

WATSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2013

Incorporated on February 16, 1842

1895—118TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010

HOPKINS AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Hopkins Area Fire Department is governed by an inter-local agreement between Hopkins, Watson, Monterey Townships and the Village of Hopkins. Representatives from each government body create the Hopkins Area Fire Board. The Fire Department covers approximately 80 square miles in Hopkins, Monterey, and Watson Townships for fire and rescue services. The Medical First Responders with Wayland Area EMS covers 90 square miles for all medical emergencies.

Some events the Fire Department will be hosting in the upcoming year include:

- Child seat safety inspection, provided by Hopkins Village Police Department. Check Hopkins Library website for details, dates and time.
- **June 16:** Pancake breakfast at 8 am at the Hopkins Fire Station.
- **July 4:** 4th of July celebration with fire truck rides and a Fire Department demonstration.
- **October 31:** Halloween traffic control for trick-or-treaters.

Hopkins firefighters have established a community service scholarship fund, which will be awarded to a senior from Hopkins High School. This scholarship will be awarded annually.

In 2012, the Fire Department has responded to 90 fire/personal injury (PI) accidents and 277 medical incidents for a total of 367 calls. Of those calls, Watson Township had 14 fire/PI accidents and 89 medical calls. Watson Township's substation currently houses a fire engine, pumper tanker, and a medical first response unit. Our current staff at the Watson station is composed of 7 firefighters. Watson's medical first response unit consists of 2 Medical First Responders, 3 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 1 Paramedic.

If you would be interested in becoming a trained firefighter/medical first responder to help serve your community, you may contact the Watson Township Office for more details.

Remember to always use care with any fire no matter how small. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year. If you are unable to change your smoke detector batteries and need assistance, contact the Hopkins Fire Department through the township office, or the Hopkins Fire Station at (269) 793-1000.

HOURS

Township Hall

Monday: 6 to 8 pm,
Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 11 am, or by
Appointment
Drop Box at West Entrance
Phone - (269) 672-7254
Fax - (269) 672-5488

E-mail: Watsontownship@btc-bci.com
Website: www.watsontownship.org

Township Assessor

Kevin Kutscher
Phone - (269) 672-7254
Phone - (269) 673-9616
Assessor's Hours: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th
Wednesday of Every Month
9:00am - 12:00pm

WATSON TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS

By law, voters must now show photo identification (e.g. driver's license, college or high school id) in order to receive a ballot and vote. Please remember when you come to vote, you need to bring a photo id in order to receive a ballot. If you have any questions regarding this new law, please contact us at (269) 672-7254

Anyone wishing to run for an elected position should contact our office for information and filing forms.

CEMETERY/PLANTINGS

Township Cemeteries' Sexton

Dave Kok
Phone - (269) 793-4032
Any questions regarding Watson Township cemeteries, including plantings, etc., should be directed to the Watson Township Cemetery Sexton Dave Kok .



TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor

Pam Brown
(269) 672-7254
psbrown2295@gmail.com

Clerk

Kelli Morris
269-217-9899-cell
jkas1993@gmail.com

Treasurer

Sue Jones
269-355-2752

Trustee

Rod Zeinstra
269-672-7990
rod@rwmerc.com

Trustee

Chuck Andrysiak
269-672-9497
cjandry@triton.net

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairperson

David Carter
269-672-9456
dncarter5@gmail.com

Secretary

Michelle Harris
269-672-5278
mcmroost@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Bruce Bos
(269) 672-7254
bbos@twin-pines.net

TWP Representative

Chuck Andrysiak
269-672-9497
cjandry@triton.net

Member

Beverly McKinnon
269-793-7145
zbevz@att.net

Member

Barb Wroblieski
269-793-7425
bluevelvet@BTC-BCI.com

Member

Troy Baker
269-672-5515

SPRING CLEAN - UP

Saturday, May 4th, 2013 9A.M. - 2P.M.

- The cost will vary from \$5 to \$25 a truck load.
- **ADOPT A ROAD:** Clean up your roadside and your trash is free at the clean-up. Call the Clerk to sign up.

Kalamazoo Metal Recycling is bringing a 40 yard container for any metal that a magnet will pick up. Included are appliances, stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators must have the Freon out, water heaters, car parts, snowmobiles, etc. No bricks, blocks, brush, **Exceptions are no propane tanks, gas tanks, or paint cans.**

BURN PERMITS

If you are burning brush or anything at your residence you must call 686-5222 between the hours of 6a.m. and 6pm. (this is an automated phone system). Please call the day you want to burn for the permit, they keep it on file at dispatch for the day.

RECYCLING

The recycling container at the township hall is currently open 24 hours a day, 7 days week for your convenience. **This service is in jeopardy of being removed as trash and other non-recyclable materials continue to be dumped at the recycling center.** If this area can not be kept clean, the township will have no choice but to remove the container. If the recycling containers are full, please do not leave recyclables outside of the container, as they will blow into neighboring properties.

DUST CONTROL

Southwest Michigan Dust Control will be doing the dust control for Watson Township. The cost will be \$39,000. There will be three applications currently scheduled for end of May, July and August.

WAYLAND AREA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Wayland Area EMS (Ambulance Service) serves all of Watson Township. A membership program called Vital Care is available for the residents of Watson Township. The fee is \$37 dollars a year/or \$111 for 3 yrs. with the 4th year free. This program allows your ambulance bill to be only what your Medicare or insurance provider will pay with no extra cost to you. Applications for the membership program can be picked up at the Township Hall, or call and one will be mailed to you. For more information contact Wayland Area EMS at 792-2958 or call the Township office at 672-7254.

PROFESSIONAL CODE SERVICES (PCI)

PROFESSIONAL CODE SERVICES handles all building/zoning permits, and ordinance enforcement for Watson Township. PCI is located at: 1575 142nd Ave., Dorr, MI 49323 phone (616) 877-2000 Watson 1-800-877-3335 Kirk Scharphorn Jr. is the Director of Inspections.

ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Allegan County issues, please contact District #6 County Commissioner Jon Campbell, 1639 Elm Street, Otsego, MI 49078-9314. Phone: (269) 694-4632 E-mail: jcampbell@allegancounty.org

WEST MICHIGAN WIRELESS ISP

High Speed Internet Service is now available for the Watson Township Area. West Michigan Wireless ISP, 237 Hubbard Street, Allegan, MI 49010. (269) 686-8648



TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairperson

Jim Lautenschleger
(517) 610-8411

Secretary,

PC Representative
David Carter
(269) 672-9456

Vice Chair

James Kelsey
(269) 793-7763

Twp Representative

Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254

Member

John VanDyke
(269) 672-7254

SPECIAL REQUEST

The township board is looking for pictures that would represent life in Watson Township.

These pictures will be used to show case the past and the present by displaying them on a "Watson Township Picture Board" at the township hall.

Please know that the pictures are non returnable.

You may drop off the picture(s) at the hall.

Please make sure that each picture is clearly marked with detailed descriptions which may include names of individuals in the photo, dates, address of the property, and even the type of event if possible.

Thank you.

MEETING DATES

Watson Township Board @ 7 pm

- April 14, 2013 (Annual Budget Meeting)
- May 2, 2013
- June 6, 2013
- July 11, 2013
- August 1, 2013
- September 5, 2013 (Annual Renewal of Special Assessment for Fire/EMS)
- October 3, 2013
- November 7, 2013
- December 5, 2013
- January 2, 2014
- February 6, 2014
- March 6, 2014
- April 3, 2014 (Annual Budget Meeting)

Planning Commission @ 7 pm

- March 27, 2013
- April 24, 2013
- June 26, 2013
- July 24, 2013
- September 25, 2013
- October 23, 2013
- December 4, 2013
- February 5, 2014

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Organizational meeting is the 1st Tuesday in March. All other meetings as noticed.
- 2013 Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2013 @ 7 pm

Board of Review

- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2013 @ 6 pm
- Tax Protest Heard: Monday, March 11, 2013 from 9 am to Noon; 2 pm to 5 pm and Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 1 pm to 4 pm; 6 pm to 9 pm

Assessor Hours

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday 9 am to 12 pm (269) 672-7254
- Assessor's Home Office Phone Number: (269) 673-9616

NOTICES AND PUBLICATIONS

All notices are published in the Wayland Penasee Globe. If you are not receiving a free copy on your mailbox please call the Penasee Globe 269-792-2271.

Watson Township
1895—118th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-672-7254

PROPERTY TAXES

Summer taxes are due by **September 14th** and winter taxes are due by **February 14th**. *We do not accept postmarks*, your tax payments must be at the township office by the due date. You may drop them off in the drop box located in the hall entryway. The Office is open on Mondays from 6—8 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9—11 am. September 14, December 28, 2013, February 14, and February 28, 2014 from 9 am—5 pm. Last day is February 14 to pay without penalties and February 28 is the final day we can accept them. After the 28th, payment will be received at the Allegan County Treasures Office in the Allegan County Court House. If you have any questions you may call the township office at (269) 672-7254.

TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

Hall rental is \$60 for township residents and \$120 for non-residents. Hall rental is free for non-profit groups, clubs, organizations, and funeral luncheons. If you would like to rent the Township Hall for an event please call the Township office 672-7254. You may also visit our website watsontownship.org to check out date availability on the Hall Rental Calendar. Smoking at the Township Hall is prohibited and **NO ALCOHOL**.

RECYCLE/DISPOSE USED MOTOR OIL

Little Pines—Otsego

Open: 8 am—6 pm, Monday thru Friday
Contact: Jim
269-692-3233

Auto Zone—Allegan

Open: 8 am—9 pm Monday thru Saturday.
10 am—7 pm Sunday
269-686-7877

Wieland's—Plainwell

Open: 8 am—5 pm, Monday thru Friday
269-685-9125

BJ's Auto—Allegan

269-673-2333

LIBRARIES

Watson Township residents are served by both the Hopkins and Martin libraries. Watson Township has members on both library boards. If you have any questions in regards to library services or would like to volunteer at either library please call the township hall.