

# OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9 PAGE 1

DECEMBER 2006

OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP  
10584 Old 27 South  
P.O. Box 99  
Waters, MI 49797



Township Assessor – Fred Lindroth  
Township Constable – Jerry Brown  
Township Board of Review – Ben Scott - Chairperson,  
John Markovich and Joan Elenz  
Fire Chief – Joseph Shelly  
County Commissioner – Erma Backenstose

TOWNSHIP BOARD  
Tom Wagar, Supervisor Lorraine Markovich, Clerk  
Suzanne Whyte, Treasurer  
Mary Brown, Trustee Tim Baker, Trustee

Township Planning Commission  
John Preniczky - Chairperson  
Leonard Fritz, Nora Corfis,  
Margaret Black, Tim Baker  
Randy Stults, Erma Backenstose  
Dan Yale

## HELLO NEIGHBORS

Your Otsego Lake Township board strives continuously to improve Township services and amenities. The Planning Commission, Fire Department and Township Board have a very active and progressive year as you will note throughout the newsletter. You will observe many changes. Grants are applied for when possible. Recreation facilities are a future focus. Our current Pumper-Tanker Truck will be paid for on April 1, 2008. Roads are a problem we constantly address and try to improve on a managed basis.

We continue to seek interested individuals to fill Planning Commission and Board of Review vacancies as they may occur and to find individuals who are interested in park or cemetery committees. Please keep in touch.

Just a reminder, our Township meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month. You are more than welcome to join us. If you need a question answered by your Township supervisor, don't hesitate. Call me at work at 989-732-4288 or stop by. If I'm not busy trying to sell something, I'd be glad to talk.

*Tom Wagar, Otsego Lake Township Supervisor*

Work: 989-732-4288 • Home: 989-732-4038

## YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS!

### JOE SHELLY, FIRE CHIEF

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Depart is still looking for more volunteers (Fire and/or EMS) to help cover the Township effectively. Classes are routinely offered. Contact Joe at the Fire Hall (989) 732-1859 for more information.

**THANK YOU TO GEORGIA PACIFIC:** They donated the company fire packs to the Township this past summer. This was a tremendous donation which was greatly needed.

**911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS ARE OFFERED AT THE FIRE HALL.** \$13.00 covers mailing. These are wonderful signs, clearly marked so that Emergency Services are able to easily locate your property. If interested call the fire Hall (989) 732-1859 and leave a message.

## TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Township is regulated by the county Zoning Ordinance. The Township Master Plan has been completed and the Commission is now reviewing Ordinances to recommend and discuss with the Township Board. A productive joint meeting was held with the Bagley Township for an exchange of ideas and review of common concerns. Randy Stults is our representative to the County Planning Commission. We thank Phil Alexander for several years of service as his term expires. Nora Corfis and Dan Yale will assume new terms in January.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

**UNPAID 2006 SUMMER TAXES:** The 2006 winter tax bill includes information on 2006 summer taxes which remain unpaid as of 11-15-06. **TAX SHIFT PAYMENT:** In 2005 County Allocated Taxes began a tax shift from the winter to the summer bill, with one-third shifted each year for three years. The balance of the remaining 1/3 will be shifted on the Summer 2007 bill.

**DOG LICENSES** are available at the OTSEGO County Animal Shelter; 200 East 7th Street, Gaylord, MI 49735. Fees increase after March 1, 2007.

**PROPERTY ADDRESS AND 911:** The property address as it appears on your tax statement corresponds to the 911 system. Any questions should be addressed to the County Equalization Department. (989) 731-7410.

**NAME CHANGES OR CHANGES OF OWNERSHIP:** Must be documented by a recorded legal document (i.e. deed, quit claim deed, land contract, trust, death certificate, etc.). These should be recorded with the Otsego County Register of Deeds. **PROPERTY TRANSFER AFFIDAVITS MUST ALSO BE FILED WITH THE OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR.** P.O. BOX 98, WATERS, MI 49797.

**FORFEITURE AND FORECLOSURE:** UNPAID 2006 taxes are turned over to the County Treasurer after March 1, 2007. They go into **FORFEITURE MARCH 1, 2008 AND FORECLOSURE MARCH 1, 2009.** The 1999 tax law change accelerated the process by which owners can lose their property permanently. **PLEASE PROTECT YOURSELF AND KEEP PAYMENTS CURRENT.**

### SPECIAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

1. TRASH PICK UP \$82.80 per year. See additional information elsewhere.

2. FIRE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 1.05 mills.

Christian Boyak-Wohlfeil is finishing her second year serving as my Deputy Treasurer. In addition she assists with the general office duties for everyone. She is doing a great job, and you will undoubtedly be meeting her or speaking with her on the phone from time to time. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

*With Warm Holiday Wishes,*

*Suzanne Whyte, Treasurer*

P. O. Box 3038, Gaylord, MI 49734

(989) 732-6923 Ext. 1 (Voice Mail if I am unavailable)

E-MAIL: [otslktreasurer@charter.net](mailto:otslktreasurer@charter.net)

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

**INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE** will be provided at the Township Hall by Margaret Black. Times will be published later.

**TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:** [www.otsego-lake-township.org](http://www.otsego-lake-township.org)

**COUNTY WEB SITE:** [www.otsego-county-mi.gov](http://www.otsego-county-mi.gov)

**STATE OF MICHIGAN WEB SITE:** [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury)

**"THUNDER OVER WATERS FESTIVAL":** September 2, 2007

**FUNDRAISER:** January 13, 2007 (Saturday) from 5-8 p.m.

## FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Once again the township will be offering income tax preparation to senior citizens beginning in February 2007. Watch the Herald Times for specific dates and times. 2007 will be a quiet year for elections. 2008 will be busy with the presidential elections in August and November. If you are interested in becoming an election worker please call the clerks office. If you would like to rent the township hall or park and have a specific date that you would like to use either facility please contact the clerk's office. Rental rates are listed below.

### RATES FOR TOWNSHIP HALL:

No. of People	Resident	Non-Resident	Deposit*
1-20	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$25.00
21-50	\$50.00	\$80.00	\$50.00
51-75	\$100.00	\$160.00	\$50.00

Township Associations ..... \$15.00

Funeral receptions ..... No set fee - donations accepted  
\*Refunded if cleaned after use.

### RATES FOR TOWNSHIP PARK:

Businesses ..... \$35.00 + \$5.00 for electric  
Township Associations ..... No charge, \$5.00 for electric  
Residents ..... No charge, \$5.00 for electric  
Church Groups ..... By donation, \$5.00 for electric

The Otsego Lake Township Board meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted. Board meetings for 2007 are as follows:

January 18, 2007	May 17, 2007	September 20, 2007
February 21, 2007	June 21, 2007	October 18, 2007
March 15, 2007	July 19, 2007	November 15, 2007
April 19, 2007	August 16, 2007	December 20, 2007

*Lorraine Markovich, Clerk*

P. O. Box 99 • Waters, MI 49797

(989) 732-6929 Ext. 3 • Email: [otslkclerk@charter.net](mailto:otslkclerk@charter.net)

## TRASH GUIDELINES

American Waste (231) 258-9030

1. Areas NORTH of Old State/Mancelona Roads will be picked up on Tuesdays.

2. Areas SOUTH of Old State/Mancelona Roads will be picked up on Wednesdays.

3. HOLIDAYS: if the following legal holidays (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Christmas or New Years) falls on a Monday, trash will be picked up on Wednesday and Thursday respectively that week.

4. Six (30 gallon size) bags per week or four (30 gallon size) containers.  
5. ALL TRASH MUST BE BAGGED. No yard waste or hazardous materials/paint etc.

6. ONE LARGE ITEM PER MONTH ON ANY OF YOUR COLLECTIONS DAYS. Freon must be removed from appliances. If the item is extra large or heavy the hauler might have to make a second trip.

## TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

(Voice Mail on all Extensions) • Fax (989) 731-0926  
OFFICES ARE OPEN PART TIME

SUPERVISOR, Thomas Wagar	
(989) 732-4288 (989) 732-6923, Ext. #4	
TREASURER, Suzanne Whyte	Mon., Tues. & Thurs.
(989) 732-6923, Ext. #1	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
CLERK, Lorraine Markovich	Mon., Tues. & Thurs.
(989) 732-6923, Ext. #3	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ASSESSOR, Fred Lindroth	Mon. & Thurs.
(989) 732-6923, Ext. #2	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
TRUSTEE, Tim Baker	(989) 939-7972
TRUSTEE, Mary Brown	(989) 939-8269
TRASH PICK-UP; American Waste	231-258-9030

### COUNTY CONTACTS

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, Erma Backenstose	989-732-9594
OTSEGO COUNTY COURT HOUSE	(989) 732-6484
(County Treasurer, Clerk, Register of Deeds, Equalization, Animal Control, & others)	
OTSEGO COUNTY ZONING	(989) 731-0253
BUILDING DEPT.	(989) 731-0219
OTSEGO COUNTY SHERIFF	(989) 732-3557
EMERGENCY	911
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE	(989) 732-5141

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

**BASIC INFO FOR 2006:** 4688 Parcels Plus Splits; 3 School Districts  
Taxable Value 155,139,341 • Assessed Value 206,816,550

### PROPERTY SPLITS

Public act 591 of 1997 requires local approval of all property splits or divisions. Please contact the assessor's office to discuss splits and receive proper application forms.

### HOMEOWNERS PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT (FORMERLY CALLED HOMESTEAD AFFIDAVIT)

"Proposal A" saves you 18 mills of school operating millage on your principal residence. You must file the Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit OR rescind it if you move or change the use of the property. If you have a Homestead Exemption on file you do not need to file the new form. The law states that you may have ONLY ONE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION. If you claim one in Michigan, you may not have one in any other state. Lots adjoining your principal residence qualify as part of the exemption, but must be applied for on a separate form. The LAW STATES that you MUST OWN AND OCCUPY THE PROPERTY as your principal residence. The date of occupancy is the effective date. The state reviews the following criteria for residency: place of voter registration, address on driver's license, and address on income tax returns. It is important to remember this because the State of Michigan has initiated procedures to aggressively identify the exemptions that do not qualify. It also shares information with other states. If you have questions, please call.

### PROPERTY TRANSFER AFFIDAVITS

This affidavit is another very important document that MUST be filed with the assessor whenever there is a conveyance or any change in ownership created through warranty deeds, quit claim deeds, land contracts, trusts, etc. Always check with your closing agent or attorney. Taxable value is uncapped at time of transfer and is changed to the assessed value. There are certain exemptions listed on the form.

**ASSESSMENT CHANGE NOTICES AND MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW.** Assessment change notices are mailed the end of February. You will receive one only if there is a change in your assessed or taxable value. Principal Residence Exemptions are not updated until May 2007 so the form may not reflect current status. The Board of Review meets in March. Time and dates will be on the notice.

**FORMS** are available at the Township Hall, on the Michigan Department of Treasury Web Site ([www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury)), or the Township Web Site.

*Fred Lindroth, Otsego Lake Township Assessor*

P. O. Box 98 • Waters, MI 49797

(989) 732-6923 Ext. 2 • Email: [otslkassessor@charter.net](mailto:otslkassessor@charter.net)

## FROM THE TRUSTEE'S DESK, Tim Baker

**TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:** [www.otsego-lake-township.org](http://www.otsego-lake-township.org)

This site includes information on the Township Board, Township Planning Commission and Fire Department. You have access to Township Minutes, Forms, as well as other information. The site also includes "Business Links" which directs you to the Waters Business Association Web site which features businesses and activities in and around Waters.

### WATERS DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE

With help from the Waters Businesses and a Grant from MDOT the Downtown Improvements have been completed with sidewalks, street lights, benches, etc. Specialty banners are being planned for the different seasons. We hope you enjoy this change of ambiance. The new Waters Business kiosk has been completed at the end of Marlette Road.

## FROM THE DESK OF MARY BROWN, Trustee

Mary is the liaison to the Fire Department and to the Festival Committee. **THUNDER OVER WATERS IS A FESTIVAL** that will be held Sunday, September 2, 2007. The festival will include a full day of events including an art exhibit, and arts and craft show, 5K run, parade, lots of children's games, prizes, and pancake breakfast to name a few. The festivities will culminate with a fireworks display "Thunder Over Waters."

Fundraisers are being held to support the event. **THE NEXT FUNDRAISER IS Saturday, JANUARY 13th, 2007 from 5-8 p.m.** It will be a dinner held at the Fire Hall. The first fundraiser was a spaghetti dinner, \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. It was a wonderful event. Any and all support will be greatly appreciated. Contact Mary Brown, Trustee, evenings at (989) 939-8269.

