

2023 Jefferson Township Annual Newsletter

News from the Clerk:

With passage of Prop 2022-2, there are changes coming to elections in Michigan beginning with the 2024 election cycle. The most impactful of these changes is Early Voting for all State and Federal Elections. There will be no early voting for Special Elections. A separate mailing will follow shortly with detailed information regarding Early Voting in Cass County. As the State is still implementing processes, we will post information on our website as we receive it. We will post to the township website, or you can visit www.michigan.gov/sos/elections for the latest in election updates.

Please take note of the 2024 Election Dates:

- Tuesday, February 27th Presidential Primary Election
- Tuesday, May 7th Special Election
- Tuesday, August 6th Primary Election
- Tuesday, November 5th General Election

Please feel free to contact Jenny Brunner, Jefferson Township Clerk for any election questions at (269) 445-3941 ext. 7 or clerk@jeffersontownshiponline.org

News from the Treasurer:

Please note that the treasurer does not hold office hours at the Township Hall and payments are NOT to be dropped off there or mailed to the township's P.O. Box. The treasurer accepts payments by mail or in person at her office located at 67722 N. Shore Dr., Edwardsburg, MI 49112. The treasurer's office hours are currently Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm or by calling to make an appointment. You may also drop your payment in the drop slot in her office door. Please check the bottom of each new tax bill received for any changes to hours or availability. If you mail your property tax payment and would like a receipt, please either include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a mailed copy or a note including your email address for an emailed copy. We are also accepting credit card payments for your convenience. Please use the QR code below to get started. Please feel free to contact Karla Mendenhall, Jefferson Township Treasurer for questions related to your property taxes at (269) 445-3941 ext. 1 or treasurer@jeffersontownshiponline.org.



Important Tax dates:

- September 14th was the due date for summer tax payments. Any summer tax payment after that date is delinquent. ***If you have a delinquent summer tax payment, please call the township treasurer prior to making payment so she can calculate interest and penalties.***
- February 29th is the last day to make delinquent summer and/or current winter tax payments to the Township Treasurer. ***As of March 1st, all payments must be made to the County Treasurer's office. Any payment made after February 29th to the Township Treasurer will be returned to you.***

News from the Assessor:

Please review your tax bills to verify that all the information listed is correct. It is your responsibility to verify whether you qualify for the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE). You can only claim **one** PRE regardless of where you own properties. If you are claiming a similar exemption on another home or this is not the address reflected on your driver's license, you cannot claim the PRE on this property. The State is continually performing audits to verify that if you are claiming the exemption, you rightfully can. If the state has questions about your homestead status, a questionnaire will be sent to you. DO NOT ignore this questionnaire. If you do not complete and submit this and any required documentation, it will be an automatic denial and the PRE will be removed for the current year and the preceding three years. You will be responsible for the previous years' back taxes and a possible penalty. To qualify for the PRE, you must live at the property. Your driver's license, voter registration and income tax returns must list that physical address. Please also note that your tax bill lists PRE/Ag exemption. It can be confusing that they are the same exemption. If you qualify, it will either be a PRE or Agricultural exemption. If you have any questions about property exemptions, please feel free to contact Township Assessor, Shalice Northrop at (269) 587-0208 or by email at shalicen@gmail.com

News from the Supervisor:

As you may have heard, Pride Care broke their contract and withdrew ambulance services in Cass County with a one-day notice in August. They were unable to continue providing service due to funding. This left Cass County municipalities scrambling for service. With the generous support of other local ambulance services providing mutual aid, we were not left without this necessary and life-saving service. Central Cass Ambulance Authority (Calvin, LaGrange (including the Village of Cass), Penn and Jefferson townships) along with Cass/VanBuren Emergency Services Authority (City of Dowagiac, Wayne, Silver Creek, Volinia and part of Pokagon townships) signed a short-term contract with SMCAS at the end of August. This contract is providing one ALS ambulance to cover these municipalities along with continued mutual aid from Life Care, SMCAS and Edwardsburg Ambulance. We are aware that ambulance response times have greatly increased due to the wide coverage area for one ambulance. SMCAS is working to get a 2nd ambulance in place for this coverage area. We hope this will help with response times. We are investigating our options with multiple ambulance services for a long-term contract and for full coverage of all municipalities. Unfortunately, the cost of emergency services is rising due to a shortage of EMT's and paramedics, increased cost of supplies and lower benefit reimbursements. We have been advised that municipalities will be facing the need to raise revenue to cover these costs. Under the current short-term contract, Jefferson Township can cover our subsidy costs with our existing emergency services revenue. If costs increase and it is necessary, the township will use funds set aside for unexpected expenses to make up any shortfall in our emergency services revenue until we have a new long-term contract in place. We expect at some point within the next year that we will need to come to taxpayers for a Emergency Services Assessment increase if we are to continue to provide the necessary ambulance service to our residents.

If you have any questions for the supervisor, Dean Hass, he can be reached at (269) 445-3941 ext. 3 or roper31@aol.com

Other News:

The annual Township Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Dumpsters will be available at the township hall for resident use. A list of prohibited items can be found on the website a week prior to the Clean-Up Day. Tires will be accepted for a fee. Tires on the rim - \$8 each. Tires off the rim - \$5 each. Please bring exact cash payment for tire disposal.

Thank you for supporting our Roads Millage. This spring & summer we were able to complete the following projects utilizing those funds along with our remaining ARPA funds for a total cost of \$262,022.32:

1. Dust Control Program for township dirt roads
2. Annual County Roadside Clean-Up
3. A new stop sign on Lake St.
4. Road projects on Kamp Kozy, Oil City Rd, N. Shore Dr., and Short St.

Did you know that the State and County are responsible respectively for highway and primary road maintenance in the Township? The township is responsible for road projects on secondary roads within the township.

We have also received some complaints from residents about the disruption caused by exploding targets. We ask that you remain considerate of your neighbors by keeping them away from property lines and observe reasonable hours when setting these off.

We would like to thank the following township board members who have stepped down this past year for their years of service to the community. We wish you the best!

Dave Majewski, Planning & Zoning Commission

Tom Stephenson, Planning & Zoning Commission

Sandy Randle, Board of Review

Please check out our website, www.jeffersontownshiponline.org, throughout the year for the latest township news and important information and resources.