



Portsmouth Township Newsletter

Winter 2022



PORTSMOUTH TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8:00 A.M. to Noon (except holidays)

Closures will be posted on the office door, the sign in front and on the answering machine.

ADDRESS: 1711 W. Cass Avenue Road
Bay City, Michigan 48708

OFFICE TELEPHONE: 989-892-7221
TRASH PROBLEMS: 1-800-796-9696
until 5:00 p.m.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Board:

Supervisor: Robert Pawlak (Home) 893-5623
(Cell) 989-233-7320
Clerk: Judy Bukowski (Home) 989-295-0979
Treasurer: Kevin Kokaly: (Home) 450-0245

Trustees:

Gene VanDriessche.....989-274-3306
Barb Pett.....989-894-2277
Nance Corrion.....989-893-9817
James Banaszak.....989-909-0072

ASSESSOR

Patti Peltier—Office hours: 8:30 a.m. till noon on Wednesdays—892-7221. She may be reached at home, most days, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at 989-684-4863

MEETINGS

The Township Board meets the third Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall conference room, 1711 W. Cass Ave. Rd.

The Planning Commission meets on the second Thursday of March, May, June, July, August, Oct., and Dec. at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room. Additional meetings may be held if necessary. **Township Zoning Administrator Joe DeWyse: 989-545-0434.**

PERMITS

No permits are issued at the Township Office. All of our inspectors are part time and conduct business from their homes. The numbers are listed below:

INSPECTORS

Building Inspector

Ken DeWyse.....989-545-9675

Electrical Inspector

Ken Kaczmarek.....989-893-0039
(Cell): 989-239-6583

Plumbing and Heating Inspector

Jon Morse.....989-239-0433

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief: Randy Stefaniak.....989-529-8737
Recorded Message.....989-892-0642
Reporting Fires and Emergencies.....911

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL INFORMATION

Available to Township residents only. Reservations can be made by calling the Township office (989-892-7221) during regular business hours. ***A date will only be 'held' after receipt of a deposit and signed contract.***

Note: The township hall is free (if available) to any township resident celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, or 100th birthday.



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IMPORTANT TRASH PICK UP INFORMATION



We are happy to announce that Waste Management was awarded a new contract with the township and will continue to be our trash collector.

As mentioned in prior newsletters, with this new contract the way your trash will be collected will change. Each residence will be provided (2) bins. One of the bins will be for trash and the other for recycling. These bins are similar to what you've seen in neighboring communities, like Bay City, Hampton and Merritt Townships.

Waste Management will start distributing these bins on December 5th. Complete details will be provided with the bins. Waste Management will start distributing these bins on December 5th. Complete details will be provided with the bins. *You may keep your existing recycle bin, or put it at the curbside on your service day for disposal.*

-If you have any questions, after receiving your bins, please call: 1-866-797-9018. Let the representative know you are located in Portsmouth Township in Bay County, MI.

REMINDER: Trash should be placed at the road side by 6:00 a.m. on the pick-up day. No trash should be out prior to 6:00 a.m. the day before pick-up. (Our "24-hour rule")

FROM THE TREASURER—Kevin Kokaly

WINTER TAX INFORMATION
Tax bills may be paid from December 1, 2022 through February 14, 2023 as follows:

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO TAXPAYERS

Huntington Bank no longer accepts tax payments. Therefore, all tax payments must be made at the township office. Please use the U.S. Mail system, or take advantage of the drop box just inside the doors at the township hall. If you would like a stamped copy of your receipt, please leave me a note and your receipt will be mailed back to your home.

TO PAY BY MAIL: Send payment (along with ENTIRE BILL if you want a receipt) to:

PORTSMOUTH TOWNSHIP TREASURER
1711 W. CASS AVENUE ROAD
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48708

A DROP BOX IS PROVIDED IN THE OFFICE ENTRANCE:

If you wish avail yourself to this service, put your statement and check in an envelope, seal it and drop it in the slot. *If you would like a receipt, you must enclose the entire tax bill.*

ONLINE TAX PAYMENTS: Go to our website and use the PAY TAXES link. Bank fees

Note: If your taxes are paid by a bank, mortgage company, or finance company, please forward your tax bill to them.

From the Clerk, Judy Bukowski

While we don't have detailed records of past voter turn-out numbers, it is safe to say that the November 8, 2022 "mid-term" election was one of the largest ever (mid-term election) in Portsmouth Township history.

I would like to thank all of the Election Inspectors for their dedication and professionalism in helping to ensure that the election ran smoothly. I would also like to thank the public for being patient as they went through the polls and the voting process.

Finally, I would like to thank those who voted via absentee ballot. Voting absentee really does make things run smoother on election day by helping to keep the lines down so voters can get in and out at a quicker pace.

A Note from your Fire Chief, Randy Stefaniak

2022 has been quite the year. Inflation, Stock Market, COVID just won't go away and all those election phone calls, mail and TV commercials. You can get some piece of mind though. Make sure your home has working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

If you can't afford a smoke alarm, we will soon have some smoke alarms that we will install in homes in the township at no cost to you. Subscribe to our Facebook page for more information when these are available: <https://www.facebook.com/PortsmouthTownshipFireDepartment>

Smoke Detectors Save Lives. You have heard that over and over. However, in order for smoke detectors to do their job they must be in working condition and be heard.

The good news is that according to a National Fire Protection Association report 96% of homes have smoke detectors installed. However, in 20% of these homes the smoke detectors were not working.

- In 70% of home fires where there was a fatality there were not working smoke alarms present.

- In half of the homes where smoke detectors were not working the batteries were missing. In the remainder the batteries were either dead or the smoke alarm was disabled or not in working condition.
- If every home had working smoke alarms home fire deaths would decrease 36% resulting in an estimated 1,120 lives saved per year

What to do.

- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms have a life of 10 years. If your unit is older than 10 years it is time to be replaced.
- Install smoke alarms that have a 10-year sealed battery. This way you never have to change the battery.
- Install smoke alarms on each story and protecting every place that people sleep.
- Install smoke alarms that talk to each other so that a fire in one part of the house activates all smoke alarms. Alerting all occupants to get out.
- Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke alarm.
- Know the difference between the sound of the alarm and the chirping that tells you it needs a new battery.
- Test the smoke alarm each month.
- Develop a home fire escape plan, practice it with your children and designate a meeting place outside.
- And finally: once out, stay out! Once out of your home, don't go back inside for any reason. If people are trapped inside, fire fighters have the best chance of rescuing them.

Stay Safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy 2023.

A quick note from the Supervisor, Bob Pawlak
Have a Happy 2023! *As always, I am looking for Portsmouth Township history and photos. Still searching for a photo of the old township hall, but will welcome any interesting information: family histories, anecdotes, and pictures. Contact me at the township hall. Thank you.*

