



FILLMORE TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHED 1849

Spring 2020

FROM THE SUPERVISOR, *KEN DEWEERDT*

Township Office

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Phone: 269.751.7655

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www.fillmoretownship.com

Boards

Board of Trustees:

Ken DeWeerd, Supervisor
Leah Folkert, Treasurer
Elaine Mokma, Clerk
Chuck Schaap, Trustee
Robert Yonker, Trustee

Planning Commission:

Mike Dozeman, Chair
David Brink, Secretary
Fred VanTubergan
Chuck Schaap
Rod VanGelder

Board of Appeals:

C. Keith Potter, Chair
Marc Tucker, Secretary
Fred VanTubergan

Fire Board:

Robert Yonker
Tim Hofman

Board of Review:

Gary Balder
Peter Yonker
Doug VerHoeven

Assessor:

Jim Bush

Cemetery Sexton:

Howard Lubbers

Greetings from your Fillmore Township Office. Hopefully information contained in this newsletter will be helpful as we begin a new decade—2020.

Budgets have been completed for the coming year and as usual most of the monies collected will go towards roads, fire and 1st response and police. These monies come from millages you have supported. Several of these millages will come up for renewal in the next year.

Road projects this coming summer; you'll be seeing the replacement of the culvert on 54th St. over the Maatman Jaarda drain. The Township is responsible for any culvert over 36" and the Road Commission has deemed this culvert as failing. Resurfacing of Church St. and 52nd St. from 146th Ave. to M-40 is also being planned. The Road Commission will be resurfacing Blue Star Hwy from 58th St. to previously resurfacing in Laketown Twp. Once again dust control will be applied on gravel roads and roadside mowing will be completed twice.

Our Fire Departments continue to see an increase of calls. We are thankful for this faithful service. If you know a member of the fire service be sure to thank them for all they do. Graafschap Fire has purchased a 1997 aerial tower which replaced the 1974 aerial tower. It will serve our area for many years. Calls for 2019 are Graafschap 116, Hamilton 68 and Overisel 37 for a total of calls into Fillmore Township of 221.

New construction was typical last year, with residential remodeling and

accessory buildings being the most popular. There were a number of commercial permits along with AG permits. The most notable increase in residential was at the Hidden Creek Community.

A reminder that all permits start at the Township Office. That includes building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing. If there is a question about the need for a permit, call the Township Office. Permits are for your protection as non inspected work could be a safety issue.

If you are at all attuned to media regarding recycling, you have heard that household recycling had a major course turn-a-round. Before the recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic, tin and glass had various markets for reuse. That is no longer true. With the loss of markets the recycle companies are being more selective as to what can be recycled. Consequently what can not be recycled is being taken to land fill. In our case the provider has inventoried several loads and about 50% of what is placed in the Township's bins is taken to land fill as unrecyclable. The reasons for being unacceptable includes contaminated/not clean items, non-recyclable items, plastic bags and sadly in some cases garbage. Many use plastic bags, but this causes sorting problems and the company automatically discards the whole bag into the land fill. To eliminate this problem, empty all bags into the bin. The Board will be re-evaluating our recycling service, it might be time to look for other options such as curb side pick-up. Thank-you for your cooperation in these matters.

FROM THE ASSESSOR, JIM BUSH

Recently you should have received a letter from the Township, it shows the Assessed and Taxable values for your property for 2020. I encourage you to take a look on that form, it should also list the amount of Principal Residence Exemption, it is shown as a percentage. If your property is classed Residential, and if you own and occupy your home, it should show as 100%, if it is a rental or a second home it will most likely show 0%. This is important for you to have correct, as it can change the amount of tax that you will owe. Almost all Agricultural property has the "Qualified Agricultural Exemption" this also shows as a percentage and has the same effect as the Principal Residence Exemption has on Residential property.

If you feel that the percentage listed for 2020 is not correct please contact the Township, and I can look into either fixing it or why it may not qualify.

FROM THE CLERK, ELAINE MOKMA**Some frequently asked questions regarding voting:*****Where do I vote?***

The local precinct for Fillmore Township is at the Township Hall located at 4219 52nd St., Holland, MI. All elections are held at this precinct. Polls are open the day of the election from 7am to 8pm.

How do I register to vote?

You may register on line, at the Township Office or at any Secretary of State office. You may also register by mail up to 15 days before an election. Registering in person is the preferred method, there is no fee to register.

To vote you must be: a United States citizen and a resident of the State of Michigan, have resided in Fillmore Township for at least 30 days prior to an election, be a registered voter of Fillmore Township and be 18years old on or before election day. In-person registration extended to Election Day with proof of residency.

Once registered to vote in Michigan, a voter's registration remains in place continually.

How do I file an absentee ballot?***No-reason absentee voting.***

To vote as an absentee voter, you must fill out and sign an absentee vote application **for each election**. Call the Township Office to obtain an application, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you after the application has been received in the Office and verified by the Clerk. You may request to be added to the permanent AV list, once on this list an application will be sent to you for every election.

A Reminder:

Please remember to bring photo ID, this State law took effect November 2007 requiring each voter to show photo ID. An affidavit can be signed if no ID is presented.

FROM THE TREASURER, Leah Folkert

Summer tax bills will be mailed by July 1, 2020 and may be paid July 1 through September 14. Winter tax bills will be mailed by December 1 and may be paid December 1 through February 14, 2021. It is the taxpayers responsibility to notify the Township if there are any changes to your mailing address. Please note that the Township is not required to send a receipt for real property taxes. Keep the top portion of your tax bill as your receipt. If you would like a signed and dated receipt from the Treasurer, you may send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment, requesting a receipt or pick it up from the office during regular office hours, or you may make your payment in person at the Township office when I have posted office hours. Payment history and delinquent tax information (if any) for real property tax can be found at www.allegancounty.org and click on "Search Tax Records."

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP DEPUTY, Tyler Langerak

Hello Residents of Fillmore Township,

My name is Tyler Langerak, and I am the new contract Deputy here in Fillmore and Overisel Townships. I have been in the townships since June of 2019 when Deputy Ray retired. In the months that I have been working here in the Townships I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future! I would like to share a bit about myself in this newsletter so that you can learn a thing or two about me as well.

I grew up in the city of Walker in the Grand Rapids area. After High School and College I began to work for my dad's masonry company. After 5 years of masonry I decided it was time for a career change and entered the GRCC Police Academy. After graduating from the academy I began working part time at the Allegan County Courthouse in the spring of 2018, and was then hired full time in July 2018. I have had several opportunities in my time here at the Sheriff's Office, currently I am one of our departments CPR instructors.

I have been married for about 5 years to my wife Laura and together we have 2 children, a three year old daughter and a one year old son. We are also excited to be expecting a third child later this year as well. I enjoy outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing if/when I have time, however the majority of my free time is spent working on various never-ending projects around the house.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far serving the residents of Fillmore and Overisel Townships. If any of you ever have any thoughts or concerns that you would like to make me aware of the best way to get ahold of me is by email tlangerak@allegancounty.org. You may also leave a message for me at the phone number (269)673-0500 ext.4271,I will call you back as soon as I am able.

LIBRARY

The Board of Trustees continues to fund the Herrick District Library from the General Fund monies. This allows any resident living in Fillmore Township to receive full privilege to the Library. In a report received from Herrick Library a total of 30,311 pieces of literature were checked out by Fillmore residents from January 1, 2019 to November 26, 2019. There are a total of 1279 card holders. The Township's total funding came to \$20,117.61. Unlike other members of the District we do not have a millage to cover our fees, but as stated we take these funds out of the General Fund.

The Fillmore Township Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Fillmore Township Hall. 2020-2021 Budget and 2019-2020 Financial Statement available on our website fillmoretownship.com

BURNING PERMITS

If you live in the Graafschap Fire

Department area call 616-396-4060;

Hamilton Fire

Department area call 616-886-6534;

Overisel Fire Department area call 269-686-5222.

OBTAIN A BURNING PERMIT BEFORE YOU BURN. FINES AND PENALTIES COULD BE LEVIED IF YOU BURN WITHOUT A PERMIT AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS CALLED.

The Fillmore Township Planning Commission will hold their quarterly meetings for 2020 at 7 p.m. on May 11 August 10 and November 16.

All other meetings are by special request.

Fillmore Township Hall
4219 52nd Street
Holland, MI 49423

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP

In light of the possibility of eliminating the recycling bins, 2 clean-up/recycling days are being planned.

A clean-up day is planned for Saturday April 25, 2020 and Saturday October 24, 2020. Dumpsters will be available at the Township Hall parking lot from 9 am to 3 pm.. An attendant will be onsite with equipment; fees will be determined according to the amount placed in the dumpster. Charges are minimal as the Township promotes this from the General Fund. Tires and appliances will be taken, however there will be an additional charge for those items.

No hazardous material will be accepted.

2020 CENSUS

Every 10 years the U.S. government conducts a census. This is important for determining distribution of Federal funds and also determines districting of federal and state offices.

When the 2020 census comes in your mail box, please be sure to complete and return it as instructed.

PARKS

Fillmore Township has 2 parks, Cottonwood Park on 143rd Ave. between 54th and 56th St. offers walking trails, play ground equipment a picnic shelter with tables and a charcoal grill.

Discovery Park on 142nd Ave. between 56th St. and Blue Star Hwy ties directly to the Out Door Discovery Center. This Park also offers walking trails, a pond and natural play ground equipment. You are encouraged to use both parks. For anyone interested in biking, there are maps available at the Township Office showing all the area trails and cycling routes.