



Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Summer 2008

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)866-3511

Building Permits:

(616)863-9294

Township Officials

Supervisor: Jim McIntyre
Treasurer: Jerry Davis
Clerk: Marilyn Crosby
Trustees: Mary Ann Andersen,
Colleen Brown, Mike Krygier,
Chuck Porter
Assessor: Frank Buckley

Meeting Schedule

Township Board:
1st Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Planning Commission:
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals:
2nd Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Fire Board:
Last Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Holiday Hours

Township Offices will be
closed:

July 4th

Labor Day, Sept. 1st

Visit our website:

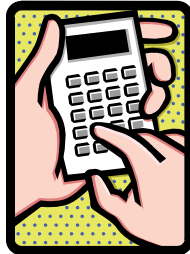
www.courtlandtwp.org

Taxes

Assessing Information

Meeting Minutes

Zoning Ordinances



FROM THE TREASURER

2008 Summer Taxes due September 15th

When paying your property
taxes keep these points in
mind:

- 1) To avoid late fees, please allow extra time when paying by mail.
 - 2) Post marks are not accepted.
 - 3) Drop box located by front door. Checked regularly, M-F.
 - 4) For a receipt, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your entire tax bill with your payment.
 - 5) Summer Tax Deferments are available for qualifying seniors, agricultural or disabled residents. Call for a copy of the guidelines for deferment qualifications or an application. You must file prior to 09/14/08.
 - 6) Those who qualify for a Tax Deferment will not be charged interest and have until February 14, 2009 to pay their Summer Taxes.
 - 7) We do **not** accept credit or debit card payments. When paying in cash, please bring exact amount.
 - 8) Have you filed for your Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)? To be eligible, residents must occupy their home by May 1st of the current tax year.
 - 9) The Treasurer's Office is not responsible for payment on wrong property.
- Questions? Call (616) 866-0622
Treasurer's e-mail:
jdavis@courtlandtwp.org
Deputy Treasurer's e-mail:
ksteffes@courtlandtwp.org

FROM THE ASSESSOR

This past year many parcels had a decline in State Equalized Value. This may or may not have affected your 2008 tax bill. The reason for this is your taxes are calculated on your Taxable Value. The longer you've owned your property the more benefit you have received over the years from Proposal A voted on in 1994. Assessments (SEV) are driven by the market, and Taxable Value is limited to a 5% increase or rate of inflation (CPI) whichever is less. New construction will also increase your SEV and Taxable Values. If your Taxable Value is lower than your SEV, you will not notice a decrease in your property taxes until the SEV falls below the Taxable Value.

TOWNSHIP PARK

Phase I of the township park is nearly complete. The walking path and children's play structure are finished, but the picnic shelter and ball field are not yet ready to use. More landscape work is also needed. Stop by and take a look around!

SEWER UPDATE

Construction of the PARCCSIDE sewer plant is still on schedule and below cost. After replacing pressure release valves and installing replacement parts in the pumps, the force main on 10 Mile Road is finally functioning properly.

There are ongoing problems with the grinder pumps and the wet wells. Usually this is the result of inappropriate materials in the sewer system. Diapers, toys, rags and grease have been found clogging the pumps. Thousands of dollars can be saved each year if everyone would use caution about what they put down the drain.

Due to the age of our sewer system, major repairs are being scheduled in Cannon and Plainfield Townships. Our share of the cost for these repairs will be approximately \$170,000.00. You may expect an increase in your quarterly sewer rate as early as October 1, 2008 to cover these added charges. Watch for more details to be included with your sewer bill.

FALL CLEAN-UP
September 11, 12 & 13

This year's Fall Clean Up for Courtland Township residents will take place on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Friday, Sept. 12 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM and on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Dumpsters will be located behind Courtland Fire Station #1, 7480 14 Mile Road. (Enter off Berrigan Ave.)

No liquids (paint, oil, etc.), brush, concrete, shovel offs or loose trash allowed. Fencing must be flattened and folded; barrels must have one end open or full of holes; propane and fuel oil tanks must be cut in half. **All tires** must be cut into four pieces. \$15.00 charge for appliances with freon, \$3.00 without freon, \$1.00 for car and truck batteries. **No** free pick up of junk cars or other items. **No** commercial dumping. Clean up will be supervised by J&S Services and they will have the authority to reject any questionable items. Proof of residency required.

Questions may be directed to Courtland Township Offices @ 866-0622 during regular office hours.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Kent County accepts household hazardous waste at the North Kent Transfer Station, 2908 10 Mile Rd., Rockford. Types of items accepted include weed killer, fertilizer, charcoal lighter fluid, rodent and bug poison, oil-based paint and stain, paint thinner, antifreeze, motor oil, household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and fire extinguishers. Make a list of the items you want to dispose of and call (616) 336-2570 for an appointment.

ELECTION NEWS

Absentee Ballots: Applications for the upcoming August 5th Primary Election and November 4th General Election have been mailed to voters on our permanent absentee voter list. Primary Election ballots will be mailed soon. Anyone age 60 or older or physically unable to attend the polls is eligible to receive an absentee

ballot. You may also vote absentee if you expect to be gone on Election Day. To request an application, call the Clerk's office at 866-0622 during regular office hours.

Precinct Locations: *Precinct 1:* Courtland Fire Station #2, 9535 Myers Lake Ave.; *Precinct 2:* Rockford Springs Community Church, 5815 14 Mile Rd.; *Precinct 3:* Courtland Twp Hall, 7450 14 Mile Rd. If you have questions about your voter registration or precinct, call my office or go to www.michigan.gov/vote. **Don't forget to bring your photo ID with you to the polls!**

Note to New Voters: If you registered by mail, you must vote in person the first time unless you are age 60 or over. This applies to many out-of-town college students who will be voting for the first time this November. To be sure you will be eligible to receive an Absentee Ballot, either register at a Secretary of State branch office or the township office, or vote in person in your precinct on August 5th.

One Final Note: There is a difference between a primary and a general election. A **primary election** is held by the political parties to select their nominee for the offices to be elected at the general election in November. In a primary, Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats run against Democrats. If other parties qualify to appear on the primary ballot, their candidates run against each other as well. You may vote in **one party section** only on the primary ballot. You cannot "**split your ticket**" in August. A **general election** is a race between party nominees and any candidates without political party affiliation. The general election determines which candidates will occupy the offices that are up for election. Statewide ballot proposals also appear on the general election ballot.

CEMETERY NOTES

It has come to our attention that there are a number of cemetery lots marked "hold" in our records that have not been paid for. If you believe that you have placed a hold on one or more lots please contact the township offices as soon as possible to make ar-

rangements to either purchase the lots or release them. The lot price is \$150 for township residents and \$250 for non-residents. We will hold lots for no longer than 60 days. Also, the township will buy back unwanted lots at the original purchase price. Proof of lot ownership (burial grant certificate) is required.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Burn Permits: Chief Davis reminds residents to call before burning. The best time to obtain a burn permit is Monday through Friday during office hours. To obtain a week-end permit call the township office (616-866-0622) on Thursday or Friday. Permits can only be issued if the DNR has approved burning. Remember, all burning must be done during daylight hours, and fires must be a safe distance from all buildings and away from tall grass and trees. Do not leave fires unattended, and have a garden hose handy. Burning of tires, roofing, construction materials, treated lumber, garbage, plastics or any rubber or petroleum products is prohibited.

Emergency Generator: Both fire stations are now equipped with emergency generators. In case of a prolonged power outage, water and emergency shelter can be made available to our residents at either or both stations.

Reminder: Kent County tests the warning sirens at noon on the **first Friday** of the month, April through October.

Carbon Monoxide Facts: Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of poisoning death in the U.S. It is odorless and colorless and exposure can be fatal. Common sources of carbon monoxide (CO) are faulty furnaces, house fires, auto exhaust fumes, heaters, indoor stoves, gas-powered generators, cigarette smoke, and smoke from charcoal-fired stoves. Install a CO detector in addition to your smoke detector. Call 911 and leave the area if your CO alarm goes off or if you experience symptoms of CO poisoning such as flu-like symptoms, fatigue, confusion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, dizziness or weakness.