



To advance the quality of life of all residents through a commitment to responsible growth, and value-driven municipal services that promote the relationships among economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and social equity. (Adopted 2/14/2017)

oshtemo NEWSLETTER

November 2018

Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees

Supervisor
Libby Heiny-Cogswell 216-5220
libbyhc@oshtemo.org

Clerk
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dfarmer@oshtemo.org

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khudok@oshtemo.org

Township Department Information

Assessor:
Kristine Biddle 216-5225 assessor@oshtemo.org

Fire Chief:
Mark Barnes 375-0487 mbarnes@oshtemo.org

Ordinance Enf:
Rick Suwarsky 216-5227 rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org

Parks Director:
Karen High 216-5233 khigh@oshtemo.org
Rental Info 216-5224 oshtemo@oshtemo.org

Planning Director:
Julie Johnston 216-5223 jjohnston@oshtemo.org

Public Works:
Marc Elliott 216-5236 melliott@oshtemo.org

Township Customer Service Hours

Monday thru Thursday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(1st Thurs of each month at 9 a.m.)
(269) 375-4260

We will be CLOSED

November 12—Veteran’s Day
November 22 and 23—Thanksgiving
December 21-25—Christmas
January 1– New Year’s Day

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED FOR SERVICES



2018 Dump Day Schedule





Township Hall Parking Lot
7275 W. Main St. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Yard waste, kitchen garbage, dead animals, hazardous materials, or large quantities of building materials cannot be accepted.

LAST DAY—Nov. 17th


Fall Leaf Drop Off Days
Nov. 3rd & 17th 

Mustaches for Money

This year, OFD is partnering with the Great Lakes Burn Camp in an effort to raise money that will be donated to sponsor children who want to attend Great Lakes Burn Camp. Firefighters will grow out mustaches while collecting donations from family, friends, and community members. As our Fire Department tries their best to grow out their mustaches, we ask the community to support their efforts. Contact Josh Brady at jbrady@oshtemo.org to donate, or visit www.greatlakesburncamp.org for more information about sponsorships.

Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs Associate—Keep the Wreath Green



Oshtemo Township will join other Kalamazoo County Fire Departments by participating in the national program “Keep the Wreath Green”. A wreath will be placed outside Fire Station 5-1 on West Main St. Between midnight on November 21st and Midnight on January 1, one green bulb will be replaced with a red bulb for every structure fire that occurs in Kalamazoo County. The white bulb at the top of the wreath represents our fallen comrades of the last year.

Help us keep the wreath green by visiting <http://www.oshtemo.org/2018/10/29/christmastrees/>

From the Board-

The 2019 Budget was developed through Board discussion at public meetings starting in June and continuing to October. The budget is now compiled and provided for public review. Required noticing of the 2019 budget in the newspaper and online will occur on November 1, 2108. The Board will consider the budget for adoption at their regular meeting on November 13th, 2018. Below are highlights of the budget for roads, fire and police services, capital projects, and other--

- **Roads and Non-motorized Projects**
 - Local road maintenance (\$250K)
 - Road Traffic calming construction Skyridge area (\$180K)
 - Drake Road Non-motorized path construction, three phases (\$2.1M)
 - Economic Development road construction (\$366K; postponed from 2018)
- **Transportation**
 - Kalamazoo County Metro Transit public bus line route system (\$65K)
- **Household Hazardous Waste**
 - Kalamazoo County (\$16K)
- **Police Protection**
 - Kalamazoo County/KCSO Contract (\$1M)
- **Fire & Medical First Responder Services**
 - Six additional 24-hour permanent full time positions (three positions per station 24/7)
 - Future fire station replacement fund (\$145K)
 - Increase to fire SAD (+1.25 mils; ~\$1M additional)
- **Sanitary Sewer Extension**
 - Construction Projects Phase I (\$8.3 Million)
 - Engineering Design Phase II (\$909K)
 - Economic Development (\$144K; postponed from 2018)
- **Public Water Extension**
 - Economic Development (\$146,000; postponed from 2018)
- **Township Facilities**
 - Maintenance storage building (\$115K; postponed from 2018)
- **Parks**
 - Drake Farmstead Park Development
 - Phase 2 (\$159K construction cost; \$136K MNRTF Grant)
 - Timber Frame Carriage Barn construction (\$407K over 2018 & 2019)
- **DDA (from TIF tax capture)**
 - 9th & Stadium Corner Site Development (\$470K)
 - Stadium Non-motorized Construction Documents (\$120K, shared)
- **SoDA (from TIF tax capture)**
 - Support for Drake non-motorized path (\$30K)

Oshtemo Fire Prevention Day

The Oshtemo Fire Department held its 2nd annual Fire Prevention Day at Flesher Field on S 9th St. The event kicked off at 3pm and ended at 6pm. Nearly 250 residents of Kalamazoo were in attendance as the Oshtemo firefighters had the opportunity to teach many important fire safety topics. This year's most important message was to sleep with your doors closed. Firefighters performed a live burn demonstration that drove the message home. A video of the live burn demonstration can be viewed on the OFD Facebook page: www.facebook.com/oshtemofire/



Other activities enjoyed by the community:

Residents were also able to partake in several other activities including practicing an emergency escape plan in a simulated house fire.



Oshtemo Rotary Club generously provided donuts and cider, and handed out a free book to each child. Firefighters distributed reflective bracelets for trick-or-treating.

Children and parents also belted up and locked in for a ride in the bucket of our 100' ladder truck to get a birds-eye-view. This introduced them to one of many working environments for a firefighter.



Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department—



HOLIDAY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION



The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and Oshtemo Township will be working together throughout the holiday season to make sure we have extra patrols in business areas. However, we also want to offer a few holiday shopping safety tips to keep in mind this season.

- Carry only what you need.** Extra cash, credit cards, checks, jewelry and other items should be left at home. Carry what you need and keep purses and wallets in front of you.
- Don't be overburdened with packages.** Request the store hold purchases until you are done shopping, or place your purchases in the trunk of your car as you shop.
- Shop with others.** If there are three or more people together, the chance of being targeted for crime is 90% less than when alone.
- Ask for an escort.** Many retailers have security personnel. Ask for an escort to your vehicle if you are uneasy.
- Be prepared.** Have your keys in hand when walking to your vehicle. Carry a whistle or personal alarm.
- Plan ahead.** Choose areas to park where lighting is good and activity is high. Valuables in your vehicle should be kept out of view. Be sure to lock the car at all times. For home deliveries, consider having your holiday packages delivered to your place of employment or to a neighbor who will be home during the day.

The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office and Oshtemo Township wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

-Lt. Michelle M Greenlee

Public Works—UPDATE

The USDA has approved funding for Phase I of the sewer extension project. Phase I will be \$8.35M for 40-years at 2.375% interest and will build sewer on Beech Ave, West Main Street between 8th Street and the Township Hall, 7th Street from West Main to just south of Cross Country Drive, and the neighborhoods of Skyridge, Whitegate Farms, Fairlane, and Sunset/Meridian. The Township intends to solicit construction bids in December and January, and open the bids at the end of January 2019. Construction will start once we have approval of the contract from USDA and the frost laws are lifted.

The Township submitted the Phase II application to the USDA and it has been accepted. Phase II is for \$19.5M to build sewers in Westport, Country Club Village, KL Ave from 8th Street to Autumn's Way Blvd, 11th Street from N Ave to Parkview, and the Frie & Gibbs plat. Engineering design will commence in January 2019 with the intention to go out for bids in December 2019 and Spring 2020 construction. We are awaiting funding approval from USDA to lock in the rest of the schedule.

Ordinance Enforcement-

Under the updated Litter ordinance language, residents are required to maintain the leaves on their property. This will eliminate leaves from blowing onto neighboring properties as well as pedestrians from slipping on the wet leaves. You will also have less cleanup in the spring!



Snow is coming! Please be mindful that property owners are required to keep their sidewalks clear from snow. Many people use the sidewalks on a daily basis and need to have clear access.

Planning Department—Go! Green Oshtemo Update

The *GO!* Green Oshtemo Plan is the first of its kind for Oshtemo Township where parks, recreation, nonmotorized facilities, and conservation of open space and greenways are planned in a comprehensive and coordinated way. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these facilities. In addition, the Plan is a guide that addresses expressed community desires related to these important amenities, which plays a vital role in the lives of Township residents by providing:

- * Active recreational opportunities
- * Passive enjoyment of rural areas and natural landscapes
- * Opportunities for environmental preservation and sustained rural character.
- * Improved community health and quality of life

At this time, the project team is working to finalize the draft *GO!* Green Oshtemo Plan. The full Plan will be available on the Township's website for public review by November 8, 2018. We anticipate the following schedule and encourage your input at any time during this process:



Township Board public hearing:	November 13 th
Public comment period:	November 14 th through January 24 th
Planning Commission public hearing:	January 24, 2019
Township Board adoption hearing:	February 12, 2019

DO YOU HAVE AN OPEN BUILDING PERMIT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP?

If your answer is yes, you may be receiving a site visit from the Assessor's Office. In the State of Michigan, December 31st is referred to as "Tax Day". All property in the State of Michigan is valued as of December 31st for the upcoming year. It is important to note that in order for accurate, fair and equitable assessments the Assessor's Office view open building permits as close to Tax Day as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at 216-5225.



Parks—

Help ensure the future of Oshtemo parks!

Please consider making a donation to the Oshtemo Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF). All funds are dedicated solely to maintaining and improving Oshtemo's parks. It's easy to donate! Here's how:

Visit the KZCF website at <http://www.kalfound.org>

Select the **Give Now** button

Enter the amount you'd like to donate

Enter 'Oshtemo' in the search bar and 'Oshtemo Township Parks & Recreation Endowment Fund' will appear as an option.

Enter billing and credit card payment information.

Pat yourself on the back for helping care for our parks, today and in the future!

Volunteers are making a difference at Drake Farmstead Park-

Oshtemo's new 'Drake Farmstead Park' will open in 2019, but much work needs to be done before the park is ready for visitors. To keep costs low, volunteers are cutting down invasive black locust trees from areas that will become parking lot and prairie. It's a rewarding task and great exercise! **If you'd like to help, check the Township website at www.oshtemo.org/volunteer/. Dates will also be posted on Nextdoor and Oshtemo Friends of the Parks' Facebook page.** Volunteer sessions will be held throughout the fall and winter, weather permitting. To arrange a volunteer session for your co-workers or organization, contact Karen High, Parks Director, at (269) 216-5233 or khigh@oshtemo.org.



Join us Saturday, November 10th
for an evening in celebration of Veterans
at the newly renovated Grange Hall,



3234 North 3rd Street, Kalamazoo

Community Potluck @5:30 pm

(Bring a dish to share.

Tableware and beverages provided)

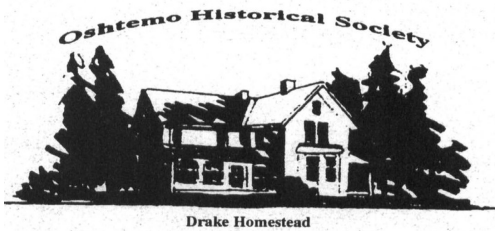
Salute to Veterans Ceremony @ 6:30 pm

**Live music by Big Fun,
with contra & square dancing for all
7:00 to 10:30 pm**

Thank you Consumers Energy and Arbor Credit Union!

Volunteers from Arbor Credit Union recently spent an afternoon planting 23 trees in Oshtemo Township, thanks to a generous grant from Consumers Energy. Species native to Michigan, including Black oak, White oak, Bur oak, and Serviceberry were planted. All trees are located on Township-owned property and were sited using the 'Right Tree, Right Place' principles to avoid overhead and underground utilities.





OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The end of the year is approaching swiftly. Don't miss out on your opportunity to attend our last program of 2018 on the third Thursday of November at 7:00 p. m. All meetings are held at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 W. Main St. If you have never attended one, we encourage you to stop by and we look forward to seeing those who have attended in the past.

Please join us for the following free program:

November 15th, Thursday - "The Tuskegee Airmen Experience" will be presented by Paul Love. The Tuskegee airmen were the first black servicemen to serve as military aviators in the U.S. armed forces. They served with distinction during World War II.

For more information about the Oshtemo Historical Society, please visit our website at www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org

www.oshtemo.org
Ph 375.4260 Fax 375.7180
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
7275 West Main Street

