



charter township

# oshtemo NEWSLETTER

est. 1839

July 2018

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 Township Board of Trustees**

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

**Clerk**  
Dusty Farmer 216-5224  
dfarmer@oshtemo.org

**Treasurer**  
Nancy Culp 216-5221  
ncoshtwp@oshtemo.org

**Trustees**  
Dave Bushouse 370-4307  
dboshtwp@oshtemo.org  
Deb Everett 375-4260  
deverett@oshtemo.org  
Zak Ford 271-5513  
zak.r.ford@gmail.com  
Ken Hudok 359-0787  
khudok@oshtemo.org

**Township Department Information**

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

**Fire Chief:**  
Mark Barnes 375-0487 [mbarnes@oshtemo.org](mailto:mbarnes@oshtemo.org)

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

**Parks Director:**  
Karen High 216-5233 [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org)  
Rental Info 216-5224 [oshtemo@oshtemo.org](mailto:oshtemo@oshtemo.org)

**Planning Director:**  
Julie Johnston 216-5223 [jjohnston@oshtemo.org](mailto:jjohnston@oshtemo.org)

**Public Works:**  
Marc Elliott 216-5236 [melliott@oshtemo.org](mailto: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**

July 4th—Independence Day  
September 3rd—Labor 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.

July 28th	August 25th
Sept. 29th	Oct. 27th
	Nov. 17th

**Shred Day**  
September 22nd - 10 a.m.-Noon  
Township Hall Parking Lot  
Max - 10 banker size boxes

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



**Welcome Oshtemo's New Assistant Assessor: Yale Smith**



Yale comes to us as a new graduate of Grand Valley State University. He is from the Jackson, MI area, but moved to Kalamazoo for this opportunity to serve the residents of Oshtemo as the Assistant Assessor. He has achieved his Michigan Certified Assessing Technician certificate and plans to continue toward the Michigan Certified Assessing Officer certificate. When not in the office, Yale takes advantage of the parks for disc golf and soccer. Welcome, Yale!

**GO! Green Oshtemo Open House**

*Thanks!* Your feedback helped us develop a draft vision for parks, recreation, non-motorized connections, and conservation in Oshtemo Township. Please join us to fine tune the goals and implementation strategies that will help us reach our vision.

**Thursday, August 2nd from 4 to 7 p.m.**  
**Oshtemo Township Hall**  
**7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo 49009.**  
*Please arrive any time during the open house. Stay for just a few minutes or as long as your schedule allows!*

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to participate, please contact Karen High, Parks Director, at (269) 216-5233 or [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org).



**Do you have an Address Sign?**

If you don't have an address number sign, they are available to order through the Township office for \$10.00.

Please contact Linda to order yours.  
375-4260 or  
[lpotok@oshtemo.org](mailto:lpotok@oshtemo.org)



**Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell:**

The Supervisor’s Department continues to strive for efficiencies in department and Township operations. The Oshtemo Community is fortunate to have many talented, dedicated, hardworking professional staff members. The population growth is driving the demand for additional services across the spectrum; more people simply means more phone calls inquiring about setbacks for fences, issues with ordinance enforcement, and requests for assessing explanations. Additionally, given the good transportation access to highways, development growth continues.

The Township Board kicked off the 2019 budget process with an all-day budget workshop June 25<sup>th</sup> held at the Grange Hall. All departments presented summaries of work accomplished in recent years, current tasks, and thoughts for the coming year. Those can be found at <http://www.oshtemo.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2017-2018-2019-AGVS.pdf>

The Township Board will continue budget work in coming months, with a final draft presented for public comment the middle of October. There are many important conversations the Board will have in regard to meeting service expectations.



**From Clerk Dusty Farmer:**

The Clerk’s office remains committed to honest and fair elections, with highly trained election staff to assist voters effectively and efficiently. We look forward to assisting all Oshtemo Township voters in 2018. Training was held in the Township the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>, certifying workers as election inspectors for two years. The first wave of absentee ballots were mailed on July 10<sup>th</sup>, and we will continue mailing those ballots as requests are made. Also on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Election Commission held a publicly noticed meeting to establish voting precincts and inform the Commission members of the certification training. Those minutes and other election related information can be found on our new section of the Township website at <http://www.oshtemo.org/elections-information/>



The public accuracy test is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the Township Hall.  
We hope to see you there!

## Election Dates

☑ Primary Aug 7 ☑ Gubernatorial Nov 6



## From Treasurer Nancy Culp:

Summer tax notices were mailed out July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tax bills are sent to the property owner unless a mortgage holder has requested it, which they must for each tax season. If you receive a tax bill but have an escrow, you should forward the tax bill to your mortgage holder with a reminder that they must request it. If your mortgage company has requested the tax bill, you will not receive a copy, but may contact us and we will be glad to send you one. You can verify taxes have been paid by contacting the Treasurer's Office at 216-5221 or on our website ([www.oshtemo.org](http://www.oshtemo.org)) which is updated daily. We accept credit cards at the counter and online and a 3% processing fee is charged by our credit card vendor.



### SUMMER TAXES ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 14th

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, a 1% fee will be added. An additional 1% will be added each month the bill remains delinquent. Post marks will NOT be accepted for payments made by mail.

Taxes received in our office between the dates of September 15<sup>th</sup> thru February 28<sup>th</sup> will be receipted and a bill will be sent for any outstanding balance from incurred fees.

Please note the Township Office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. We are closed Saturday and Sunday. Taxpayers can use the drop-box in the parking lot, which is monitored and checked daily.



*Looking for a place to hold your family reunion, graduation party or wedding reception?*

## Oshtemo's Grange Hall is the perfect

venue for your next event. It offers unique character, plenty of space for the whole gang, and an affordable price. And with both indoor and outdoor spaces, your guests will have fun rain or shine!

Located at 3234 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the historic Grange Hall is recently renovated and barrier free. The upper level features hardwood floors, a stage area, and lots of windows. Capacity is 150. The lower level has a kitchen plus tables and chairs to accommodate 60 people. Accessible restrooms are located on both levels. A small playground, basketball court and picnic tables are outside.

Rental is available only to Oshtemo Township residents. Rental fee is \$100 per day on weekdays (Mon-Thurs) or \$150 per day on weekends (Fri-Sun). Proof of insurance and a (fully refundable) security deposit are also required. An additional insurance policy and deposit are required if alcohol will be served. Visit <http://www.oshtemo.org/parks-and-recreation-facilities/grange-hall-availability/> for a schedule and rental form. Or call the Township Hall at (269) 375-4260.

## Summer is here! Don't miss the fun in Oshtemo's parks!

**Music in the Park** at Flesher Field, 3664 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 6-7:30 p.m.

August 12th – Lake Effect Jazz Big Band

**Movies in the Park** at Township Park, 7275 West Main Street, starting at dusk

July 19th - Roman Holiday

August 16th – Wonder Woman

**Free Programs** in partnership with Kalamazoo Public Library, held at Township Park

August 10th – Stroller Walk, 11 a.m.

July 27th – Teen Kick{big}ball, 11 a.m.

August 17th – Teen Basketball All Stars Challenge, 11 a.m.

August 13th – Yoga, 6:30 p.m.

**Yoga in the Park** at Flesher Field

every Wednesday at 7 p.m., \$5-10 donation

**Tennis Lessons at Township Park**

Second session begins July 16th. To register, contact Let's Serve Tennis Club at (269) 216-8415 or [wotennispro20@gmail.com](mailto:wotennispro20@gmail.com)





## Oshtemo Fire and Rescue—

Each year, the Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association sponsor and manage a countywide basic fire academy. This year's class totaled 30 students from 11 different departments including 3 from VanBuren (Mattawan). Oshtemo was fortunate to have four participants graduate with their State of Michigan Firefighter II certification.

This 295-hour initial certification course provides the basic skills of firefighting, hazardous materials response and preliminary technical rescue techniques which includes extrication and traffic control. Our members will now begin a series of department level courses designed to teach them the specific workings of Oshtemo. That step typically takes one year to complete. It will take another 1-2 years to complete all of the requirements to become a certified fire apparatus operator.

Oshtemo's 2018 graduates are:

- Kipp Crigger
- Ryan Eklund
- Megan Hamilton
- Cody Schuiteboer,



If you live within 1-mile of Oshtemo and have an interest in joining our team of professionals, our annual recruitment process is now open. More information can be found at:

<http://www.oshtemo.org/fire-department/employment/>



## KALAMAZOO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

On July 1st, 2018, we welcomed Lt. Michelle Greenlee as she replaces Lt. Troy Faulk in Oshtemo Township. Lt. Greenlee has been spending time familiarizing herself with the Township over the last few months, and while we are sad to see Lt. Faulk go, we are confident that Lt. Greenlee will be a valued asset to our residents and businesses. Lt. Greenlee comes to us with 17 years of experience with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department. Her work experience includes Corrections, Dispatch, Undercover Narcotics, Road/Traffic, and for the last five years, Lt. Greenlee has served as the Administrator for the Victims Services Unit and Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

Welcome, Lt. Greenlee!



## Public Works Update

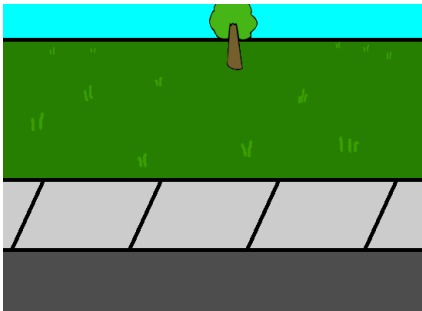
### KL Ave Road Widening

KL Avenue between 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Drake Road will be widened to three lanes this summer. The road will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project: June 30th to mid-August. Access to businesses and apartment complexes along KL Avenue will be provided during this period.

Note: the portion of KL Avenue directly under the US-131 bridges will not be widened this summer. This portion will be widened in 2020 as part of the US-131 bridge replacement. MDOT cranes will be on KL Ave during the bridge reconstruction and there is a chance that the cranes could damage the KL Ave roadway. Therefore, it is appropriate to widen and resurface this portion of KL Ave after the bridge replacement project.



### Drake Road Non-Motorized Facility



MDOT approved our Drake Road non-motorized facility for construction bidding in July 2018. This portion of the facility will be a 6-foot sidewalk on the west side of Drake Road from West Main Street to Driftwood Ave. Between Driftwood Ave and Green Meadow Drive, the facility will be a 10-foot wide path on the west side of Drake Road. Improvements will also be made to the sidewalk on the east side of Drake Road to make it ADA-compliant. Eventually, the 10-foot path on the west side will continue south to Stadium Drive once Amtrak gives approval for the railroad crossing. Construction is expected to start in September and be completed in October. Once the contract has been awarded, we will schedule a public meeting with the contractor to discuss the detailed plan for construction.

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)

**Are you or a hired contractor making improvements on your property?**

Decks, pools, sheds and roofs need permits and might be subject to setback rules. Contact the Southwest Michigan



Building Authority to find out which permit you need.

(269) 585-4150

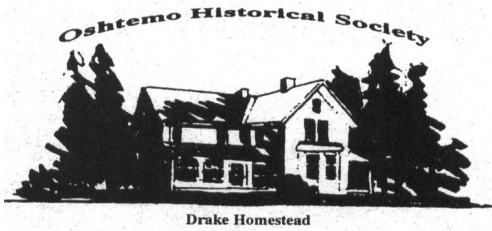
**If you would like to be added to the permanent Absentee Voter application list, please contact the Clerk's office at 216-5224 or email**

**[oshtemo@oshtemo.org](mailto:oshtemo@oshtemo.org)**

**Anyone can be on the list to receive an application for absentee voting.**

**Sign up today!**





## *OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS*

We hope you are all enjoying these lazy, crazy days of summer. If you lived on the Drake Farmstead back in the late 1800's, you probably could not be very lazy! Farm chores had to be done year around.

We will not be having a meeting in July or August, as we were unable to find speakers. There will be a program for our October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, however.

On Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Drake Farmstead open for the community to visit. More details will be available in the September newsletter.

We are really looking for more members for our community organization. If you have an interest in local history, we have a place for you. Along with our monthly programs, we are working on the restoration of the Drake House, in addition to several committees.

If you are unable to take part, we could still use your support by becoming a dues paying member:

Single - \$15.00 Family - \$20.00 Patron - \$50.00

Checks made out to: **Oshtemo Historical Society**

Mail your check to: Treasurer Starr Waldron 4172 Wolf Drive Kal 49009

For more information about the Oshtemo Historical Society, please visit our website at

[www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oshtemohistoricalsociety.org)

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

