



# NEWSLETTER

*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)*

## TOWNSHIP BOARD

### Supervisor

Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
libbyhc@oshtemo.org

### Clerk

Dusty Farmer  
dfarmer@oshtemo.org

### Treasurer

Clare Buszka  
cbuszka@oshtemo.org

### Trustees

Cheri Bell  
cbell@oshtemo.org

Kizzy Bradford  
kbradford@oshtemo.org

Kristin Cole  
kcole@oshtemo.org

Zak Ford  
zford@oshtemo.org

## 2022 Trash Day Schedule

**9 AM – 3 PM**  
**October 29**

**November 5 – LEAVES ONLY**

**November 19 – trash/leaves**

CONNECT TO ROAD COMMISSION  
OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY ALERTS

### Have You Signed Up?

Receive Message Alerts  
for:

- ◆ Road Construction
- ◆ Road Closures/Detours
- ◆ General Public News

RCKC CONNECT  
RCKC ALERTS SIGN UP NOW

Visit : [www.kalamazooountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com)

## Welcome to our new Fire Chief and our new Maintenance Director!



Greg McComb has accepted a new position as the Fire Chief effective September 2022. Greg has served a total of 31 years in the fire service. He began his career in 1991 in Marshall,

Michigan as a Paid-on-Call Firefighter. Greg worked his way up to Deputy Fire Chief in Marshall before he became the Deputy Chief at Oshtemo Township in 2017. Greg is dedicated to the fire service and to the community. He lives in Oshtemo with his wife, Chris McComb, and he enjoys camping and traveling up north.



Greg Fountain has accepted a new position as the Maintenance Director effective September 2022. Greg was hired in 2019 as a General Maintenance worker. A lifelong resident of Kalamazoo County,

Greg and his wife have been married for 36 years and have two adult children. He and his wife enjoy spending their vacation traveling to South Dakota and New York to visit them. Greg is an avid road cyclist, riding thousands of miles each year on the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail and the Kal-Haven Trail.

## Township Department Information

Assessor Kristine Biddle  
216-5225 [assessor@oshtemo.org](mailto:assessor@oshtemo.org)

Fire Chief Greg McComb  
375-0487 [gmccomb@oshtemo.org](mailto:gmccomb@oshtemo.org)

Ordinance Officer Rick Suwarsky  
216-5227 [rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org](mailto:rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org)

Parks Director Karen High  
216-5233 [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org) (Rentals: 375-4260)

Planning Director Iris Lubbert  
216-5223 [ilubbert@oshtemo.org](mailto:ilubbert@oshtemo.org)

Public Works Director Anna Horner  
216-5236 [ahorner@oshtemo.org](mailto:ahorner@oshtemo.org)



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## From Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell—

The 2023 annual budget development work is once again underway, working with all departments and the Township Board. A comprehensive, balanced draft budget will be available for public review and comment mid-October. The budget schedule provides for the Board to consider official adoption at the November meeting.

Sewer planning work continues. The Township expects a final determination shortly from the Court of Appeals on the petition insufficiency challenge. Construction costs have increased significantly since 2020, and municipal finance advisors are providing analysis and guidance.

Staff continue to make upgrades to the new website, with a goal for more fillable forms along with other workflow efficiencies.

Long serving Maintenance Director Rick Everett announced his retirement this summer. Many thanks to Rick for his dedication, expertise, and fiscal prudence. We welcome our new Maintenance Director Greg Fountain! Greg joined Oshtemo in a position of general maintenance in 2019, bringing extensive private sector facilities management experience.

Last, but certainly not least, the Township is very pleased to announce Oshtemo Charter Township's new Fire Chief—Greg McComb! Greg is no stranger to the Township, having lived in the community serving as the Oshtemo Deputy Chief since 2017. Interim Fire Chief Ron Farr held a badge pinning ceremony to appoint Greg Fire Chief at the first Board meeting in September. Sincere thanks to Interim Fire Chief Ron Farr for his service since April.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns: [libbyhc@oshtemo.org](mailto:libbyhc@oshtemo.org) or (269) 216-5220.



## From Treasurer Clare Buszka—

Summer Taxes were due on September 14<sup>th</sup>. You can still pay your summer taxes to the Township through February 14, 2023, but please be advised that there is 1% per month interest added to your summer bill.

Winter tax bills will be mailed out on December 1<sup>st</sup> and are due in the office between December 1<sup>st</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup>. On February 15, 2023, ALL outstanding tax bills will have a 3% late penalty added.

No 2022 taxes can be paid at our office after February 28, 2023. All delinquent tax bills will be forwarded to Kalamazoo County on March 1, 2023. (post marks will NOT be accepted).

Anyone looking to buy a property in Oshtemo Township is welcome to call the office for an estimated tax bill amount annually. I have noticed that some realtors listings are inaccurate. Our office is happy to assist with any estimates if you would like to inquire before you make your purchase.

We wish everyone Happy Holidays!

[cbuszka@oshtemo.org](mailto:cbuszka@oshtemo.org) | 269-216-5221

## Ecological restoration of Oshtemo's Fruit Belt Rail Corridor kicks off with presentation on October 26, volunteer work session on November 4.

Staff from the Kalamazoo Nature Center's Conservation Services Division will present their work plan for ecological restoration of the Township-owned section of the former Fruit Belt Rail Corridor on **Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7 pm at the Oshtemo Community Center**, 6407 Parkview Avenue. All are invited to attend. Planet Award grant funds from Consumers Energy Foundation will fund the ecological restoration project.

A volunteer work session will be held on **Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon**. Volunteers should meet at the Flesher Field pavilion, 3664 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street. We will walk to the former rail corridor, which is located just north of Flesher Field. More volunteer work sessions will follow. For more information or to be put on a volunteer email list: Karen High, Parks Director, at (269) 216-5233 or [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org)





# Thank you to the Oshtemo Rotary Club!

A donation of \$10,000 to Oshtemo Township was presented during a ceremony on September 8<sup>th</sup>, fulfilling the Rotary Club's 2018 pledge of \$50,000 to construct a picnic pavilion at Drake Farmstead Park. *Pictured from left: Kathy Gallagher, Rotary District Governor, Karen High, Oshtemo Parks Director, Zak Ford, Oshtemo Township Trustee, Steve Kinney, Oshtemo Rotary Club, and Martin Erity, Oshtemo Rotary Club President.* Drake Farmstead Park is located at 927 North Drake Road and is open from dawn to 30 minutes after dusk daily. In addition to the pavilion, the park features walking trails, an historic house available for tours by appointment, and a timber frame barn that can be rented for private or public events. For more information, visit [Oshtemo.org](https://www.oshtemo.org).



# October 13th ribbon cutting and family bike ride at Grange Hall to celebrate 'Cycling Staging Area'

Oshtemo residents and cyclists are invited to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to thank Bike Friendly Kalamazoo for a \$2,000 grant to install new amenities for cyclists behind the historic Grange Hall. The event will be held on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at the Grange Hall**, located on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and H Avenue. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, free refreshments and an optional family bike ride will be offered.



The 'Cycling Staging Area' includes a bike repair station with air pump, water spigot, bike rack, and a message board that will display bike route ideas and cyclist safety information.



The Grange also has parking, a picnic area, a small playground, basketball court, horseshoe pits, and nature trail and is open daily from dawn until 30 minutes after dusk.

# Tennis and Pickleball Courts Reopen at Oshtemo Township Park

One resurfaced tennis court and two new pickleball courts are now open at Oshtemo Township Park, located behind the Township Hall at 7275 West Main Street. Interested in trying pickleball but need paddles? They are now available to borrow from the Oshtemo branch library's 'Library of Things'. For more information, visit <https://www.kpl.gov/catalog/things/>. Please help us keep the courts in good condition by not roller skating, skateboarding, or bicycling on the courts.



# 5G & Broadband Survey Results

Thank you to all 400+ residents that participated in our 5G & Broadband Survey! Survey results can be found on the Township Website at <https://www.oshtemo.org/About-Oshtemo/Surveys>. These answers will help local governments, nonprofits, and businesses provide communications technology to meet the needs of our community. Stayed tuned for an evaluation of the data collected and next steps! We thank you for your time and service!



Please join us at Oshtemo Township Park, 7275 West Main Street, on

**Monday, October 10, 2022 at 5:00 pm**

to

**CELEBRATE**

our refurbished tennis court &  
two new pickleball courts,

**THANK Kalamazoo Pickleball Outreach**

for their generous donation to this project,  
and

**LEARN ABOUT PICKLEBALL!**

The event will include a brief donor recognition ceremony  
pickleball demonstration, and hands-on opportunity for beginners!

Refreshments will be served, including **PICKLES**  
donated by Oshtemo Township's Harrison Pickle Packers!



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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Thursday, October 20, 2022, from 6:00-9:30 PM

The Rotary Club of Oshtemo Township will be hosting an **Art Auction**. Join us for a fun filled evening as people out bid each other on select pieces of art.

Admission is **FREE**.

Complimentary beer, wine, water, and light appetizers will be served. Art selections range from framed pieces, canvas, photo, oil-based, watercolors, metal, hand-made jewelry, sculptures and more! Accepted forms of payment include Cash, Check or Debit/

Credit Card.

All proceeds are donated to the work of Oshtemo Rotary both locally and

internationally. The event will be held in the Life Story Center at the

Betzler Life Story Funeral Home, 6080 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo,

MI 49009.

Space is limited - RSVP by October 6, 2022, by scanning the QR code or emailing [ArtAuction@OshtemoRotary.org](mailto:ArtAuction@OshtemoRotary.org).

