



Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Winter 2010

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)866-3511

Building Permits:

(616)863-9294

Township Officials

Supervisor: Jim McIntyre
Treasurer: Jerry Davis
Clerk: Marilyn Crosby
Trustees: Mary Ann Andersen,
Colleen Brown, Tom Kinney,
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:
December 24th & 25th
December 31st & January 1st

Visit our website:

www.courtlandtwp.org

Taxes
Assessing Information
Meeting Minutes
Zoning Ordinances



DOG LICENSES

Kent County has informed us that dog licenses will not be available for sale until January, 2010. They do not have the new fee schedule or renewal cards ready to mail. We will be allowed to sell dog licenses until March 1st. A license cannot be purchased without a record of neutering and updated proof of rabies vaccination. Renewals may also be done o n l i n e @ www.accesskent.com/onlineservices.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

2009 Winter Taxes due February 16th

On Feb. 17th additional penalties and interest will be added to the unpaid balance of your taxes. 2009 property taxes may be paid here at the Township Offices until Feb. 27, 2010. After Mar. 1, 2010 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.

Principal Residence Exemption: Please check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the Principal Residence Exemption (P.R.E.) 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 the exact amount. **Credit or debit cards are not accepted for payment.**

By mail: If you want a receipt, please return the entire tax bill with your payment along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. **Postmarks are not accepted.**

Drop Box: For your convenience, a payment **DROP BOX** is located at the front of the building. This box is safe and is checked daily during open office hours.

The Treasurer's Office is not responsible for payment on the wrong property.

***Taxes & Dog Licenses must be**

DO'S & DON'TS OF SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

HELP PREVENT BACK UPS: Sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three things: used water, human body waste, and toilet paper. You can do some simple things that will help protect water quality and maintain the sewer system.

DO NOT: Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

DO NOT: Use the sewer as a means to dispose of food scraps.

DO: Use sink strainers to catch food items and empty them into the trash.

DO: Collect cooking grease, fats and oils in a container and dispose of it in the garbage. Sinks and garbage disposals cannot handle these materials.

DO: Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid waste, or start a compost pile.

DO: Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. Disposable diapers, condoms and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.

DO NOT: Discharge sump pumps into the sewer. **Sump pump discharges to the sanitary sewer are illegal.** This increases flow to the treatment plant which in turn can cause an increase in sewer rates to customers.

DO NOT: Remove manhole covers. This not only allows storm water into the sanitary sewer, but also allows debris to enter the system, which can cause blockages and overflows. The result is higher maintenance and repair costs and increased sewer rates.

DO: Report anyone tampering with manhole covers, or other damage to the system, to the Kent County DPW (see next page).

When a sewer overflows, it is usually the result of inappropriate materials in the sewer system. By reducing the amount of fats, oils, grease and garbage that enter the sewer system from your home, you can help to 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. Avoiding blockages means avoiding plumbing bills.



WHO PAYS FOR THE DAMAGE?

Most basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover sewer or basement drain backups. In most cases, additional coverage needs to be added to the policy to protect homeowners from backups. Contact your insurance agent for more information on adding this to your policy.

TO REPORT A SEWER BACKUP OR OVERFLOW CONTACT:

Kent County Utility Services
Department of Public Works
(616) 336-2579
(616) 336-3694

After Hours:
Kent County Sheriff's Office
(616) 632-6357 (They will dispatch the on-call personnel.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at (616) 336-3694, or visit the Kent County website www.access.kent.com or Email: Norm.VandeRoer@kentcounty.org

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Road construction update:

Paving of Porter Hollow Drive is almost complete, at a cost to the township of over \$200,000 for ¾ of a mile. This brings the total number of miles paved since 1989 to 15 ¾. Only 8 ¾ miles of gravel roads remain in the township.

State Revenue Sharing:

Revenue sharing payments to the township are down by over \$33,000 so far this year. These payments make up approximately 40% of our annual budget. We have not had to make any drastic cuts in spending as yet, but we are watching our current and planned future expenses carefully. Road paving projects in the township have been suspended. The only construction planned by the Kent County Road Commission in Courtland Township for 2010 is to widen Northland Drive to three lanes between 14 Mile Road and 15 Mile Road.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NOTES

Our 3rd Annual *Coats for Charity* drive begins December 1st. Please bring your gently used coats to Fire Station #1 or 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.

ON SALE: 911 emergency address signs. For a limited time the Fire Department is selling the green and white reflective address signs for only \$8.00 each. Call 866-0622 to order.

Note: In case of power outages or weather-related emergencies, water will be available at both fire stations. Call 866-3511 for further information. Please bring your own containers.

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

To quickly get a fire extinguisher going, and use it properly, remember **PASS**:



P: Pull. Pull the pin to discharge material.

A: Aim. Aim low. Point the spray at the bottom of the blaze first.

S: Squeeze. Squeeze the lever

above the handle to operate, and release it to stop the spray.

S: Sweep. Sweep the extinguisher from side to side until the flames are out.

For more information visit the web site of the National Fire Protection Association @ www.nfpa.org.

Use Gasoline Safely

Here are some helpful tips from the American Burn Association on how to handle gasoline with care:

- Don't smoke, use matches or other ignition sources anywhere around gas. Gas vapors can travel far from gas containers in enclosed areas.
- Use gasoline only in well-ventilated areas.
- Turn off equipment and let it cool before filling the gas tank.
- Never use gas to start charcoal in a grill. Use a proper charcoal starter.
- Never use gas as a cleaning fluid, as a solvent, or to clean your hands.
- Store gasoline in approved containers in a cool, well-ventilated area such as a shed or a garage that is not near the house. Keep only a minimum amount on hand.
- Never use glass or plastic bottles for gasoline storage.