



Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Winter 2012

7450 14 Mile Rd.
Rockford MI 49341

Office Hours

Mon. & Fri: 1:00 - 4:30 PM
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 9:00 AM -
Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 PM

Phone: (616)866-0622

Fax: (616)866-3451

Burning Permits:

(616)813-2960

Building Permits:

Imperial Municipal Svcs.

(616)863-9294

Township Officials

Supervisor: Chuck Porter
Treasurer: Jerry Davis
Clerk: Marilyn Crosby
Trustees: Mary Ann Andersen,
Colleen Brown, Tom Kinney,
Carol Shaw
Assessor: Frank Buckley

Meeting Schedule

All meetings at 7:00 PM

Township Board:

1st Wednesday

Planning Commission:

3rd Tuesday

ZBA: 2nd Wednesday

Fire Board: Last Wednesday

Holiday Hours

Township Offices will be
closed:

December 23 & 26, 2011

January 2, 2012

Visit our website:

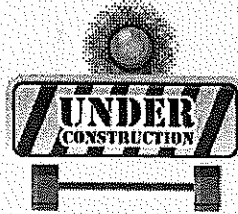
www.courtlandtwp.org

Township Calendar

Taxes & Assessing Information

Meeting Minutes

Zoning Ordinances



FROM THE SUPERVISOR

As 2011 is drawing to a close, I'd like to keep you updated on some issues in our township over the past year.

We spent \$350,000 on roads in 2011 and hope to spend approximately that much in 2012. Due to our population

increase (7,678 as of 2010), we this major road deterioration received more State Revenue issue.

Sharing than anticipated this

year. We paved Parmeter Ave. New home construction in the township has continued to slow down. In 2002 there were 118 Road Commission did a great new homes built. In 2010 there were 32 built, and so far in 2011 only 15 new homes have been started.

Young Ave. and Courtland Dr.,

and one mile on 13 Mile Rd.

east of Northland Dr. Normally

I hope you enjoy the upcoming

the Road Commission would holiday season with family and

only resurface one mile of road

per year in our township. By

sharing the cost we were able to

do the extra 3½ miles on 11

Mile Rd. Many of our paved

roads are 20 to 30 years old,

and we're going to try to catch

up in the next 1 to 3 years on

township has continued to slow down. In 2002 there were 118 Road Commission did a great new homes built. In 2010 there were 32 built, and so far in 2011 only 15 new homes have been started.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season with family and friends.

Chuck Porter, Supervisor

Watch for updates to our website in the next few weeks:

www.courtlandtwp.org

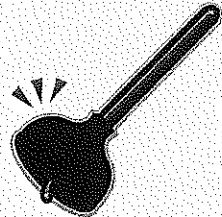
SEWER UPDATE

Courtland Township is in the process of contracting with Main-Tech Services to maintain our sewer system. They have been in business for several years in the Rockford area and come highly recommended by surrounding communities. The Kent County Department of Public Works will no longer be doing the maintenance on our lift stations and grinder pumps. This decision was made by the Courtland Township Board due to the fact that the Kent County DPW will no longer be in the business of servicing sewer systems as of December 2012. Also, we should realize a cost reduction by contracting with a different company.

Beginning **December 1, 2011**, if you have a sewer emergency **do not** contact the Kent County DPW.

Call The Emergency Number for Main-Tech: (616) 874-8866.

Remember sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three things: used water, human body waste, and toilet paper. By reducing the amount of fats, oils, grease and garbage that enter the sewer system from your home, you can help reduce maintenance costs, and also, protect the environment by preventing sewer back-ups and overflows. Most sewer back-ups occur between the house and the Township's sewer main, where the property owner is responsible for correcting the problem. You may need to add more coverage to your homeowner's insurance for sewer or basement drain backups.



FROM THE TREASURER

2011 WINTER TAXES DUE FEBRUARY 14, 2012

On Feb. 15th a 3% penalty and 1% interest will be added to the unpaid balance of your taxes. 2011 property taxes can be paid here at the Township Offices until Feb. 29, 2012. After Mar. 1, 2012 unpaid amounts will be considered delinquent and turned over to the Kent County Treasurer. Call the Kent County Treasurer's office at (616) 632-7500 to get your balance and payment information.

Tax information is updated weekly to our website: www.courtlandtwp.org

Principal Residence Exemption: Check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the Principal Residence Exemption if you qualify. To qualify for this year, you must own and occupy your residence before May 1st.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

In person: Check or money order is preferred. If paying in cash, please bring exact change. The Township cannot keep a lot of change on hand. *Credit or debit cards are not accepted for payment.*

By mail: For a returned receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your **entire tax bill**. Mail early, *postmarks are not accepted.*

Drop box: For your convenience, a payment drop box is located by the front door. This box is safe and is checked regularly.

DOG LICENSES

We will be selling dog licenses beginning December 1st until March 1st. A license cannot be purchased without a record of neutering and updated proof of rabies vaccines. Renewals may also be done on line @ www.accesskent.com/onlineservices. *Taxes and dog licenses must be paid separately.*

Jerry Davis, Treasurer



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Courtland Fire Department. There will be an open house at the Pancake Breakfast in March.

The fourth emergency warning siren in the township was installed this fall on Ritchie Ave. just north of 15 Mile Rd. When an alert such as a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service, Kent County dispatch activates all emergency sirens in the county. Beginning in April, all emergency sirens will be tested at noon on the first Friday of the month, through October.

We are beginning the process of re-evaluating the township's ISO rating. All fire departments are rated according to a national standard developed by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). This agency reviews the coverage, response and capabilities of a fire department and rates them on a scale of 10-1 (1 being the best rating). The insurance premiums paid by each homeowner or business are related to the ISO rating of the department that services them. We are currently an ISO 7 rating if your home is within 5 miles of a fire station, and are trying to lower it to a 6.

On October 31st Courtland firefighters hosted their annual Halloween party at Station #2 for approximately 250 neighborhood parents and children.

Our *Coats for Charity* drive has begun. Please bring your gently used coats (snow pants and boots, too) to the Township Hall, and we will donate them to a local charity.

Christmas trees may be dropped off behind Fire Station #1 (14 Mile Rd.), on the south side of the driveway, through January 31st. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags.

Don't forget to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Mickey Davis, Chief

FROM THE CLERK

2012 Election Dates

Presidential Primary: February 28

August Primary: August 7

November General: November 6

The 2012 election cycle will begin with the Presidential Primary on February 28. For this election *only*, both absentee and in person voters will be required to request a Democratic Party Ballot, a Republican Party Ballot or a Ballot without Presidential Primary (for those who wish to vote on a local proposal only). A record of which ballot was requested will be kept. The "Are you a United States Citizen" question will be added to Absent Voter Applications and in person Applications to Vote and must be answered before a ballot is issued.

The State legislature recently passed bills which would amend the Election Law to require all school districts to conduct elections for school board members on the even-year November General Election date. School districts would continue to have the option of conducting ballot question elections on the four election dates per year authorized by law. If signed by Governor Snyder, the bills will become effective on January 1, 2012, and school board candidates will be on the November 6, 2012 ballot.

Please contact my office or visit the Secretary of State's website at www.michigan.gov/sos for election information such as voter registration, precinct locations, absentee voting, or running for public office.

Marilynn Crosby, Clerk