



charter township

# oshtemo NEWSLETTER

est. 1839

May 2017

## Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees

### Supervisor

Libby Heiny-Cogswell 216-5220  
[libbyhc@oshtemo.org](mailto:libbyhc@oshtemo.org)

### Clerk

Dusty Farmer 216-5224  
[dfarmer@oshtemo.org](mailto:dfarmer@oshtemo.org)

### Treasurer

Nancy Culp 216-5221  
[ncoshtwp@oshtemo.org](mailto:ncoshtwp@oshtemo.org)

### Trustees

Dave Bushouse 370-4307  
[dboshtwp@oshtemo.org](mailto:dboshtwp@oshtemo.org)

Deb Everett 375-4260  
[deverett@oshtemo.org](mailto:deverett@oshtemo.org)

Zak Ford 271-5513  
[zak.r.ford@gmail.com](mailto:zak.r.ford@gmail.com)

Ken Hudok 359-0787  
[khudok@oshtemo.org](mailto:khudok@oshtemo.org)

## Participate In Our Community Survey

What's important to you? In early June, the community will have an opportunity to provide input through a community survey that will be mailed to 1,500 randomly chosen residents. If you do not receive a mailed survey, it will also be on our website [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org). Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate. We want to hear from you!

The results of the previous survey conducted in 2013 are available on our web site under the "About Oshtemo" link on the home page.

### Township Department Information

#### Assessor:

Kristin Biddle 216-5225 [assessor@oshtemo.org](mailto:assessor@oshtemo.org)

#### Fire Chief:

Mark Barnes 375-0487 [mbarnes@oshtemo.org](mailto:mbarnes@oshtemo.org)

#### Ordinance Enf:

Rick Suwarsky 216-5227 [rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org](mailto:rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org)

#### Parks Director:

Karen High 216-5233 [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org)

Rental Info 216-5224

#### Planning Director:

Julie Johnston 216-5223 [jjohnston@oshtemo.org](mailto:jjohnston@oshtemo.org)

#### Public Works:

Marc Elliott 216-5236 [melliott@oshtemo.org](mailto:melliott@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**

**May 29 — Memorial Day**

## 2017 Dump Day Schedule

Township Hall Parking Lot  
7275 W. Main St. 9am-3pm  
May 13, May 27, June 24,  
July 29, Aug. 26, Sept. 30,  
Oct. 28, Nov. 18

Fall Leaf Drop Off Days—  
Nov. 4th & 18th

Proof of residency required.

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

## Shredding Day

May 20 - 10am-Noon

Township Hall Parking Lot

Free to Township residents.

Proof of residency required.

Maximum—10 banker boxes.



## Come One, Come All!

## Oshtemo Rotary Family Festival

### Memorial Day Weekend

### Thurs, May 25th thru

### Mon, May 29th

### Maple Hill Mall-corner of West Main & Drake Rd



Carnival  
Rides

[www.oshtemorotary.org](http://www.oshtemorotary.org) for more information

Discounted advance ticket purchases at

[www.skerbeck.com/tickets](http://www.skerbeck.com/tickets)

Oshtemo Rotary supports:

*\*Oshtemo Township Parks\* \*Prairie Ridge Elementary Literacy Program\* \*Cub Scout Pack #227\**

*\*Rotary International Programs—Eradication of Polio, Clean Water initiatives & medical clinic with our sister club in Peru\**



Food



Games

### BLOOD DRIVE NEWS

Wednesday, June 28th

11 am—5 pm

Lunch/dinner fare & door prizes!



Appointments can be made with Michigan Blood by phone 1-866-MIBLOOD or e-mail [info@miblood.org](mailto:info@miblood.org)

## Join us for 'Movies in the Park'

Free outdoor movies will be shown near the picnic shelter at Township Park this summer, located behind the Township Hall at 7275 West Main Street. The program is provided through a continuing partnership between the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks and the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library. All movies will begin at dusk. Bring a lawn chair or blanket; free popcorn is provided by Kalamazoo 10. This year's movie schedule includes:

Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – *Ghostbusters*

Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> – *Zootopia*

Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*



## And 'Music in the Park'!

Don't miss our free outdoor concerts this summer! The family-friendly performances will be held at the gazebo in Flesher Field, 3664 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Bands include:

**Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** – *Zion Lion*

**Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** – *Red Sea Pedestrians*

**Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** – *Out of Favor Boys*



Get creative and make a musical instrument before the concert! A hands-on art project will be offered before each concert, starting at 5:00 pm. Music will begin at 5:30 pm. Picnicking is encouraged, and local restaurants will offer food for sale. Alcohol is prohibited. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be held at Voyage Church, 6339 Atlantic Avenue.

This program is supported by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Minigrant Program, administered by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, and the generous support of local businesses and organizations, including Mangia Pizza and Pasta Company, Oshtemo Rotary Club, Oshtemo Downtown Development Authority, Kalamazoo Landscape Supply, Secant Technologies, Kalamazoo Public Library, Siegfried Crandall, and Mingle.

## Tennis Lessons return to Township Park

Tennis lessons for youths and adults will be offered again this year at Township Park, located behind Township Hall at 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo. The lessons are taught by certified tennis professional Warner Oxford of Let's Serve Tennis Club. Sessions, times and fees are listed on the Oshtemo Township website at [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org).



## Building Restoration, Inc. chosen to renovate the Grange Hall

Renovation of the Grange Hall, located on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and H Avenue, will begin in June. Building Restoration, Inc., low bidder on the project, was selected by the Township Board to complete the work. The much needed improvements are designed to make this Township-owned historic building barrier free. A small elevator and new restrooms will be added and the old stairs at both the front and rear entrances will be replaced. Landscaping and benches will be added, and drainage and parking will be improved. The Hall will be closed during construction, which is expected to be completed in September or October.

**Volunteers are needed to help paint, strip woodwork, and install landscaping. To volunteer, or for more information about the renovation, contact Karen High, Parks Director, at [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org) or (269) 216-5233.**

The Grange Hall is available for rent to Township residents for family events and special occasions. For an availability calendar and fees, visit [www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org). Contra dances and English Country dances, open to the public, are held regularly at the Grange Hall, as well as meetings of the West Oshtemo Grange.



## New 5K Nature Trail Course in Oshtemo Township

Looking for a place to train for a 5K? Check out the new nature trail course at Wolf Tree Nature Trails, a preserve owned and operated by the South West Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC). It is located near the intersection of West KL Avenue and 4th Street in Oshtemo Township, and boasts approximately 70 acres of rolling woodland and prairies. Wolf Tree Nature Trails is free and open to the public daily from dawn until dusk. For maps or other information, visit the SWMLC website at [swmlc.org](http://swmlc.org) or call (269) 324-1600.

## NEW! 'Yoga in the Park' at Flesher Field

Please join us at the Flesher Field gazebo for outdoor yoga! Classes are from 5:30 to 6:30 pm each Wednesday, from June 14 to August 30<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 per class. No registration or advance sign up is required and all levels are welcome. Please bring a yoga mat or blanket and water. Classes will be taught by Gena Pezzoli, registered yoga teacher. Questions? Contact Gena at [genapez@gmail.com](mailto:genapez@gmail.com)





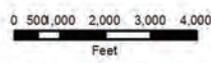
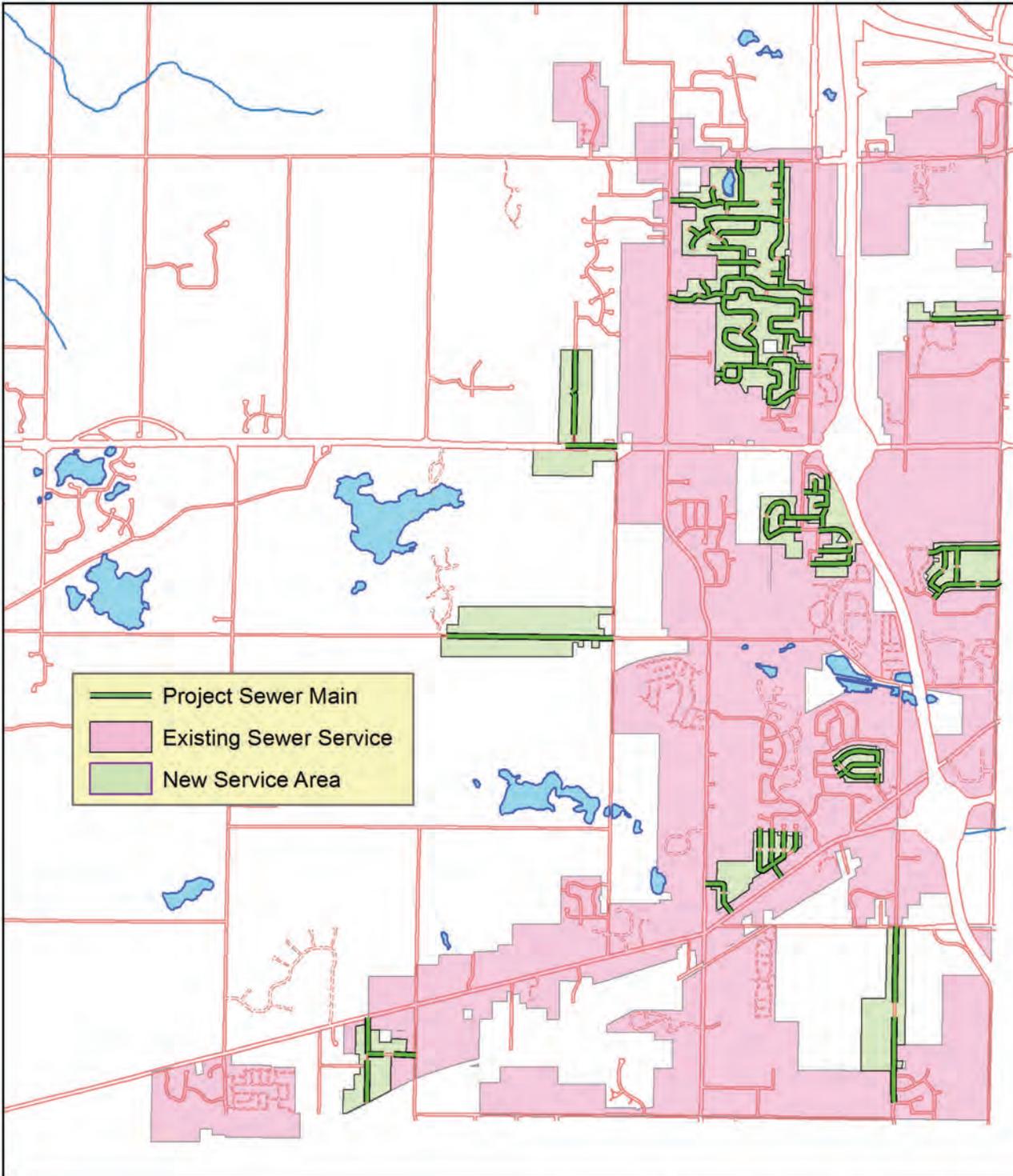


# Oshtemo Township Sewer Update

Oshtemo Township is applying for a \$25.5M loan from the USDA Rural Development Authority. There are two major steps to the application process: the pre-application and the full application. As an analogy, the process is similar to buying a new home. The first step is similar to obtaining a pre-approval letter from the bank. After evaluating the buyer's income, assets, and debts, the bank determines the amount that can be borrowed at the designated interest rate and term. The pre-application allows the USDA to do the same thing and provide the terms of the loan for the Township. The full application is similar to closing on the new house. The full application finalizes the terms and conditions of the loan with the USDA.

On April 10, 2017, Oshtemo Township submitted the pre-application paperwork to the USDA Rural Development Authority for the low interest loan and grant program. The proposed sanitary sewer extensions will connect 900 buildings to the sewer system and transfer almost 5 million gallons of waste per month from septic tanks to the Water Reclamation Facility of the City of Kalamazoo. Based on the pre-application paperwork, the Township should receive the initial funding eligibility and terms from the USDA by the first week of May.

The next step to support the full loan application is to complete the environmental report by May 15 to evaluate the environmental effects of the sewer extension projects, assess the significance of those effects, and specify mitigation measures where necessary. The Township is on schedule to complete the full loan application this summer. Additional information on the sanitary sewer extension efforts is available on the Township website, on the Notice Board.

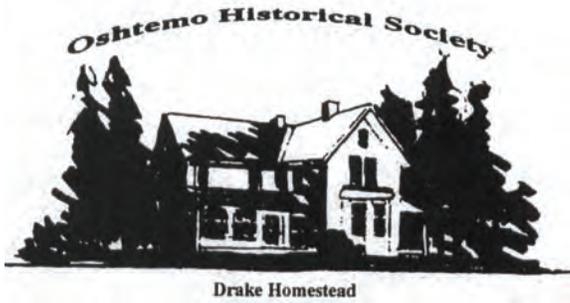


# Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer Extensions

Charter Township of Oshtemo  
Kalamazoo Co., Michigan

This map is for reference purposes only. While it is intended to be an accurate graphic representation, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Any conclusions or information derived from this map are at the users sole risk.

Date: 4/26/2017



## *OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS*

The following programs will be offered this spring and are open to the public. They are held at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 W. Main, unless otherwise specified, and begin at 7:00 p.m.

- Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** - Tireless volunteer, Sue Hodapp, will present “Wildflowers along the Kal-Haven Trail... and Beyond”. She will share her great knowledge of our area’s natural floral display just as it begins to reveal itself and talk about the enemies that threaten.
- Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** - **2-4 PM**— An Open House with guided tours of the Drake Farmstead, presented free by volunteers of the Oshtemo Historical Society. This Victorian home is located at 927 N. Drake Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.
- Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** - Lynn McFarlen, professional community outreach coordinator, will present “The History of the United States Flag”. We celebrate Flag Day on June 14, the day in 1777 that U. S. Congress adopted it. President Truman made it a National Day of Tribute in 1949. Today, Americans are urged to fly the flag daily throughout that week.

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

www.oshtemo.org  
Ph 375.4260 Fax 375.7180  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
7275 West Main Street

