

WATSON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2014

Incorporated on February 16, 1842

1895—118TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010

HOPKINS AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Hopkins Area Fire Department is governed by an enter-governmental agreement between Hopkins Township and Village, Monterey, and Watson townships. The fire department responds to fire and rescue incidents as well as providing medical first response for medical emergencies.

Upcoming events the fire department will be participating in:

- Child car seat check with the Hopkins Police Department
- Scotty's firehouse children's safety training workshops
- June 15, Father's Day pancake breakfast
- July 4, activities in Hopkins with antique fire truck rides
- October 31, Halloween traffic control for trick-or-treaters

The second annual Hopkins' Firefighters Community Service Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a Hopkins High graduating senior

Keep fresh batteries in your smoke detectors, plan and practice your home fire escape, and remember to call the Burn Permit line (269) 686-5222 before outdoor burning.

If interested in becoming a firefighter/medical first responder and serving your community, contact the township office at (269) 672-7254 or the Hopkins Fire Department office at (269) 793-1000.

The fire Board recently voted and approved to install a stand-by generator at the Watson Fire substation. The generator will power the entire fire station and township hall. Installation is being scheduled for this spring.

PROFESSIONAL CODE INSPECTIONS (PCI)

PROFESSIONAL CODE SERVICES handles all building/zoning permits, and ordinance enforcement for Watson Township. A licensed contractor or home owner may obtain Permit applications by contacting PCI, located at 1575 142nd Ave., Dorr, MI 49323. Phone (616) 877-2000, 800-877-3335. Kirk Scharphorn Jr. is the Director of Inspections.

The following information is state law and hopefully will help when decisions are made to supplement, replace, or add an auxiliary heat source and water heater.

- Homemade appliances are not legal in the state of Michigan.
- Appliances shall be installed as per manufacturer's specifications and listings.
- Solid fuel and gas appliances may not use the same chimney flue; they are required to be vented separately.
- A mechanical permit is required for the installation of fireplace units, wood burners of any kind,
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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@watsontownship.org
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. *Anyone wishing to run for an elected position should contact our office for information and filing forms.*

Elections Dates for 2014 are:

- February 25, 2014, No May Election (in Watson Twp.)
- August 5, 2014
- November 4, 2014

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming elections or would like to obtain an absentee ballot please call the township clerk at (269) 672-7254 (office) or (269) 217-9899 (cell). You may also email the clerk at watsontownship@gmail.com (hall) or kellimorris11@gmail.com (home).



TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor

Pam Brown
(616) 490-1627
psbrown2295@gmail.com

Clerk

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

Treasurer

Sue Jones
(269) 355-2752

Trustee

Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254
zeinstrar@gmail.com

Trustee

Chuck Andrysiak
(269) 672-9497
cjandry@att.net

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairperson

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

Secretary

Michelle Harris
(269) 217-5971
mcmroost@gmail.com

Vice Chair

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

TWP Representative

Chuck Andrysiak
(269) 672-9497
cjandry@att.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 3rd, 2014 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.

A 40 yard container will be on site 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 you 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 \$38,000. 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 (269) 792-2958 or call the Township office at (269) 672-7254.

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

PROFESSIONAL CODE INSPECTIONS *Continued*

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water heaters and furnace replacements. Outdoor wood burners shall be placed on the lot in compliance with applicable zoning laws for location and smoke.

For additional information on the installations of appliances, contact Professional Code Inspections (PCI), ask for Kirk Scharphorn, Jr. Director of Inspections. 800-628-3335 or (616)



**TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS**

Chairperson

Jim Lautenschleger
(269) 501-1486
jimlauten@gmail.com

**Secretary,
PC Representative**

David Carter
(269) 672-9456

Vice Chair

James Kelsey
(269) 793-7763

Twp Representative

Rod Zeinstra
(269) 672-7254
zeinstrar@gmail.com

Member

John VanDyke
(269) 793-3526

SEXTON

CEMETERY/PLANTINGS

John Andrysiak
Phone - (269) 365-4366

Any questions regarding Watson Township cemeteries, purchase of cemetery lots, memorial plantings and decorations should be directed to the Watson Township Cemetery Sexton, or Township office 269-672-7254.

A new Cemetery Ordinance was adopted in 2013. Please find rules on plantings of flowers, placing of pots and decorations posted at both Hicks and Miner Cemeteries.

MEETING DATES

Watson Township Board @ 7 pm

- April 3, 2014 (Annual Budget Meeting)
- May 1
- June 5
- July 10
- August 7,
- September 4 (annual renewal of special assessment Fire/EMS)
- October 2,
- November 6,
- December 4
- January 8, 2015
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2 (Annual Budget Meeting)

Planning Commission @ 7 pm

- March 26, 2014
- April 23
- June 25
- July 23
- September 24
- October 22,
- December 3,
- February 4, 2015

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Organizational meeting is the 1st Tuesday in March. All other meetings as noticed.
- 2015 Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 @ 7 pm

Board of Review

- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 @ 6 pm
- Tax Protest Heard: Monday, March 9, 2015 from 9 am to Noon; 2 pm to 5 pm and Tuesday, March 10, 2015 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

ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Allegan County Road Commission is pleased to announce we have secured funding for the replacement of the bridge on 112th Avenue, east of 20th Street. The structure has been closed since October 18, 2005 due to its deteriorated condition. This is one of five projects the Road Commission submitted to our legislators to use an estimated statewide pool of 115 million dollars resulting from unanticipated revenues in the state. The project estimated to cost \$300,000 and will be completed in 2014.

If you are a property owner adjacent to the structure you will be contacted in April with more details. Questions may be addressed to Craig Atwood, rcraig@alleganroads.org, (269) 673-2184. For further questions on the county roads within Watson Township, email Larry Brown, rlarry@alleganroads.org or call the office at (269) 673-2184

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 weekly on Mondays from 6-8 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11 am and Wednesday from 9-Noon. **Additional days for tax payments are:** September 14, December 27, 2014, February 14, and February 28, 2015 from 9 am to 5 pm. The last day is February 14th to pay without penalties and February 28th is the last day we can accept payment at the Township Office. After the 28th, payments must go to the Allegan County Treasures Office at the Allegan County Court House. If you have 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, call the Township office (269) 672-7254, or email at watsontownship@watsontownship.org.

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 and 10 am—7 pm Sunday
(269) 686-7877

Wieland's—Plainwell

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

LIBRARIES

Watson Township residents are served by both the Hopkins and Martin libraries. If you have any questions regarding library services or would like to volunteer at either library please contact the Hopkins Library at 269-793-7516 or visit www.hopkins.ilcoop.org. For the Martin JC Wheeler Library call 269-672-7875 or visit www.whellerpl.michlibrary.org