



charter township

oshtemo NEWSLETTER!

est. 1839

June 2015

How to contact your Oshtemo Township Officials

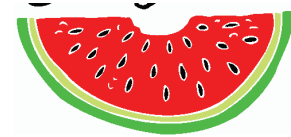
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell 216-5220 libbyhc@oshtemo.org
Clerk Deb Everett 216-5224 deverett@oshtemo.org
Treasurer Nancy Culp 216-5221 ncoshtwp@oshtemo.org
Trustee Nancy Carr 271-4359 nancycarr@bhhsmi.com
Trustee Dusty Farmer 251-5832 dfarmer@oshtemo.org
Trustee Grant Taylor 773-456-8777 granttaylor20@gmail.com
Assessor Cathy Harrell 216-5225 choshtwp@oshtemo.org
Planning Director Greg Milliken 216-5223 [gmiliken@oshtemo.org](mailto:gmilliken@oshtemo.org)
Ordinance Enforcement Rick Suwarsky 216-5227 rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org
Fire Chief Mark Barnes 375-0487 mbarnes@oshtemo.org

Township Office Hours

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

We will be CLOSED

July 3—Independence Day
 September 7—Labor Day



2015 Dump Day Schedule

Township Hall Parking Lot
 7275 West Main Street

9 am—3pm Proof of residency required.

June 27	July 25	Aug 29
Sept 26	Oct 31	Nov 21

Leaf Drop Off Days—Nov 7 & Nov 21

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

2015 Summer Tax Information

Summer tax notices will be mailed June 30. If you receive a tax bill but have an escrow with your mortgage company, you should forward the tax bill to them with a reminder that they must request the bill each taxing season. If your mortgage company has requested the tax bill, you will not receive a copy, but you may contact us and we will be glad to send you one. If you have not received your tax bill and do not have an escrow, please call the office. If you do not receive your bill and it becomes delinquent, you are responsible for the late fees. A reminder delinquent notice is not sent by the Township. You may also verify taxes have been paid by contacting the Treasurer's Office at 216-5221, or visit the website (updated daily) at www.oshtemo.org. Oshtemo Township now accepts tax payments via credit card at the counter, and online www.oshtemo.org. Your transaction will include a 3% fee.

2015 TAX DATES Summer taxes are due September 14. On September 15, a 1% fee will be added and another 1% will be added each month there after. Payments made by mail, with a postmark of September 14, will be accepted but must be received on or before September 18...NO EXCEPTIONS! If taxes are received in our office between September 15 thru February 28 without the interest included, we will receipt the taxes and send you a bill for the interest owed.

Please note the change in hours for the Township Office. We are open Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We have a DROP BOX in the parking lot, which is checked every day. Please feel free to contact the Treasurer's Office if you have any questions.

BLOOD DRIVE NEWS



***Wednesday, June 24th 11 am—6 pm**

Come in for a hotdog lunch and a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

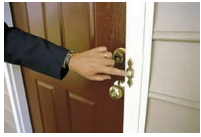
***August 26—11 am—6 pm**

***October 28—11 am—6 pm**

February & April winners were...

Chloe Weaver and Ann Musser!!

Bi-Monthly Blood Drives are held at the Township Hall, 7275 West Main. Appointments can be made with Michigan Blood by phone 1-866-MIBLOOD or email miblood.org.



SOLICITORS LICENSES ARE REQUIRED FOR DOOR TO DOOR SALES IN OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP

Anyone conducting door to door sales or surveys are required to register with the Township Office. Our Hawkers, Peddlers & Solicitors Ordinance was recently updated to require that No Trespassing signs be obeyed or be subject to an ordinance violation ticket.

Ask the solicitor if they have registered with the Township; they should have in their possession a license.

To report soliciting without a license, please contact the Clerk's Office at 216-5224 or the Ordinance Enforcement Officer at 216-5227. If you have concerns of suspicious activity, contact the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department at 383-8821, ext 6.



YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo Focuses on Diabetes Prevention

The YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo is helping to improve community health by offering an evidence-based diabetes prevention program. The one-year community-based program is designed to enable adults to make lifestyle changes that will improve their overall health and reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. You do not have to be a Y member to participate in the program.

Individuals can assess their risk for pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes by taking a simple test at YMCA.net/diabetes. Through this assessment, visitors can also learn how lifestyle choices and family history help determine the ultimate risk for developing the disease. Several factors that could put a person at risk for type 2 diabetes include race, age, weight and activity level. If a person is at risk, a diabetes screening conducted by a physician can confirm a diabetes or pre-diabetes diagnosis.

To join the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program, or learn more about the YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo's health and wellness programs, please contact Trish Harrison at 269-459-4881 or taharr@kzooyymca.org



Streetlight Out?

Report a streetlight problem to Consumers Energy at www.consumersenergy.com and type "streetlight out" in the search box. You can also call 1-800-477-5050.



Township Board Meetings are available with the following weekly replay schedule:

Tuesday 1 am, Wednesday 3 pm, Friday 7 pm, Saturday 8 am.

You may also view them on demand at pmn.pegcentral.com.

BE PREPARED FOR STORMY WEATHER



To best prepare yourself, use the resources available to you. The National Weather Service www.weather.gov and the

American Red Cross www.redcross.org have valuable information that is easily accessible. For those who use a cell phone, the Red Cross offers apps for several different emergency situations, including warnings of severe weather. Weather alert radios/monitors are also available at most retail stores.

Know the Difference Regarding Weather Statements

Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning - Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property.

Tornado Watch - Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

Tornado Warning - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately under ground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

Keep Your Family Ready

In case of a severe weather emergency, have a family disaster plan. Also, have an emergency preparedness kit ready. In the kit, include: First aid kit, flashlights, radio, batteries, bottled water, whistle to signal for help, canned food, can opener, blankets, rain gear.

AUGUST 4TH ELECTION

The issue on the ballot will be a millage request from the Central County Transit Authority. The following precincts are included in the boundary of the CCTA and **only these** will be open on Election Day:

Precinct 4—Voyage Church

Precinct 5—West Kalamazoo Christian Church

Precinct 6—Summer Ridge Apts—Clubhouse

Precinct 7—Voyage Church

Precinct 8—Oshtemo Community Center

NOTE: If you vote at the Township Hall, Fire Station No. 2, People’s Church, Oshtemo Branch Library, or Oshtemo Methodist Church, your precinct **is not** included in the CCTA boundary area and there will be no ballot question.

REMINDERS FOR VOTERS

The deadline to register for the August 4th election is July 6th. Polls are open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Required Criteria to qualify for an absentee ballot 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

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, fax, or e-mail but **must include** your name, registered address, the address where the ballot should be mailed, date of birth, reason for needing to vote by absentee ballot and your signature.

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.

Per Michigan Election Law, if you are obtaining your absentee ballot in person, you will be requested to show photo ID. If you are not in possession of photo ID, you can sign an affidavit stating you are not in possession of photo ID. This requirement does not apply if requesting your ballot via mail.

Please note a person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to voters who are active duty military, overseas, disabled or 60 years of age or older.

Please call the Clerk’s Office at 216-5224 or e-mail deverett@oshtemo.org with any questions you have regarding voter registration, polling locations or absentee ballots.

Would you like to be more involved in your community?

Visit our website at www.oshtemo.org and download an application to serve as a board/committee member or contact the Supervisor’s Office at 216-5220



3RD ANNUAL—'MOVIES IN THE PARK"

Oshtemo Township Park—7275 West Main

Movies start at dusk * Pre-movie activities for the kids * Free popcorn *
Bring your own seat (blanket or lawn chair)

June 18th—Surf's Up—great family fun

July 16th—Rear Window—A "reel" classic!

August 20th—Guardians of the Galaxy—Heroes of Summer!



Oshtemo Rotary's 18th Annual
OSHTEMO FUN DAY



August 15th 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Flesher Field—South 9th Street

Pancake Breakfast 8am—11 am

Rotary Concessions—11am—4pm

Tethered hot air balloon rides (weather permitting)

Fire & Police Vehicles/Demonstrations

Big Yellow Banana Car & Big Submarine Car

Magician

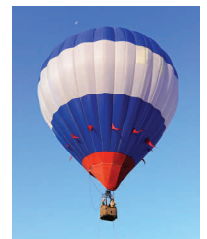
Vendor Booths

Childrens Activities including bouncers, obstacle course,
and petting zoo

DJ & live music all day

and much, much, more!!

Parking, admittance to the park and exhibits are free.



Great Parks Make Great Communities!

We're making great progress on the second phase of improvements at **Flesher Field!**

Our new playground is complete and ready for play. Bring your kids or grandkids to the park and check it out! It includes a small climber for younger kids, a bigger climbing structure for older kids, plus swings, things that spin, things that bounce, and a big rock for climbing on! There are challenging new play pieces, like the 'boogie board' for balancing skills, plus favorites like the 'x-wave', a new-fangled teeter totter.

The wiffleball fields have been relocated. Outfield fencing and grass seed will be installed soon. So that the new grass can grow, all wiffleball games will be played in temporary fields at the south end of the park this year.

A second picnic shelter and a new gazebo with paths and garden areas are under construction. One picnic shelter and the gazebo will be open for reservations in 2016. No reservations are being accepted this summer because of construction. Please keep Flesher Field in mind for your 2016 outdoor wedding, family reunion, or graduation party!

New benches and picnic tables will arrive later this summer, and more trees will be planted.



To celebrate our beautiful park improvements, a park dedication ceremony will be held on **Saturday, August 15th during Oshtemo Fun Day**. The ceremony will be held at **11:00 a.m.** at the large picnic shelter at Flesher Field. Please join us as we thank everyone who helped make our new park improvements possible. Funding for the park improvements is from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Oshtemo Township, and generous donations from the Consumers Sunburst Run and the Oshtemo Rotary Club.

Township Park, located behind the township offices on West Main Street, features a playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, two paved loop trails, two picnic shelters, a wiffleball field, and a wooded area with an 18-hole disc golf course and unpaved walking trails. This park is extremely popular for celebrations and family events. The large picnic shelter can be reserved online at Oshtemo.org or by visiting the Township office, 7275 West Main Street, or calling (269) 375-4260.

Our disc golf course will co-host the **2015 Amateur Disc Golf World Championships** from July 18-25. One of eight local courses to be featured in the competition, we look forward to showing off our park to visitors from around the world!

At the historic **Grange Hall**, located at 3rd Street and H Avenue, a small playground and barrier-free picnic area will be constructed later this summer. Funding is from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and private donations. The playground will include a swingset with belt seats, a toddler seat, and an accessible seat. A spinner and a spring toy are also included.

A master plan and market study are underway for the historic **Drake Farmstead** and its surrounding 26 acres, located at 927 North Drake Road. Public meetings were held in April and May to gather ideas and develop conceptual plans. For information about upcoming meeting dates in June and July, contact Karen High, Parks Director, at khigh@oshtemo.org or (269) 216-5223.

Safe, Sound & Secure Free Conference!!

(coordinated under the auspices of the Kalamazoo County Elder Abuse Coalition)

A free, half-day conference for older adults, caregivers, and other community members interested in these workshop topics:

- ⇒ Knowing Your Rights in Long Term Care Facility
- ⇒ Knowing How to Properly Hire a Paid Caregiver
- ⇒ Knowing the Pros and Cons of Joint Ownership, Power of Attorney and Other Legal Documents
- ⇒ Knowing How to Protect Yourself from Phone & Mail Scams

DATE: Tuesday, June 16th

TIME: 8:00am Registration & Breakfast; to 12:00 noon

PLACE: Kalamazoo First Assembly of God, Oakland Drive & I-94

TO REGISTER: please call WMU Center for Gerontology @ 269-387-9600



OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

This winter, along with the Oshtemo Township Board and staff, we have started the process for a long range development plan for the Drake Farmstead property.

During the visioning sessions, many ideas were shared for use of the 26 acre farmstead/park. Watch for more information as the plan progresses.

We will be offering two opportunities this summer to visit the Drake Farmstead and view the progress that has been made on the house.

July 18th – Prairie Day—10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—recreating the time of the Drake family, with farm animals, wagon rides, Native American archery, and children’s games.

August 15th—2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—The Drake House will be open for free tours.



For more information about the Oshtemo Historical Society, please visit our website at
www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org

7275 West Main Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Ph 375.4260 Fax 375.7180
<http://www.oshtemo.org>

