1st, the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority is conducting all business related to building permits and inspections for Oshtemo, Kalamazoo, Comstock & Cooper Townships. The west side office of KABA is located at the Oshtemo Township Hall meaning residents of the Township can still conduct all building related business at this location. The phone number is 216-9643.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup>. A wide variety of evergreen trees, shade trees, understory trees, and shrubs are offered. The seedlings are sold in bundles of 5, 10, 25 or more and will be ready for pickup on April 19 and 20. Order forms are available at [kalamazooconservation.org](http://kalamazooconservation.org) or by calling (269) 327-1258 ext 4.



**Oshtemo  
Friends of the Parks**

The **Oshtemo Friends of the Parks** invites you to visit our parks to enjoy their natural beauty, participate in recreational activities, connect with others or simply take time out to replenish your spirit. Come often and enjoy the Oshtemo quality of life.

Do you have a passion for our parks and a little time to share? As we work to maintain and further develop these community treasures, we invite you to join the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks at our next meeting scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at the Township Hall.

If you would like to share a bit of your time preserving and improving our parks, please call the Township Office to learn about volunteer opportunities within the parks.

To learn more about the Oshtemo Friends of the Park activities or to make a donation, please visit our new, developing website, <http://www.oshtemofriends.org>.

Hope to see you in the parks!



Did you know..... that a gift to the **Oshtemo Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund** at the Kalamazoo

Community Foundation will continue to support our parks and recreation projects for generations to come? If you are interested making a contribution, or perhaps including a gift in your estate, please contact Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Township Supervisor, or Karen High, Parks Administrator, at 375-4260. Gifts may also be made online at [www.kalfound.org](http://www.kalfound.org).



## What happens to the value of my property once it transfers ownership?

The purchase of your home may not greatly affect the assessed value of

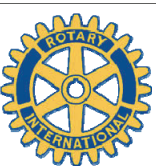
your new property (contrary to popular opinion). The local assessor may not come out and reassess your property after they find out that a transfer has taken place, and your property's assessed value most likely WILL NOT automatically become 50% of what you paid for your property. What will happen, however, is still somewhat of a shock for some who are not aware of Proposal A.

Section 211.27 a of the Michigan Compiled Law states: "Upon transfer of ownership of property after 1994, the property's taxable value for the calendar year following the year of the transfer is the property's assessed value of the calendar year following the transfer."

This means that if you purchase your property this year, with a current assessed value of \$53,400, and a taxable value of \$48,200, in the year following the transfer you will be paying taxes on the new assessed value, which will include the market adjustment. That new assessed value will serve as your base for all of the future adjustments on both your assessed and taxable values.

It becomes a matter of "buyer beware," as on several occasions most buyers are not made aware by anyone in their sales transaction that this is going to happen.

Most find themselves in difficult positions when they were led to believe that their property taxes were going to be a far less amount than the amount they are actually billed. This is a process that is mandated by the State Tax Commission. Local assessors must abide by these regulations.



### !!! SAVE THE DATE !!!

**April 7th**—Oshtemo Rotary 33rd Annual Pancake Breakfast at Ted & Marie's Colonial Inn Restaurant



**June 29<sup>th</sup>**— S2 Games will again be gifting the community with a wonderful fireworks display. Thank You S2 Games!

**August 17<sup>th</sup>**— Oshtemo Rotary 16th Annual Fun Day at Flesher Field

## Join us for the 4th Annual Consumers Sunburst Run!



On April 20th, we will welcome warmer temperatures, celebrate Earth Day, and support the Oshtemo Parks at the 4th Annual Consumers Sunburst Run! All proceeds earned from the run go towards our local community parks and family programs. Join us for a day of fun and fitness perfect for the whole family!

The Consumers Sunburst Run is a community 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 for our winners. Following the main event, kids 12 and under run free in the annual one-mile Family Fun Run, sponsored by the Marvin Okun Agency. Those looking for a longer run are invited to participate in the 10k that will begin the day.

Visit [ConsumersSunburst.org](http://ConsumersSunburst.org) to register today! The first 500 runners to sign up will receive an event T-shirt. In honor of our 4th year, the first 44 runners to register will also receive enhanced Sunburst run bags!

Register by April 15th to avoid any late fees.

Generous Sponsors of the 2013 Sunburst include:

- Consumers Credit Union**
- Western Michigan University**
- Hartleb Agency
- Halli's Auto Care
- Adams Outdoor Signs
- Walgreens
- Paw Paw Wine Distributors
- Marvin Okun Insurance Agency
- Secant Technologies
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trail
- Wiser Productions / J. Janssen
- The Rock
- Anytime Fitness
- Megee Printing · Canney's
- Water · Siegfried Crandall
- Canopium · Republic Waste · Subway



VISIT THE WEB SITE..... [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org)

If you have any questions, concerns or requests for the new site, please contact the Clerk's Office at 216.5224 or [deverett@oshtemo.org](mailto:deverett@oshtemo.org)

## OSHTEMO'S TWO FREEWAY INTERCHANGES TO UNDERGO MAJOR CONSTRUCTION OVER NEXT TWO SUMMERS

### West Main/131 Interchange

Over the course of the next two construction seasons, Oshtemo's two freeway interchanges along US-131 will undergo significant construction projects. These projects will result in long-term improvements to the traffic flow, structural integrity, and aesthetics of the freeway interchanges at both West Main Street and Stadium Drive. However, in the short-term, residents and businesses should prepare accordingly for any disruptions that may be caused by the construction.

Starting in June of this year, the West Main Street (M-43) interchange will experience a major rehabilitation project. The design and layout of the interchange will remain the same. Bridge repairs will include concrete improvements, approach replacements, substructure work, and bridge painting.

In addition to these structural improvements, MDOT is adding a five foot sidewalk onto the south side of the bridge. In conjunction with the project, the Township will be extending the existing non-motorized facilities along West Main Street from the east and west to connect to the new sidewalk on the bridge. These improvements establish a greatly needed non-motorized connection across the freeway.

MDOT anticipates that construction beginning in June will continue through early November. During that time, at least one lane of West Main Street will be open in each direction throughout the project. Lane shifts and evening construction will be used to minimize traffic impacts. Ramp closures will be necessary at times with dates announced and detours posted on warning signs along the route. The official detour route is illustrated in the map shown here. 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Stadium Drive are suggested as an alternative means across US-131 during this project.

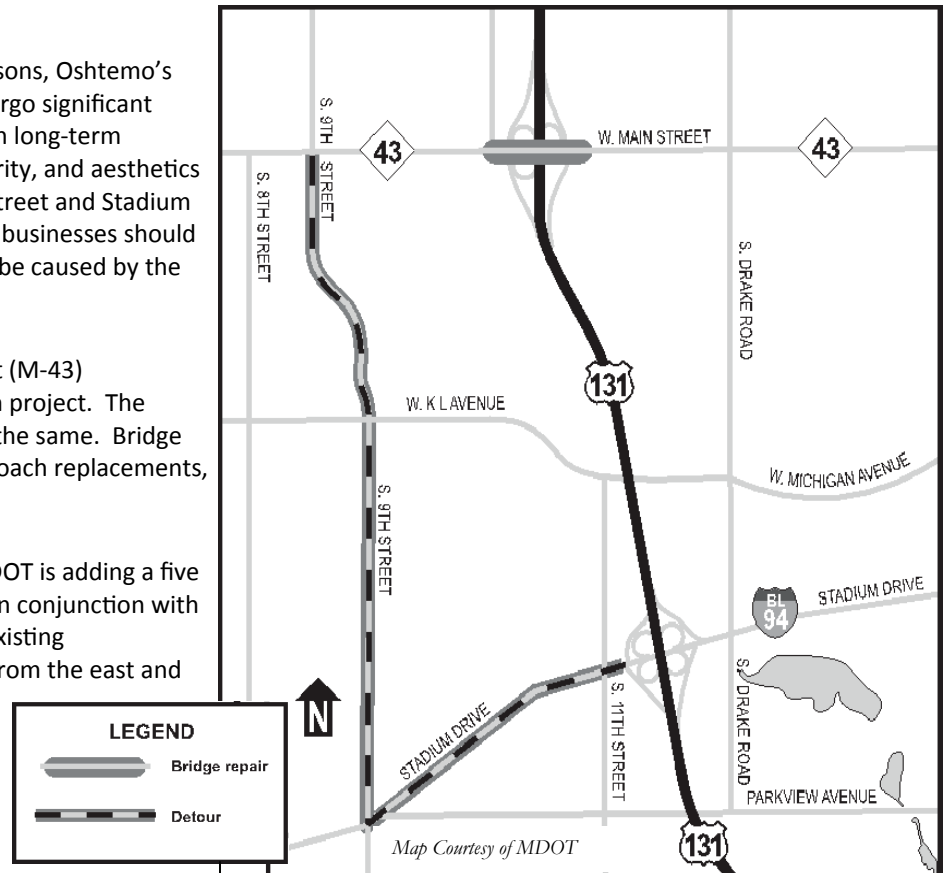
It is anticipated that MDOT will host a public meeting in the coming months prior to the commencement of construction. Details of this meeting as well as status updates throughout the course of the project will be available at the Township's website – [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org).

### Stadium Drive/131 Interchange

During the 2014 construction season, the Stadium Drive / US-131 interchange is scheduled to be completely reconstructed. The project will convert the interchange from the existing cloverleaf configuration to a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) configuration, a design similar to the new Westnedge Avenue / I-94 interchange. In addition to the interchange project, the Stadium Drive / Drake Road intersection will also be expanded to incorporate two left-turn lanes in each of the four turning directions. The project also includes stormwater management improvements, non-motorized facilities on the north and south sides of Stadium Drive across US-131, and a park and ride lot near the 11<sup>th</sup> Street / Stadium Drive intersection. Finally, the Century Drive / Drake Road intersection is proposed to be realigned to improve safety and access.

This is a massive project with a large number of components, all with significant long-term benefits to the community. The project has involved months of collaboration amongst many agencies and stakeholders, including the Township. Due to the size and scope of the project, traffic will likely be disrupted in this area for the duration of the construction season.

To that end, MDOT has scheduled a public open house for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Oshtemo Community Center (6407 Parkview Ave) to present the project and respond to questions from interested residents, business owners, and stakeholders. Details regarding the project, project schedules, and detour routes will be discussed at that time.



Example of a SPUI

## 2013 Election News



As of this date, there is only one scheduled election for this year. Issues on the May 7<sup>th</sup> ballot will be:

- Kalamazoo County Transit millage renewal
- Kalamazoo Public Schools bond request
- Mattawan Consolidated Schools 18 mill non-homestead renewal

The last day to register to be eligible to vote is April 6<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.

### MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2013

#### TOWNSHIP BOARD

*Second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm*

*Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm*

January	8	July	9
January	NO	July	NO
February	12	August	13
February	26	August	27
March	12	September	10
March	NO	September	NO
April	9	October	8
April	23	October	22
May	14	November	12
May	NO	November	NO
June	11	December	10
June	25	December	NO

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

*Second and Fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm*

January	10	July	11
January	24	July	25
February	14	August	8
February	28	August	22
March	14	September	12
March	28	September	26
April	11	October	10
April	25	October	24
May	9	November	14
May	23	November	no
June	13	December	12
June	27	December	no

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

*Fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm*

January	22	July	23
February	26	August	27
March	26	September	24
April	23	October	22
May	28	November	26
June	25	December	17*

\*denotes change from regular day of the month.

#### JOINT TWP BOARD/ PLANNING COMMISSION / ZBA

*Quarterly—Tuesday at 6:00 pm*

February	19	September	17
May	21		

#### DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

*Noon at Oshtemo Community Center*

January 17	March 21
May 16	July 18
September 19	November 21

If you are interested in serving on a board or committee please contact Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell 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.

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> – “Merrygolds, Pimpernels and Sea Brights; Heirloom Flowering Plants Worth Knowing Today”** Linda Whitlock, is Consumer Horticulturist for MSU Extension on Kalamazoo County and has completed an internship at Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn, restoring and recreating its original landscaping.

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup> - “Antique Timepieces: Pocket Watches and Wristwatches.”**  
Duane Hampsen invites guest to bring their items for him to look at and discuss.  
(Rescheduled from 2012.)

**JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> - “The Life and Times of Orville Gibson”** presented by Kalamazoo Public Museum's Tom Dietz, who will concentrate on the man behind the company and the famous musical instruments.

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

[www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org)

Postal Customer

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

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Ph375-4260

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