



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

### Township Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 8 am to 4 pm

We will be **CLOSED**

- November 26 & 27—Thanksgiving
- December 24 & 25—Christmas
- December 31 & January 1st—New Years
- February 15—Presidents Day
- April 2—1/2 day—Good Friday
- May 31—Memorial Day
- July 5—Independence Day

### How to contact your Cooper Township Officials & Staff

- Supervisor** Jeff Sorensen [supervisor@coopertwp.org](mailto:supervisor@coopertwp.org)
- Clerk** DeAnna Janssen [clerk@coopertwp.org](mailto:clerk@coopertwp.org)
- Treasurer** Carol DeHaan [treasurer@coopertwp.org](mailto:treasurer@coopertwp.org)
- Assessor** Kim Kars-Bos [kkars@coopertwp.org](mailto:kkars@coopertwp.org)
- Assessing&Building Assistant** Starr Adams [sadams@coopertwp.org](mailto:sadams@coopertwp.org)
- Deputy Clerk & Planning** Debbie Holtman [dholtman@coopertwp.org](mailto:dholtman@coopertwp.org)
- Treasurer's Assistant** Connie Herweyer [cherweyer@coopertwp.org](mailto:cherweyer@coopertwp.org)
- Fire Chief** Terry Emig [temig@coopertwp.org](mailto:temig@coopertwp.org)
- Deputy Chief** Brian Klok [bklok@coopertwp.org](mailto:bklok@coopertwp.org)

Many questions can be answered by visiting our website [www.coopertwp.org](http://www.coopertwp.org). In addition, please feel free to call the office anytime at 269-382-0223.

### Closure Update.....Township Hall, open by appointment only until further notice.

In response to the growing number of COVID cases in Kalamazoo County, Cooper Township is closed to the public out of an abundance of caution and with the safety of staff members and residents at the forefront of this decision. If you need to speak with someone in person, please call our office (269-382-0223) to set up an appointment. **Please utilize the drop box for all tax payments.** The drop box is a part of the building, to the right of the main entrance. This drop box is secure and checked daily. For cash payments, please call for an appointment. Credit card payments are only accepted via [www.pointandpay.com](http://www.pointandpay.com). A 3% convenience fee will be assessed when paying with a card.



### 2021 STYROFOAM DROP SCHEDULE

Township Hall Parking Lot, 1590 West D Ave, 8am-12pm

Jan 9, March 27, June 26, Sept 25

Clean separated peanuts, egg cartons, clean/dry to-go food containers, etc. Used oil is no longer accepted.



### 2021 Curbside Bulk Pickup!!

April 12—16 and October 8—12

ITEMS SHOULD BE PUT OUT TO THE CURB NO LATER THAN SATURDAY/SUNDAY BEFORE THAT MONDAY!!

Curbside Reminder: Properties without a residence are **NOT** eligible to use the curbside recycling or participate in the Bulk Pick-up in the spring and fall.

The recycling assessment is assessed on residences only!

For Additional information about what you can and CAN'T put at the curbside, please call the office or refer to the townships webpage at

<http://www.coopertwp.org/curbside-pick-up-and-recycling/>

### Planning / Zoning Questions?

Julie Johnston is the new Cooper Township Planning/Zoning Administrator. Julie comes to Cooper Township with over 20 years of planning/zoning experience working directly for, or as a consultant to, local governments in Michigan, Colorado, Florida, Arizona, and Tennessee. Her office hours are Fridays from 1-4pm. You can call the Township Office to make an appointment with Julie! When you meet her, I know you will appreciate her friendly demeanor, calm attitude, and extensive knowledge on all things planning/zoning!

### 2021 Dog License Update:

Kalamazoo County Animal Control has announced a new website to make it easier to renew and obtain dog licenses within Kalamazoo County. Using the new portal, dog owners are able to update their phone number/address, upload proof of sterilization and updated rabies certificates, add a photo of their pet to its account and provide payment—all without leaving the house! No appointment necessary; no trip to the post office needed. In the middle of a pandemic, the timing could not be better and the convenience is a benefit to all.



In light of this new option, Cooper Township Offices will no longer be selling dog licenses. Please plan accordingly for your 2021 dog license.

## ELECTION UPDATE -

WOW, WHAT A YEAR!! In 2020 we had 4 elections: Presidential Primary in March, Schools/Local Proposals in May, General Primary in August, and the General Election in November!

I would like to extend a very hardy and heartfelt thank you to our Cooper Township Election Workers! Without the dedication, cooperation and hard work of these individuals.....this year would have been a lot more difficult than the very difficult year it already was!! Thank you for making time for the bi-annual training, for setting aside the very real Covid-19 fears we are all experiencing this year, for consenting to wear your mask for what was a 16-23 hour day, and for handling all the new rules and regulations with grace and accuracy. ❤️

In addition, I would like to thank you, Cooper Township Voters, for your cooperation with the in person voting and all of our attempts to keep you and our election workers safe. Thank you for waiting in line, wearing your mask, using the hand sanitizer, and for being kind and patient with your election worker staff and fellow voters. We all want safe, efficient, and accurate elections.... and that's what we here in Cooper Township had!!

Thank you , thank you , thank you to Bethel Baptist Church, Northbridge Community Church, and Coopers Landing Apartments for your donation of precinct locations. Cooper Township staff, election workers, and residents truly appreciate your generosity and the use of your facilities. It doesn't go un-noticed that you have been told several times this year that you couldn't use your facility for your own events....but somehow you didn't hold that against the township/voters, kindly allowing us into your buildings to proceed with the business of elections! You are truly appreciated and loved by this community!!

### Some election stats for this year:

- March Presidential primary saw 1517 precinct votes and 976 absent voter ballots.
- May was our first ever all absent voter ballots election and we had 1236 votes cast.
- August General Primary saw 908 precinct votes and 2111 absent voter ballots.
- November General saw 2580 precinct votes and 3763 absent voter ballots cast. This voter turn out was just under a 75% turnout of Cooper Township Registered Voters. Well done Cooper Voters!!
- We have two new Trustee's that will be sitting on the Township Board...please welcome Dan Williams and Adam Tuinstra to the board along with returning board members Jim Frederick, Fred Vlietstra, Jeff Sorensen, Carol DeHaan, and DeAnna Janssen.
- Kalamazoo County Elections had the following race results: Richard Fuller/Sheriff, Meredith Place/Clerk and Register of Deeds, Thomas Whitener/ Treasurer, Jason Wiersma/Drain Commissioner, and Jeff Hepler/Commissioner.

Stay safe....DeAnna Janssen, Clerk



**If you have a fire hydrant in front of your house, please include it in your mowing and snow shoveling routine. Emergency personnel may need access to this vital equipment in your neighborhood and your help keeping it accessible would be appreciated by them and your neighbors!**



## 2020 Winter Tax Bill

The winter tax bill you're receiving is due by February 16, 2021. Additional interest of 3% per month accrues beginning February 17, 2021.

If you plan to mail your tax payment, please consider using our drop box (located to the right of our front door) or dropping it off at the post office in a secure receptacle. We have all read the stories about criminals stealing mail out of rural mailboxes in order to commit different types of check fraud.

At this time Cooper Township Office doesn't accept credit or debit card payments. Online payments can be made through [www.pointandpay.com](http://www.pointandpay.com). Please be aware.....Point and Pay charges a 3% convenience fee for this service.

Whether you send in a check or initiate an online payment through your bank, please call our office or check online at [www.coopertwp.org](http://www.coopertwp.org) to confirm that your payment was received. We have had several instances recently when our office has not received the payment. This results in your account being turned over to the Kalamazoo County Treasurer's Office as delinquent which means additional interest and penalty that you will be responsible for.

Due to Covid-19, Cooper Township Offices have been closed to the public until further notice. If for some reason you need to make your payment in person, please call /email the Treasurers' Office to make an appointment.