



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)

oshtemo NEWSLETTER

est. 1839

September 2018

Oshtemo Township

Board of Trustees

Supervisor

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

Clerk

Dusty Farmer 216-5224
dfarmer@oshtemo.org

Treasurer

Nancy Culp 216-5221
ncoshtwp@oshtemo.org

Trustees

Dave Bushouse 370-4307
dboshtwp@oshtemo.org
Deb Everett 375-4260
deverett@oshtemo.org
Zak Ford 271-5513
zak.r.ford@gmail.com
Ken Hudok 359-0787
khudok@oshtemo.org

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
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(1st Thurs of each month at 9 a.m.)
(269) 375-4260

We will be CLOSED

September 3rd—Labor Day
November 12—Veteran's Day

Overwhelming Support for Drake Farmstead



Thank you for your support! We reached our goal! Oshtemo's first capital campaign for park improvements is a success! Volunteers with Friends of the Parks and the Historical Society raised \$250,000 from local residents, businesses and foundations to match the Township's commitment of \$250,000. Campaign funds will continue restoration of the historic home, make access improvements, and construct a multi-purpose building in the style of the former carriage barn. Launched in May 2017, over 150 donors contributed to the campaign. Potential donors are still welcome to contribute by mailing a check to 'Oshtemo Friends of the Parks' at the Township Hall or donating online at www.oshtemofriends.org.

A wide variety of supporters have stepped forward to help Oshtemo create a new community park at the Drake Farmstead, 927 North Drake Road. The 26-acre park features the Drake family's 1882 historic brick farmhouse as the centerpiece and will become a place to learn about nature and history. *(continued on page 2)*

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED FOR SERVICES



2018 Dump Day Schedule

Township Hall Parking Lot
7275 W. Main St. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

Sept. 29th Oct. 27th

Nov. 17th

Shred Day

September 22nd - 10 a.m.-Noon

Township Hall Parking Lot
Max - 10 banker size boxes

Fall Leaf Drop Off Days

Nov. 3rd & 17th



NEW POLLING LOCATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2018 ELECTION:

Now that the Grange Hall has been renovated to provide barrier-free access to voters, we are ready to utilize it as a polling location! This change will result in a few precinct shifts:

Precinct 1 will move from the Township Hall to the Grange Hall at 3234 N. 3rd St.

Precinct 3 will move from The People's Church to the Oshtemo Branch Library at 7265 West Main St.

Precinct 9 will move from the Oshtemo Branch Library to the Oshtemo Township Hall at 7275 West Main St.

Voters affected by this move will be notified with an updated Voter ID card via USPS



Clerk Dusty Farmer:

The 2018 August Primary Election was a busy time for the Clerk's office, and voter turnout doubled from 15% to 30% in Oshtemo Township. This resulted in an increased need for support in each of our 10 precincts, including delivering more ballots to each one throughout the day. We had a short wait time in one precinct while voters waited for more ballots, but overall Election Day went smoothly. This office does not foresee a ballot shortage as a problem in November, but the issue does make us think about other barriers to voting that our residents might experience. Ensuring that elections are accessible is a priority for us, and would like to share some resources that

may help voters in future elections. Please be sure to share these resources with your neighbors and friends so that everyone has the opportunity to exercise their right to vote!

Want to check your registration status, need to know your polling location, or want to check your ballot before voting?

Visit www.michigan.gov/vote or call our office at 269-216-5224. Knowing your polling location before Election Day is very important to voting.

Need a ride to the polls? In addition to the Metro bus line service offered in parts of the Township, Metro Connect offers a demand response service for all residents of Kalamazoo County, and discounted fares are available to seniors over 62 years old and individuals with a disability. Call 269-337-8477 for more information or to sign-up. Make sure your friends and neighbors know how they will get to the polls on election day.

Make a plan for Election Day. Know your voting location ahead of time, decide what time of day you will vote, determine how you will get there, and follow through! If you can, take someone with you! Encourage others to make a plan and stick to it.

Our office promises to always do our best to ensure that voting is as easy and accessible as it can be for all of our residents. We hope you will join us in working as a community to make sure all of our friends and neighbors turn out to vote. We will see you on November 6th!

Overwhelming Support for Drake Farmstead Park *(continued from front page)*

Woodland and prairie reconstruction is already underway, and walking trails with interpretive signs, a picnic shelter and outdoor classroom, a barn for events and programs, and a parking lot will be constructed within the next year. Grants, donations, and Township contributions are described below.

Construction of the trails and interpretive signs, picnic shelter, outdoor classroom, and parking lot will be funded by a \$136,500 grant from the **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**, a \$50,000 donation from the Oshtemo Rotary Club for the picnic shelter, and \$8,500 in match funds from the Township.

Six acres of prairie are being reconstructed at the northeast corner of the park, thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the **Kalamazoo Community Foundation**. Native prairie wildflowers and grasses will create a beautiful entryway to the new park and provide habitat for wildlife, especially pollinators. Once established, the prairie will feature mowed paths and interpretive signs.

An Urban and Community Forestry Grant in the amount of \$3,000 from the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources** will fund a Forest Management Plan to guide stewardship efforts and land management at the park. Volunteer efforts will be used to offset the Township's required \$3,000 grant match.

If you would like to be involved or have questions, contact Karen High, Oshtemo Township Parks Director, at khigh@oshtemo.org or (269) 216-5233.



Save the Date!

Please join us on
Saturday, November 10th
for an evening in celebration of Veterans
at the newly renovated Grange Hall,
3234 North 3rd Street, Kalamazoo

Community Potluck @5:30 pm
(Bring a dish to share,
tableware and beverages provided)

Salute to Veterans Ceremony @ 6:30 pm

**Live music by Big Fun,
with contra & square dancing for all
7:00 to 10:30 pm**

Free admission! All are invited to attend!
Questions? Contact Karen High, Parks Director at
khigh@oshtemo.org or (269) 216-5233



Oshtemo
Friends of the Parks

Drake Farmstead Preservation Celebration & Mural Unveiling

Sunday, September 16, 2018 | 1 - 4:00 pm
927 North Drake Road, Kalamazoo

The Oshtemo Historical Society will open the historic Drake House for tours and an afternoon of old-fashioned family fun with live music, demonstrations by a blacksmith and other craftsmen, games for kids, sale of baked goods and vintage items, miniature horse display, and more. The event is free and open to the public.

A new mural depicting the Farmstead in earlier days will be exhibited during the event. Created by local artist Conrad Kaufman, the mural will eventually be featured in the new barn. A presentation will be held at 2:30 pm. The mural was funded with support by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Mini Grant, administered by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.



KALAMAZOO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Back to School Safety Tips

Fall is near and children are starting to head back to school. It's important to remember and share with your children some key tips that will help keep them safe.

Walkers

- Walk on the sidewalk: if no sidewalk is available and you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic
- Before crossing the street stop and look both ways to see if cars are coming
- Parents: Practice walking to school with your children and crossing streets with them until you feel they can walk on their own
- Never walk while texting on the phone or using headphones

Bike Riders

- On most roads bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles
- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly
- Watch for opening car doors and other hazards
- Wear bright colored clothing so you are visible
- Use hand signals when turning

Drivers

- Watch your speed in school zones! Be aware that school zone speed limits may vary in hours and speeds. Be sure to follow the posted limits.
- Slowdown in residential areas. Watch for children crossing the street and congregating near bus stops.
- Do not pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. Traffic in both directions on undivided highways must stop when students are entering or exiting a school bus (the red flashing lights and extended stop sign arms are your cue to stop). On a divided roadway, all traffic behind the school bus must stop.
- Be alert! The area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Children walking to and from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings and more likely to take risks, ignore hazards, or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Always stop when directed to do so by a school patrol sign, school patrol officer, or designated crossing guard.



Safety when traveling to and from school is very important. Please research the safest route for your child. As seasons change so may the route you choose, be diligent in discussing what your child should do if they are unable to take their normal route. Also make sure they know who their emergency contact person is and their number. Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office is looking forward to a safe start to the 2018-2019 school year.

Agritourism in Oshtemo Township

To assist with implementation of the recently approved update to the Township's Master Plan, which included a set of strategies for the preservation of rural character, the Planning Commission has been working on the development of an Agritourism Ordinance.

During the public outreach for the rural preservation strategies of the Master Plan, many residents indicated a desire to have more economic opportunities associated with agriculture and agricultural related activities. The Agritourism Ordinance is intended to provide more options to property owners in a way that is compatible with the rural character of area.

Agritourism is typically defined as an agriculturally based operation or activity that brings the public to a working farm for the purpose of enjoyment, education, or active involvement in the farm operation. These activities can range from small roadside farm stands where seasonal fruits and vegetables are sold to large centers that operate year-round and provide a multitude of agriculture experiences.

The Township Planning Commission is currently reviewing a draft Ordinance that would allow a wide variety of agritourism opportunities. We are looking for your input! The Planning Commission will continue their review of the draft Ordinance at their work session on September 27th and we hope to have a public input session on October 25th. Please watch the Township's website for more information. You can also provide your input by contacting Planning Director Julie Johnston at jjohnston@oshtemo.org.

GO! Green Oshtemo

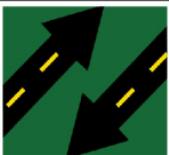
During 2018, the Township has been working on a comprehensive effort to plan for the future of parks, non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and conservation and greenway initiatives. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these needed amenities. Each component of this larger planning effort will coordinate to ensure facilities are appropriately located with an emphasis on overall connectivity.

Parks and recreation provide many benefits to the quality of life for Oshtemo residents, including opportunities for improved health and social interaction. Non-motorized facilities help to connect our community, linking park and recreation opportunities, and serving as transportation corridors. Greenway development and conservation efforts connect people to the natural environment and help to preserve important natural resources. In addition, conservation will support the efforts of the Township Master Plan, which includes strategies to preserve rural character.

Several public outreach meetings have taken place during the GO! Green Oshtemo effort. A kick-off meeting was held in March and two open houses, held in June and August, allowed the public to provide input on the goals and action strategies outlined in the draft plan. At this time, the project team is working to finalize the draft GO! Green Oshtemo Plan and hope to have it available on the Township's website for public review by October 11, 2018. We anticipate the following schedule and encourage your input at any time during this process:

Planning Commission update:	October 11 th
Township Board update:	October 23 rd
Township Board public hearing:	November 13 th
Public comment period:	November 14 th - January 24 th
Planning Commission public hearing:	January 24, 2019
Township Board adoption hearing:	February 12, 2019

CONNECT TO ROAD COMMISSION
OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY ALERTS



Have You Signed Up?

Receive Message Alerts
for:

- ◆ Road Construction
- ◆ Road Closures/Detours
- ◆ General Public News

RCKC CONNECT
RCKC ALERTS SIGN UP NOW

Visit : www.kalamazooountyroads.com

Are you or a hired contractor making improvements on your property?

Decks, pools, sheds and roofs need permits and might be subject to setback rules. Contact the Southwest Michigan Building Authority to find out which permit you need.



SMBA

(269) 585-4150

Oshtemo Fire Prevention Day



When:

Saturday October 13th

3:00pm - 6:00pm

Where:

Flesher Field

3664 S 9th St Kalamazoo Mi 49009

Join the Oshtemo Fire Department for its 2nd annual National Fire Prevention week at Flesher Field. Learn about your local fire department and meet several of the firefighters that serve and protect your community. Learn several fire safety tips that could save your life or the life of one of your family members. Come out and enjoy food, family and fun!



OTHER AGENCIES IN ATTENDANCE

Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Department • LIFE EMS Ambulance

WWW.OSHTEMO.ORG



LIVE BURN DEMONSTRATION

View a live burn demonstration as crews show the importance of closing your bedroom doors before you go to sleep

SMOKE SIMULATOR

Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family in a simulated house fire!

TRUCK VIEWING

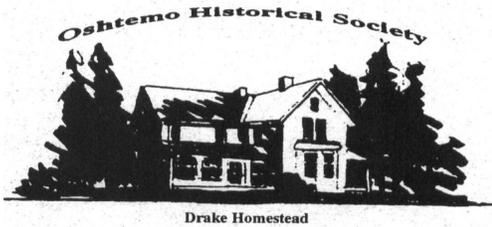
Come and view the fire trucks, as well as all of the large and exciting tools used on every day emergency calls

BUCKET RIDES

Do you have what it takes? Find out and ride in the bucket of our 100' ladder truck to catch a birds-eye-view

NOZZLE OPERATION

Assist a fire fighter with spraying a charged fire hose



OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The days are now getting shorter and the Fall colors will soon be here. Once again, we will be presenting programs most months on the third Thursday at 7:00 p. m. The meetings are held at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 W. Main St. If you have never attended one, we encourage you to stop by and we look forward to seeing those who have attended in the past.

Please join us for the following free programs:

September 16th, Sunday – Open House at the Drake Farmstead 1:00 to 4:00. Family Friendly and Free! Tour the 1800's house, visit with Craftsmen, hear live music, browse vintage items for sale, play kids games and more.

October 18th, Thursday – Valerie Marvin, Michigan State Capitol Historian, will give a presentation entitled “**Two Capitals, Three Capitols**” which will be a look at the process and politics that saw the capital move from Detroit to Lansing, and a survey of the three buildings we've called our capitols.

November 15th, Thursday - “**The Tuskegee Airmen Experience**” will be presented by Paul Love. The Tuskegee airmen were the first black servicemen to serve as military aviators in the U.S. armed forces. They served with distinction during World War II.

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

