



charter township  
**oshtemo NEWSLETTER**  
 est. 1839

September 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



**2013 FLU SHOT CLINIC**

Oshtemo Township Hall  
 7275 West Main

Borgess Home Care  
 Wednesday, October 16th  
 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Questions? Call 382.6735

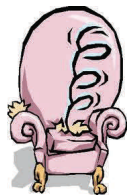
web site: [www.flushot.borgess.com](http://www.flushot.borgess.com)



**2013 Dump Days**

Sept 28—Oct 26—Nov 23

Township Hall Parking Lot 9 am-3 pm



**Leaf Drop Off Days**

November 2nd & 23rd

Township Park Parking Lot 9am-3pm

(Hauler cannot accept plastic bags—they must be emptied into the truck; paper bags can go in truck)

7275 West Main

**PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED**



**BLOOD DRIVE NEWS!!**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2013**  
 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Come in for a sloppy joe & a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

**Wednesday, December 18, 2013**  
 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Come in for a hot bowl of soup & a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

The June gift card winner was Sharon Ward!!

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

**SECURE YOUR ID DAY...**

**FREE SHREDDING**

Oshtemo Township is partnering with the Better Business Bureau and Data Guardian to offer free shredding on Secure Your ID Day.

October 19th

9 am to 11 am

Oshtemo Township Hall

Maximum of 10 boxes (banker box size)



**Public Media Network**

wants you to check out your local meetings on PMN with the following weekly replay schedule: Sunday 5am, Tuesday 11am, Thursday 1am, Friday 5pm. You may also view them on demand at [www.pmn.pegcentral.com](http://www.pmn.pegcentral.com).

**Township Office Hours**

Monday thru Thursday 8 am to 5 pm  
 Fridays 8 am to 1 pm  
 (1st Thurs each month open at 9 am)

Oshtemo Township will be **CLOSED**

**September 2nd —Labor Day**

**November 11th—Veterans Day**

**November 28th & 29th—Thanksgiving**



**TAX REMINDER...**

Summer taxes are due September 14th. Payments will be accepted on Monday, September 16th as on time. Mailed payments must be postmarked no later than September 14th and received by the 18th to be considered on time.



## WORK CONTINUES AT M-43/US-131



Shortly after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, MDOT started work on the major renovation of the M-43 / US-131 interchange. The work is slated to be completed in November. It entails substantial maintenance and restoration of the existing bridge, ramps, and roadway facilities. The work that is being done will extend the life and improve the safety of the interchange structure as well as upgrade its appearance.

A key element included in the project is a sidewalk to be added to the south side of the bridge. This sidewalk will provide a much needed connection over the freeway and tie into the existing non-motorized facilities east and west of the interchange. Soon, residents will be able to enjoy much safer pedestrian and bicycle travel between the neighborhoods on the west side of 131 and the stores and restaurants on the east side, and vice versa.

Many citizens reached out to Township Staff early on with questions or concerns regarding the project, its detour, or the manner in which people were avoiding the detour. With that feedback, Township Staff has worked closely with MDOT and the Sheriff's Department to address the concerns, add signage to the detour route, and increase enforcement in this area. As further issues emerge, please do not hesitate to contact the Township Office or contact MDOT's Kalamazoo Transportation Service Center at (269) 375-8900.

## AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER FOR SIDEWALKS ON DRAKE ROAD

Both the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo County Road Commission are planning roadway improvement projects on Drake Road between West Main Street and Ravine Road for 2014. Between West Main Street and Grand Prairie, the City of Kalamazoo will be widening Drake Road to three lanes and adding a sidewalk to the east side of the road. Between Grand Prairie and Ravine Road, the Road Commission will be resurfacing the road and making intersection improvements.

Oshtemo Township Staff is working closely with Kalamazoo Township, the City, and the Road Commission to incorporate additional non-motorized facilities as part of the improvement projects. This stretch of Drake Road provides primary road access for several large neighborhoods and developments, Kalamazoo Central High School, KRESA West facilities, several assisted living facilities, apartment complexes, the Drake House, the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, and the parks, school, and neighborhoods along Grand Prairie Avenue. Employees, students, seniors, and others will all benefit from enhanced, safer access to the activity centers along Drake Road and West Main Street.



If you have moved recently into your new home, don't forget to file your **Homeowner's Principle Residence Exemption** (formerly known as the Homestead Exemption). If you're not sure if you have done this, or if you have questions about qualifying, contact the Assessor's office immediately at 269-216-5225.

## KALAMAZOO AREA BUILDING AUTHORITY (KABA) CONSOLIDATING LOCATIONS

KABA will be consolidating its two offices into one location, moving the current east side location from Comstock Township to the current west side office at Oshtemo Township. The change will be in place effective September 2<sup>nd</sup>. KABA customers will soon be able to submit permit applications on line. Visit the KABA web site at [kaba-mi.org](http://kaba-mi.org) or call 216.9643 for more information.



**SPCA of Southwest Michigan** has been located at 6755 West KL Ave in Oshtemo since 2009 with housing available for approximately 55 dogs and 45 cats. Since their inception in 2002, over 12,000 animals have been rescued and rehabilitated. The shelter partners with 10 different area pounds to take animals to alleviate their over-crowding.



SPCA recently partnered with Oshtemo Township to assist with a family whose home was condemned and needed housing. The family had 4 dogs and 3 cats that were displaced; SPCA updated their medical needs along with altering them and had them up for adoption within a week. One of the cats delivered a litter of kittens while in the shelter; they have now been adopted and the mama is now also ready for adoption.

Low income families needing help feeding their pets can obtain assistance from SPCA's "Kibble Connection". Pick up hours are Tuesday—Friday from 1pm-7pm and Saturdays 11am-4pm.

Contact SPCA at 344.1474 or [www.spcaswmich.org](http://www.spcaswmich.org) for more information.



## Long Days of Summer

Our summer days are slowly shortening. The Friends of the Parks hopes you were among those who found time to enjoy Oshtemo's parks during the longest days of 2013.

Perhaps you are an early riser. Were you one of the first to enter the park with your hiking shoes, dog leash, tennis racket, basketball, or golf disc? If so, we hope you enjoyed the morning sun, the crisp air, the sound of bird song and the scampering of wild life. Our special thanks go to the volunteers who helped plant flowers at Township Park in June and the Master Gardeners who care for the flower bed at Flesher Field.

Perhaps you arrived mid morning with younger folk who couldn't wait to get unbuckled and race for their favorite slide, swing, or climbing challenge. What a great place for that cup of morning coffee, for children's play dates, or to catch up with a friend. Maybe you were able to arrange with your spouse or a friend to meet in the park for lunch. Did you find the parks a good stopping place as you were running errands or visiting the library?

Perhaps you reserved one of the park pavilions for a special gathering, a reunion or a birthday party. Did you notice the colorful art painted on trash barrels by Mattawan H.S. art students? Sincere thanks to art teacher, Cary VanderVeen, and his talented students!

Perhaps you unpacked the stroller, trike, or bike to cruise the path or sat on one of the dedicated benches at Township Park. Maybe you were one of the joggers or walkers on the half mile paved trail. Did you enjoy the laughter of children playing tag, rolling down the hill or chasing balls? Was finding your favorite parking spot a bit of a challenge as the park filled on nice days?

Perhaps in the early evening, you heard the whoosh of a hot air balloon launching from Flesher Field, participated in a disc golf league or played wiffle ball, soccer or basketball. As the sun went down, were you one of those who enjoyed the monthly "Movies in the Park?" These free movies were provided to our community by the Consumers Sunburst Run and the Kalamazoo Public Library.

We hope the summer of 2013 will hold special park memories for you and your family. If you treasure our parks, please visit the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks website or become a Friends of the Parks Volunteer at [www.oshtemofriends.org](http://www.oshtemofriends.org) or call the township office with your interest.

Visit [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org)  
for information about everything OSHTEMO!!

## Coming Soon: Flesher Field... **Under Construction!**

Please note that Flesher Field will be under construction beginning on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and ending in mid-November. The parking lot, driveway from 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and restroom building will be removed. A new, reconfigured parking lot, driveway, restroom building, and .17 mile paved trail will be constructed, along with added landscaping, rain gardens, and benches. The existing wiffle ball fields and soccer fields will remain open during construction, although access may be difficult at times. We apologize for any inconvenience to park users. Please feel free to contact the Township office if

you have any questions or concerns during the construction process. This project is funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in partnership with the Township and local sponsoring organiza-



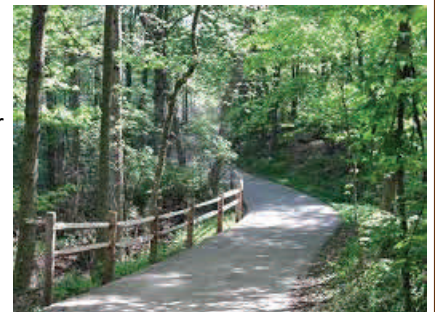
## Did you know.....that a gift to the

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 in making a contribution, or perhaps including a gift in your estate, please contact Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Township Supervisor, or Karen High, Parks Administrator, at (269)216-5223. Gifts may also be made online at [www.kalfound.org](http://www.kalfound.org).



## Oshtemo Friends of the Parks Fundraise to "Pave the Trail" at Flesher Field!

Please join us in improving our parks! Your tax deductible contribution is needed to help "Pave the Trail" at Flesher Field. Contributors of \$25 or more will be recognized on the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks and Township websites and at the September Groundbreaking and Spring Grand Opening Celebration. The paved trail that was built last year at Township Park has been a huge success, and we expect that a paved trail at Flesher Field will be equally popular. Visit the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks website at [oshtemofriends.org](http://oshtemofriends.org) to contribute.



# OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS



If you missed our July 20<sup>th</sup> event at the historic Drake Farmstead, or the August 17<sup>th</sup> open house, you will have another chance to tour the Drake House on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00. Free admission. Plan to stop by and check out the progress on the restoration.

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

- October 17<sup>th</sup>                    **“Vintage Views: Along the West Michigan Pike, from Sand Trails to US-31”**  
 Authors, Christine Byron and Tom Wilson will share the history of this beautiful road along Lake Michigan.
  
- November 21<sup>st</sup>                Steve Rossio, from the Portage District Library, will talk about the **Local contributions in World War II, 1941-1945.**

Postal Customer  
\*\*\*ECRWS\*\*\*

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