



To advance the quality of life of all residents through a commitment to responsible growth, and value-driven municipal services that promote the relationships among economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and social equity. (Adopted 2/14/2017)

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

**Oshtemo Township
Board of Trustees**

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Libby Heiny-Cogswell 216-5220
libbyhc@oshtemo.org

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Township Department Information

Assessor:
Kristine Biddle 216-5225 assessor@oshtemo.org

Fire Chief:
Mark Barnes 375-0487 mbarnes@oshtemo.org

Ordinance Enf:
Rick Suwarsky 216-5227 rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org

Parks Director:
Karen High 216-5233 khigh@oshtemo.org
Rental Info 216-5224 oshtemo@oshtemo.org

Planning Director:
Julie Johnston 216-5223 jjohnston@oshtemo.org

Public Works:
Marc Elliott 216-5236 melliott@oshtemo.org

**Township Customer
Service Hours**

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

We will be CLOSED
May 28—Memorial Day



2018 Dump Day Schedule

Township Hall Parking Lot
7275 W. Main St. 9am-3pm

March 31	April 14
April 28	May 12
May 26	June 30
July 28	August 25
Sept. 29	Oct. 27
Nov. 17	

Fall Leaf Drop Off Days
Nov. 3rd & 17th

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



Meet the Maintenance Staff in Oshtemo!

If you've ever wondered who works so hard to keep our lawns mowed in the summer, our drives and paths plowed in the winter, and our facilities up and running for the public? We are proud to spotlight the great work of our maintenance staff this month! Maintenance Director Rick Everett, along with Duane Bickel and Mike Pino, work hard year-round to ensure that residents and visitors are able to enjoy our parks and facilities by keeping them clean and maintained. If you happen to see one of these hard-working maintenance workers out in the community, be sure to wave "Hello!"

BLOOD DRIVE NEWS

April 25, 2018
11 am—5 pm



Lunch/dinner fare & door prizes!
February's winner was Dan Jenkins
Appointments can be made with Michigan Blood by
phone: 1-866-MIBLOOD or e-mail: info@miblood.org



**** Mark Your Calendar****
Shredding Days
April 21st—10am to Noon
Free to Township Residents
At the Township Hall Parking Lot
7275 West Main Street
Proof of residency required.
Maximum—10 bankers boxes



Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell:

2018 is shaping up as another busy year at the Township offices and fire stations. Some current work highlights include—

Increasing road maintenance work in contracted partnership with the Road Commission. The Road Commission performs this work at a 50-50 cost share, as they are required to do by state law. The Road Commission cost for the chip seal work is \$1.45 per cubic yard, as compared to other road maintenance entities which see \$2.04 and \$2.12 per cubic yard.

Significantly more sidewalk planning. Our astute citizen representative on the Capital Improvements Committee, Bernie Mein, provided the logical insight on the cost efficiencies to constructing sidewalks at time of sewer construction, and on the equity of the Township building sidewalks in neighborhoods, just as developers are required to build sidewalks. The Township is expediting the sidewalk design efforts to align with the sewer construction, with both capital items scheduled to go out to bid in December 2018.

Constructing a basic maintenance building pole barn to both store and work on maintenance vehicles and tasks.

Kicking off the “GO! Green Oshtemo work for parks, paths, conservation, and cemeteries coordination for policy, planning, and implementation strategies.



From Clerk Dusty Farmer:



We will have 3 elections this year:

May 8 August 7 November 6

Voter Information

Voter and election information is also available from the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.michigan.gov/vote

- View your sample ballot for the upcoming election
- Track your absentee ballot
- Verify your voter registration
- Find your polling place. Polling locations are open on Election Day from 7am to 8pm.





Get paid to spend time in the park!

Would you like to get outside more often this summer? And help care for Oshtemo's parks? Oshtemo Township is seeking a park ranger for custodial and grounds-keeping activities. This is a seasonal position, lasting from May through October, for approximately three hours per day. If interested, send a resume to Ed Hellwege, Human Resources Specialist, at hellwege@oshtemo.org. For more information, contact Ed at (269) 375-4260. Applicants must be at least 18 years old.



Sponsors Sought for Outdoor Concerts, Movies

Local businesses and organizations are invited to sponsor Oshtemo's concert series at Flesher Field and movie series at Township Park. Organized by the Oshtemo Friends of the Parks, the movies and concerts bring free, family-friendly fun and outdoor entertainment to residents of the Township and surrounding areas.



Four levels of sponsorship are available, ranging from \$200 to \$750, each with different opportunities for outreach and marketing. For more details on sponsorships, contact Karen High at khigh@oshtemo.org or (269) 216-5233.

Oshtemo Friends of the Parks Seeks Board Members

Formed by the Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees in 2010, Oshtemo Friends of the Parks is dedicated to supporting our community parks through volunteerism, civic engagement and philanthropy. Our volunteers plant trees and wildflowers, map trails, build and maintain birdhouses, and other projects that protect and enhance the natural features of our parks. We promote civic engagement through free community activities such as outdoor concerts and movies in the parks, and we promote health and fitness through recreational programs like yoga in the park. These programs are made possible through our volunteers and the generous support from local residents, businesses and foundations.



Friends of the Parks is led by a five to seven member Board of Directors made up of citizens and Township Board members. If you are interested in filling an open Board position, please contact Township Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell at libbyhc@oshtemo.org or (269) 216-5220.

Summer 2018 Roadway Projects

The Oshtemo Public Works Department and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) collaborated to determine the roadway construction projects to be completed in the summer of 2018. The following projects on primary county roads will be funded by the RCKC for \$2.57M:

- ◆ 8th St between KL Ave and M-43 (milling and HMA overlay). After the construction project, 8th St will be downgraded from a primary county road to a local county road because most vehicular traffic uses 9th St.
- ◆ 9th St at KL Ave and Quail Run Drive (install left turn signals)
- ◆ Almena Dr at KL Ave and 1st St (intersection realignments)
- ◆ Stadium Drive between 6th St and 8th St (milling and HMA overlay)
- ◆ KL Ave between 9th St and 11th St (milling and HMA overlay)
- ◆ KL Ave between Drake Rd and 11th St (milling and HMA overlay, road widening to add left turn lane, and traffic signal upgrades). Please note that the portion of KL Ave under the US-131 Bridge will not be done because the US-131 Bridge will be replaced in 2020 and that work is likely to damage KL Ave. KL Ave will be closed to all traffic during the bridge replacement. The KL Ave road project will be completed as part of the US-131 Bridge replacement project in 2020.



Additionally, the following projects represent \$537,000 funded 50% by the Township and 50% by the RCKC:

- ◆ West H Ave between 3rd St and 6th St (HMA overlay)
- ◆ West J Ave between Vankal St and 2nd St (HMA wedging, crack fill, & chip seal)
- ◆ (Forest Glen Estates) Highland View Drive and Kullenbrooke Drive (crack fill, chip seal, & fog seal)
- ◆ (Lasalle Homesites) St. Charles Place, Baton Rouge Ave, Belle Chase Blvd, Bayou Vista St, and Cajun Drive (crack fill, chip seal, & fog seal)
- ◆ (Oak Park) St. James Ave, La Jessica Circle, and La Lisa Lane (crack fill, chip seal, & fog seal)
- ◆ (Rose Arbor) Antiqua Circle, Tropicana St, Brandy Ave, Fountain Square Drive, and Caribia Ave (crack fill, chip seal, & fog seal)
- ◆ (Tuscany Plat) Toscana St, Mirabella Ave, and Calabria Ave (crack fill, chip seal, & fog seal)
- ◆ Maple Hill Drive south of M-43 only (HMA overlay)
- ◆ Valley Industrial Drive (crack fill and chip seal)

Lastly, in 2018, MDOT will be rehabilitating Stadium Drive between Drake Rd and Howard St in the City of Kalamazoo.

MDOT will also improve the intersection of Stadium and Howard to provide dual left turn lanes in all four directions. These projects may cause delays for drivers heading to downtown Kalamazoo or Western Michigan University.

Oshtemo Fire and Rescue—

Fire Hydrants - Ensuring that the Quiet Protector is Ready to Work for You.

As an important component of our community's fire protection system, it is essential that every fire hydrant is immediately ready to provide an uninterrupted water supply. With that necessity in mind, the fire department will be undertaking a community wide project early this spring. While visiting every public fire hydrant, our crews will first ensure that each hydrant is visually damage free. Snow removal equipment, landscaping changes and even the periodic errant vehicle can cause physical damage rendering it unserviceable.

Finally, with the support of the City of Kalamazoo Water Department, we will be improving each hydrant's visibility by installing reflective marker poles. The current signs are typically located 3' away which can make finding a hydrant in deep snow time consuming. These poles remove the need to search.

It is also a good time to remind everyone that there must be 3' of clearance around the fire hydrant. Plantings or any other obstructions will be removed.

In conclusion, the department recommends that each property owner who has a fire hydrant nearby (typically within 1,000' of their property) confirm that their home owner's insurance agent is aware of it. Fire insurance premiums are based on a number of factors. Having an available public water system is an important component of that calculation.



The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office

When to call 911 or the Non-Emergency Dispatch Number

Many citizens have at one time or another debated on whether to call the police to report an incident or let an incident they witnessed resolve itself. Other questions law enforcement officers have heard are:

"I didn't want to bother the Police." If you witness something suspicious in your neighborhood please call law enforcement to investigate the matter. Only you know what is normal and what is not normal for your neighborhood. Law enforcement's job is to respond to all incidents not just serious life or death situations.

"I didn't know whether to call 911 or a different number"

911 should be used in the following situations:

- A crime is in progress
- Fire calls
- Medical emergencies
- Traffic crashes where injuries occur
- Violence is being used or threatened.

When to call the non-emergency number:

- Non-life threatening situations
- Current Road Conditions or Weather conditions
- Loud noise issues
- Non-injury crashes
- Not in progress criminal activity



Kalamazoo County Non-emergency dispatch number 269-383-8822 option 3 or 269-383-8821 option 3

Public Works Update

MDOT to Rebuild US-131 Bridge Over KL Avenue

In 2017 MDOT decided to change a deck rehabilitation project into a complete bridge replacement project for the US-131 bridge over KL Avenue. Project collaborations have progressed in recent months, with the following details emerging:

Construction work in the US-131 median is proposed to start in 2019 on both sides of the bridge to build the crossovers needed to redirect traffic during the bridge replacement and to build piers for a temporary bridge between the two current bridges.

The bridge replacement will start as soon as the weather permits in 2020 (i.e., end of February 2020?).

Traffic from one side of the highway will be redirected to the temporary bridge, then the bridge on that side will be removed and reconstructed. Then traffic will be redirected so that the other bridge will be removed and reconstructed.

The construction is expected to take until November 2020 to complete, when the temporary bridge will be removed. MDOT has asked for KL Avenue to be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for the duration of the construction project because KL Avenue is the best location for the large cranes to operate.

For a portion of the project, the northbound US-131 on-ramp at Stadium Drive will be closed. While the northbound bridge is being replaced, the on-ramp traffic will not be able to get to the crossover to the temporary bridge. The duration of the on-ramp closure is to be determined.

In 2018 the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is receiving state funding to widen KL Avenue between Drake Road and 11th Street and add a left turn lane. The RCKC will now be gapping pavement improvements for their road widening project under the US-131 bridge. Since there is a risk that the large cranes will distress the new asphalt, RCKC believes monies will be saved by delaying portions of their work until the MDOT bridge project is completed.

In 2020, the RCKC will be repaving Drake Road between West Main St and KL Avenue. This project will limit the availability of Drake Road as a useful detour route.

In 2020, MDOT is scheduled to modify the Stadium Drive and Howard Street intersection to install dual left turn lanes in all four directions. This project will also limit the availability of Stadium Drive and Howard Street as useful detour routes.

Detours, modified bus routes, and emergency response agreements are in progress. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

The Township is using this opportunity to modify the area under the north end of the bridge to accommodate a future 10-foot non-motorized path on the north side of KL Avenue between Drake Road and Copper Beach Blvd.

Ordinance Enforcement:

Spring Clean-up:

Spring is around the corner and with that comes miscellaneous clean up of litter that has accumulated over the winter months. Feeling a bit sluggish or perhaps you know someone who needs some help? Get a group together and make it fast and fun!

Noise:

With warming weather and windows opening for fresh spring air, please be mindful of neighbors and avoid creating excessive noise, particularly between 10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. This is the time of year when outdoor projects resume, recreational vehicle use increases and pets spend more time outdoors.

Reasonable expectations and common courtesy prevail with the vast majority of neighbors. If you have a noise related ordinance question or concern, please visit www.oshtemo.org to read the Anti-Noise Ordinance, Ord. No. 176, Part 214, or contact the Ordinance Enforcement Department at 269-216-5227. You can also leave an inquiry through the Township website “Contact Us” page at <http://www.oshtemo.org/contact/>



Planning Department Update:

2017 Development Highlights

In the first quarter of each year, the Planning Department is responsible for generating an annual report for the Township Board documenting the Planning Commission's activities of the previous year. The Planning Commission plays a critical role in the growth and development of the Township, supporting both the goals of the Master Plan as well as administering the regulations of the Zoning Ordinance. In 2017, the Planning Commission reviewed 17 development applications, which included the rezoning of property, special land uses and site plan reviews.

Many of the projects approved by the Planning Commission in 2017 either have been constructed or are currently under development. The projects you may have noted around the Township include the following:

A new Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express is being constructed along US-131 north of West Main Street. This project is part of a larger *planned unit development* called Westgate, which is intended to include hotels, restaurants, retail, and office uses. The site plan for the new Latitude 42 restaurant on West Main Street east of 10th Street was another project approved in 2017. The grand opening of this restaurant is expected very soon.



An additional restaurant and retail space was developed within the WestMain shopping center, just north of Kohls. Jimmy Johns just recently opened within this building and Five Guys is expected soon. A new place for dogs and dog lovers was completed on 8th Street called The Knoll. This new facility houses an extension of Camp Fido dog day care; Tip Top Tails dog training; and The Thirsty Hound, a dog friendly café. A new residential care facility called North Woods Village is under construction on Stadium Drive. This assisted living center will specialize in supporting persons with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease.

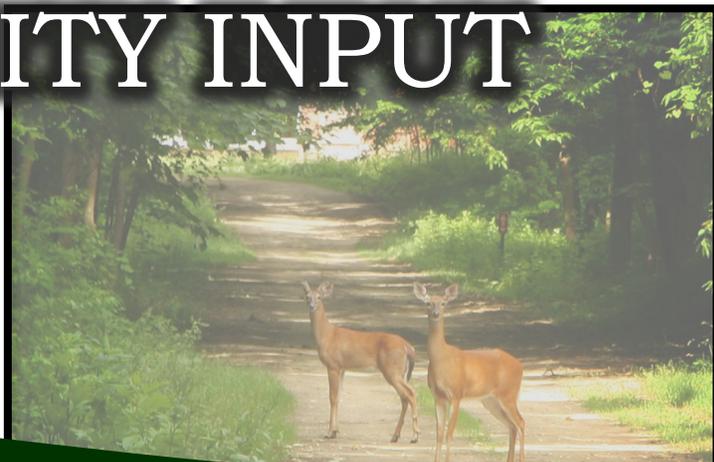
Also of note, the 36-acre property immediately east of Meijer on West Main Street was conditionally rezoned to allow for the development of the corporate administrative headquarters for Advia Credit Union. Advia is currently working on their site plans for the project and the Township expects to begin discussion on the development plan sometime in the spring or early summer of 2018.

The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Their agendas and minutes can be found on the Township's website. The public is encouraged to attend and any input is always appreciated.





GO! GREEN OSHTEMO:



COMMUNITY INPUT

<http://www.oshtemo.org/go-green-oshtemo/>

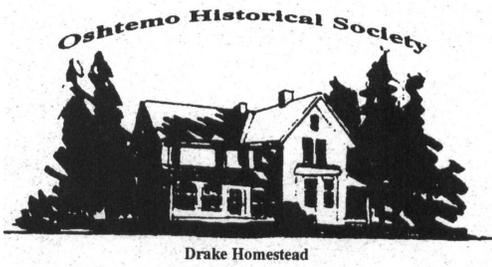
CONNECTING COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION

GO! Green Oshtemo will be a comprehensive process to plan and implement community connections and open space. It will address conservation greenways, parks, recreation, non-motorized transportation, and even the cemeteries in Oshtemo Township. The result will be policy, plans, and implementation strategies responsive to expressed community desires. It is intended to be a citizen driven plan and your participation is vital. Please take our online survey at:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THBRW6M>

To learn more about this project, please contact the *Go!* Green Oshtemo team at: 269.375.4260
or by email at oshtemo@oshtemo.org



OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Let's think ahead to spring and put winter behind us. We have scheduled three interesting speakers for the coming months. Please mark your calendars and join us. Meetings are always free to the public. We meet at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, at 7:00PM

Thursday, April 19th - We will hear about Abraham Lincoln's 1856 visit to Kalamazoo and learn about the "**Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Project.**" **Cameron Brown** will talk about the goal to place a statue in Bronson Park to commemorate this special visit.

Thursday, May 17th - **E. Binnery Girdler**, Director of the Biology Department at Kalamazoo College, will tell us about the "**Lillian Anderson Arboretum,**" which is located on West Main Street just west of the Township Hall.

Thursday, June 21st - **Beth Timmerman**, Local History Specialist with the Kalamazoo Public Library, will provide us with information about the "**Resources available at the KPL.**"

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

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

