



SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE



As the end of the year fast approaches, I am working on a plan for our 2017 road maintenance projects. Cooper Township has consistently matched or over-matched the funds provided by the road commission allowing us to complete yearly road projects in the amount of \$220,000-\$250,000 per year. Even with our extra spending, we are unable to keep up with the deterioration of our secondary and plat roads. Many local units have added extra millage or special assessments to the tax bill for the upkeep and maintenance of roads. The township board is beginning to look at options to stay ahead of the road deterioration so we will not have failed roads in Cooper Township. I welcome your comments and questions as we work hard to preserve and improve our local roads.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season!

Jeff Sorensen, Supervisor

Southwest Michigan Building Authority

Cooper Charter Township has partnered with Oshtemo Township to form the Southwest Michigan Building Authority, or SMBA. SMBA provides building inspection services for both townships. Jerry Reitenour is the SMBA Building Official, and SMBA is located within the Oshtemo Township office at 7275 West Main Street. All plans and/or applications can be dropped off at either township office. Any permit issued by KABA has been transferred to SMBA. We welcome your feedback on our new authority. All questions, concerns, and comments can be directed to our office. Jerry can be reached at 269-585-4152 or jreitenour@swmiba.org

PHONE: 269-382-0223

FAX: 269-382-3812

Jeff Sorensen, Supervisor, extension 222
DeAnna Janssen, Clerk, extension 224
Carol DeHaan, Treasurer, extension 225
Brenda Buiskool, Trustee
Jim Frederick, Trustee
Bob Schiedel, Trustee
Fred Vlietstra, Trustee
Kim Kars-Bos, Assessor, extension 226
Terry Emig, Chief of the Fire Department, extension 263
Brian Klok, Assistant Fire Chief, extension 262
Charlie Stack, Ordinance Officer, extension 233
Don McGehee, Ordinance Officer, extension 236

HOLIDAY CLOSURES 2016-17

THANKSGIVING: NOVEMBER 24 AND 25
CHRISTMAS: DECEMBER 23 (HALF DAY) AND 26
NEW YEAR'S DAY: JANUARY 2, 2017

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8 AM TO 4 PM

Welcome DeAnna!

My name is DeAnna Janssen and as of November 20th I will have the privilege of serving as your new Township Clerk. My husband Jon and I built our home here in Cooper Township in 1999 and our kids attended Plainwell Schools. I have served as Trustee on the Cooper Township Board for 15 years, the Planning Commission for the last 8 years, and have been employed as Oshtemo Township Deputy Clerk for 18 years. I wish retiring Clerk Bonnie Sytsma well and appreciate her years of service to Cooper Township. I look forward to serving our great community and residents in any way I can! ~ DeAnna Janssen, CMC

211 - TAX HELP

You may qualify for free tax preparation! Call 211 for more information. Appointments fill up quickly, so call starting on January 9, 2017. This service is available for individuals and families whose household income was below \$54,000 in 2016. Each tax preparer is IRS trained and certified. Free e-filing is available.



NATURE CENTER EVENTS

The Buy Local Art and Gift Fair is on Saturday, December 10. The fair will be from 9 to 4. There will be free admission all day, so stop by the nature center for a hike and some shopping!



Holiday at the Homestead is on Sunday, December 11 from 1 to 4.



Our assessing department will be reviewing new construction as well as updating record cards and pictures on existing properties. The Township staff always has proper documentation as well as a photo ID. As of September 2016, the Township has had 15 new houses, 4 additions, and 15 garages and pole barns. New aerials will be coming mid-2017. If you're interested in viewing your property from an aerial view, please stop by our office.

Styrofoam recycling:

1/7/17 ~ 3/25/17 ~ 6/24/17

From 8-Noon

Drainage Assessments

Kalamazoo County Drain Office is placing drainage assessments on the 2016 tax bills for the following neighborhoods:

North Peak Plat

Springbrook Meadows

Otsego/Alamo Drain

All residents included in the drainage districts should have received notification from the Drain Commissioner.

Any questions should be directed to the drain office at 384-8117.



RULES FOR BULK PICK-UP!

The spring bulk pick up week is April 17th, 2017. Items need to be at the curb no later than Sunday, April 16th. **RULES MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED FOR THIS SERVICE TO CONTINUE:** MAXIMUM OF 12 BAGS (NO BLACK TRASH BAGS) AND/OR BUNDLES; TIRES MUST BE CUT IN HALF LIKE A BAGEL; NO GARBAGE. REPUBLIC WILL NOT COME BACK TO PICK UP TRASH PUT OUT LATE. ANY ITEMS LEFT AFTER PICKUP BECOME YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DISPOSE OF.

Scrapper John will pick up and dispose of your metal recycling. He can be reached at 334-309-5195 or at scrapperjohn1@gmail.com.



KEEP SAFE THIS WINTER

A reminder to residents that snow removal time is approaching and objects that impede snow removal (trash cans, basketball hoops, cars, etc...) should be moved away from the curbside.

You may not push snow out of your driveway into the road right-of-way.

Remember to check the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; change your furnace filters; and make sure heating devices are functioning properly before use.

Space heaters should only be used on a limited basis, and not as the primary heating source for your home. Space heaters generate significant amounts of heat and should be kept away from areas where draperies and furniture may come in contact with the heating element.

Please keep your nearest fire hydrant cleared of snow.

Help us keep Cooper safe for all residents!

POVERTY EXEMPTIONS

Please review the income guidelines below for poverty exemptions. If your income qualifies you for a poverty exemption, please contact our office and request the township packet that will need to be completed, signed, and notarized. There is an asset maximum that you must be below in order to qualify for this exemption. The applications for poverty exemption will be reviewed at the March 2017 Board of Review.

Family Unit of 1 - \$11,880

Family Unit of 5 - \$28,440

Family Unit of 2 - \$16,020

Family Unit of 6 - \$32,580

Family Unit of 3 - \$20,160

Family Unit of 7 - \$36,730

Family Unit of 4 - \$24,300

Family Unit of 8 - \$40,890

For each additional person add \$5,200.

Your winter 2016 tax bill is enclosed. Our office does not accept credit or debit card payments. **Please review the due dates on your tax bill. Interest and penalties are assessed after the due dates.** Visit our website to access tax information online.

Online payments can be made through Official Payments (www.officialpayments.com), and our jurisdiction code is 7131.

They charge a 3% convenience fee for this service.

Please remember to bring your tax bill with you to help us control our admin costs.

