



# Courtland Clippings

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

Summer 2016

7450 14 Mile Rd.  
Rockford MI 49341

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday:  
9:00-Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 PM  
**CLOSED FRIDAYS**

Phone: (616)866-0622

Fax: (616)866-3451

**Burning Permits:**  
(616)813-2961

**Building Permits:**  
Imperial Municipal Svcs.  
(616)863-9294

**Electrical Permits:**  
Casey Kalee (616)874-6289

**Township Officials**

Supervisor: Chuck Porter  
Treasurer: Colleen Brown  
Clerk: Marilynn Crosby  
Trustees: Matt McConnon,  
Mary Ann Andersen, Kimberly  
McIntyre, Mike Krygier  
Assessor: Jane Kolbe

**Meeting Schedule**

All meetings at 7:00 PM

Township Board:  
1st Wednesday  
Planning Commission:  
3rd Tuesday  
ZBA: 2nd Wednesday  
Fire Board: Last Wed. @ 2 PM

**Holiday Hours**

Township Offices closed:  
Independence Day: July 1-4  
Labor Day: Sept. 2-5

**Visit our website:**

[www.courtlandtwp.org](http://www.courtlandtwp.org)

Township Calendar  
Taxes & Assessing Information  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoning Ordinances

**2016 SUMMER TAXES  
DUE SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

Now Available!!

Pay your taxes online with a credit card or e-check with a link from our Township Website: [www.courtlandtwp.org/link](http://www.courtlandtwp.org/link). \*\*\*Convenience fees do apply as noted.\*\*\* From the link you will access BS&A search, either choose to set up an account as property owner for free access, or pay the \$2.00 fee with your credit card as a separate transaction to continue. Once you have found your parcel through BS&A there will be an option to access ~ Point and Pay ~ to process your tax payment with a credit card or e-check payment. Point and Pay convenience fees are as noted per transaction. (A credit card run as a debit card is not an option). A transaction receipt can be emailed to you. Credit card and e-check payments are accepted July 1, 2016 through Feb. 23, 2017 only. This is our first year offering this option and we are hopeful you find the process easy to access for your conven-

ience. Any feedback to the Treasurer's office is greatly appreciated.

**In person:** Check or money order is preferred. If paying in cash, please bring exact change.

**By mail:** Include the lower part of your tax bill. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Mail early, *postmarks are not accepted*.

**Drop box:** A payment drop box is located by the front door. This box is safe and is checked regularly.

**Summer Tax Deferments** are available for qualifying seniors, agricultural property or disabled residents. Call for guidelines or an application (also available on our website). You must file prior to 09/14/16. Those who qualify for a Tax Deferment will not be charged interest and have until February 15, 2017 to pay their Summer Taxes.

**Principle Residence Exemption:** 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 June 1st for summer and

Nov. 1st for winter. Applications are available at the township hall or on our website. **Taxpayers with 2015 delinquent taxes:** "As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, all or part of your prior year taxes were returned delinquent to the County. For more information, please call the County Treasurer at (616) 632-7500."

Tax information is updated weekly to our website: [www.courtlandtwp.org](http://www.courtlandtwp.org)

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

**Where do my tax dollars go?** The charts below are reflecting actual 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Revenues & Expenditures so you can see how the Township collects and spends funds in our general account. The largest source of revenue comes from State Shared Revenues and is based on our population. Courtland Twp. population as of 2010 is 7,678 residents.

Our largest expenditure is capital improvement/public roads for 2015. The Township Treasurer is required to receive and take charge of all funds belonging to

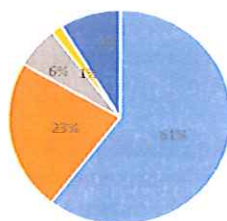
**REVENUE**

Revenue Sharing	\$ 597,245.00
Taxes	\$ 224,909.10
Cable Franchise	\$ 62,426.93
Interest	\$ 14,992.93
Miscellaneous	\$ 87,208.95
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 986,782.91</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

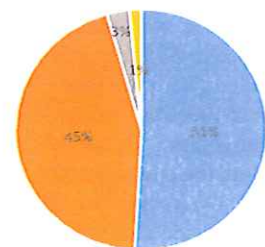
Township Operating	\$ 424,123.12
Roads	\$ 372,678.98
Cemetery	\$ 24,647.00
Parks	\$ 12,224.35
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 833,673.45</b>

REVENUE



■ Revenue Sharing ■ Taxes ■ Cable Franchise  
■ Interest ■ Miscellaneous

EXPENDITURES



■ Township Operating ■ Roads ■ Cemetery ■ Parks



the Township. The Treasurer is the Township's agent for collecting taxes. The Treasurer is a member of the Township Board and as a member, the Treasurer votes on all issues upon which a vote is required.

Questions? Please feel free to call (616) 866-0622.

Treasurer's e-mail:

cbrown@courlandtwp.org

Deputy Treasurer's e-

mail:ttowersey@courlandtwp.org

*Colleen Brown, Treasurer*

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Chief Mickey Davis will be retiring from the Courtland Fire Department on July 31, 2016 after 25 years as Courtland Fire Chief. Since the Department was established in 1991, a lot has been accomplished under his leadership. Station #2 on Myers Lake Ave. was built and opened in 2004. We currently have 16 firefighters plus the chief, and seven fire vehicles operating out of the two stations. A new pumper-tender truck, purchased in cooperation with the Kent County Fire Commission will be delivered June 30. The ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating for the township has been reduced from 9/10 (with 10 being the worst) in the beginning, to a 7/10 rating, resulting in savings on our homeowner's insurance. Five emergency warning sirens have been installed throughout the township, and both fire stations are equipped with generators in case of power outages. Chief Davis has also worked hard to secure both state and federal grants for equipment upgrades and replacements. The Courtland Township Board and Fire Board would like to sincerely thank Chief Davis for his years of service to the township and wish him well in his retirement.

### **FROM THE SUPERVISOR**

We have some new construction going on at the Fire Station by the Township Hall. On the west side of the existing station we're building a 30' x 60' addition with a dual purpose. The north end will be a meeting and training area for the firefighters. The south end will be restrooms for our park area and the fire station. Doors for the restrooms will have timers and will only be open to the

park area during Spring through Fall daylight hours. We received four bids, and Vander Kodde Construction had the lowest bid of \$241,300. Construction started June 8<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to be completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our road construction planned for 2016 is also underway. We are paving one mile of 16 Mile Rd. from Tisdell Ave. to Keller Ave. This is a joint cost sharing project with Nelson Township. Also, ½ mile of new paving will be done on Redmond Ave. from Benham St. to 16 Mile Rd. Ten Mile Rd. from Young Ave. to Ramsdell Dr. has already been resurfaced. Also, resurfacing 15 Mile Rd. from Myers Lake Ave. to Pine Lake is projected to be completed this summer. As always if you see any potholes or roads you'd like to have work done on next year, call or email me. Roads are something all of us use and depend on every day. The Kent County Road Commission and Courtland Township are committed to keeping our roads safe and in good condition.

*Charles Porter, Supervisor*

*cporter@courlandtwp.org*

### **FALL CLEAN-UP September 16 & 17**

This year's Fall Clean Up will take place on Friday, Sept. 16 from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM and on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Dumpsters will be located behind Courtland Fire Station #1, 7480 14 Mile Road. (Enter off Berrigan Ave.)

### **TIRE DISPOSAL EVENT Saturday, July 30, 2016**

**8:00 AM - Noon**

Cannon Township Hall

6878 Belding Rd, Rockford MI

ID Required: Residents of Courtland, Cannon or Grattan Township only.

Limit: 4 tires per resident, 8 tire limit per car (2 residents required). Any additional tires will not be accepted. Passenger tires only (car, SUV or pickup truck). NO semi, tractor or loader tires. NO rims or excessively dirty tires. NO tires from businesses or non-profits.

Let us know you're coming: safehomes@kentcountymi.gov or Kent County DPW: 616-632-7941.

### **CLERK'S COMMENTS**

**Absentee Ballots:** Applications for the upcoming August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election

and November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election have been mailed to voters on our permanent absentee voter list. Anyone age 60 or older or physically unable to attend the polls is eligible to receive an absentee ballot. Contact me if you would like to be on our permanent list for all future elections. You may also vote absentee if you expect to be gone on Election Day. Applications are available on the web at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote), or from the Clerk's office at 866-0622.

**Voter Registration Deadlines:** July 5 for August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary, October 11 for November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election.

**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 in person at a Secretary of State Branch office or the township or vote in person in your precinct on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). if you have questions about your voter registration or to see your sample ballot.

*Marilynn Crosby, Clerk*

*mcrosby@courlandtwp.org*

### **From the Assessor's Desk**

Thinking of selling your home? It appears to still be a buyer's market as sales prices are continuing to show an increase above assessments.

**Disabled Veteran's Exemption:** Disabled veterans may receive up to a 100% exemption on property taxes if they qualify. They must be a Michigan resident, own the property for which they are claiming the exemption, and use the property as their homestead. Unremarried surviving spouses may also qualify. The disabled Veteran is eligible if they have been determined by the VA to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to benefits at the 100% rate, have received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing, or be rated as individually unemployable.

If you have any questions on these or any assessment topics, please call or email me.

*Jane Kolbe, Assessor*

*jkolbe@courlandtwp.org*