

OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 PAGE 1

DECEMBER 2007

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



TOWNSHIP BOARD

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

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

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

HI NEIGHBORS

It's been a busy year in our Township. I hope everyone had the opportunity to take part in the 1st annual Thunder Over Waters Festival - what a big success. Have you noticed the new Otsego Lake Township signs as you enter the township?

A Parks and Recreation Committee has been formed, and they have hit the ground running. Already at the Township Park you will notice a new parking lot next to the pavilion which should improve handicapped accessibility. In the spring there's talk of new playground equipment aimed at younger children. A new sign has been placed at the entrance to the park, making it easier to find.

The Otsego Lake Township Fire Department has been busy improving fire protection. The department has ordered a new fire truck, which should be delivered soon and sites where fire trucks can refill while fighting a fire are being readied.

I would like to thank everyone who raised their hand this year and said yes, I'll help. It's made a huge difference in our community.

Tom Wagar, Otsego Lake Township Supervisor

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

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS!

JOE SHELLY, FIRE CHIEF

WATER POINTS: The Township plans to provide extra water points. There will be a dry hydrant at Guthrie Lakes and a buried tank in Michaywe. In the event of a fire these will provide access to more water without returning to the Fire Hall.

MINI PUMPER: The Township has also purchased a new Mini Pumper which should be delivered before Christmas.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED: The department is still looking for more Volunteers (Fire and/or EMS) to help cover the Township effectively.

911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS: \$10 or \$13 with pole. These are wonderful signs. They are clearly marked so that emergency services are able to easily locate your property. If interested, call the Fire Hall and leave a message (989) 732-1859.

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Township is regulated by the County Zoning Ordinance. However, this year the Township Planning Commission drafted three Township Ordinances which were approved by the Township board and published. These included an Enforcement Officer Ordinance (March 2007); a Dangerous Building Ordinance (March 2007); a Billboard Regulation Ordinance (April 2007); and an Amendment to the Fire Charges Ordinance (September 2007). The commission is also working on a Future Land Use Map to submit to Otsego County. Randy Stults is the Township Representative to the County Planning Commission and has also been appointed to the County Zoning Board of Appeals.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

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

TOWNSHIP WEB SITE: www.otsegolaketownship.org

COUNTY WEB SITE: www.otsegoctymmi.gov

STATE OF MICHIGAN WEB SITE: www.michigan.gov/treasury

THUNDER OVER WATERS FESTIVAL: Labor Day Weekend 2008

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

ONLINE INFORMATION AND PAYMENTS: Information on property taxes and payments will be available at <http://otsegolaketownship.org>. Online payments may be made after December 15, 2007. Instructions are on the web site.

UNPAID 2007 SUMMER TAXES: The 2007 winter tax bill includes information on 2007 summer taxes which remain unpaid as of 11-15-07.

DOG LICENSES are available at the Otsego County Animal Shelter; 200 East 7th Street, Gaylord, MI 49735. (989) 705-7632

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

NAME CHANGES OR CHANGES OF OWNERSHIP: These 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 (989) 731-7550. PROPERTY TRANSFER AFFIDAVITS MUST ALSO BE FILED with the Otsego Lake Township Assessor, P.O. Box 98, Waters, MI 49797 - (989) 732-6923 Ext. 2.

FORFEITURE AND FORECLOSURE: Unpaid 2007 taxes are turned over to the County Treasurer after March 1, 2008. They go into FORFEITURE MARCH 1, 2009 and FORECLOSURE MARCH 1, 2010. Questions on delinquent taxes should be addressed to the County Treasurer (989) 731-7560.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

1. TRASH PICK UP \$85.20 per year. See additional information elsewhere.
2. FIRE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 1.05 mills.

The Township has purchased a new Mini Pumper this year, paying cash for it. The Pumper Tanker purchased in 2003 will be paid for in full April 2008.

We were all saddened by the death of John Markovich last May. John served the Township in many capacities for many years. He served as assessor in the 1980's, and on the Board of Review and Planning Commission. He was also the Township Representative on the County Planning Commission and the County Board of Appeals. "Thank you John for all your contributions."

Last summer I was awarded the CPFA (Certified Public Finance Administrator) designation by the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, after completing their extensive education and experience requirements.

Suzanne Whyte CPFA, Treasurer

P. O. Box 3038, Gaylord, MI 49734

(989) 732-6923 Ext. 1 (Voice Mail) E-MAIL: otslktreasurer@charter.net
Christine Boyak-Wohlfeil serves as my deputy.

FROM THE DESK OF MARY BROWN, Trustee

Mary is the liaison to the Fire Department, the Festival Committee and Cemetery Committee.

The Otsego Lake Township Cemetery Committee has an opening for an alternate member. If you are interested in joining this committee, please download the application or stop at the Otsego Lake Township Hall.

The Thunder Over Waters Festival Committee is working on the 2008 festival. Our meetings are held at the Township hall. The next meeting will be December 3, 2007, at 7 p.m. Anyone who is interested or has questions may call Mary Brown at (989) 939-8269. This is held on Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Once again the township will be offering income tax preparation to senior citizens beginning in February 2008. Watch the Herald Times for specific dates and times. There will be some changes when you come to the polls in 2008. You will need to bring some form of photo identification. If you do not have pictured ID, you will be asked to sign an affidavit of identity. Once you do this and your name appears on the poll list, you will be given a ballot and allowed to vote. There has been a ruling by the State of Michigan Court of Appeals that makes all permanent absent voter lists illegal. If anyone would like to receive an application for an absent voter ballot please call the clerks office at (989) 732-6929, ext. 3 and request an application or stop by the Otsego Lake Township Hall office and pick up an application. A new parking lot has been constructed at the park adding handicap accessible parking spaces and moving parking closer to the pavilion. 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 2008 are as follows:			
January 17, 2008	May 15, 2008	September 18, 2008	
February 21, 2008	June 19, 2008	October 16, 2008	
March 20, 2008	July 17, 2008	November 20, 2008	
April 17, 2008	August 21, 2008	December 18, 2008	

Lorraine Markovich, Clerk

P. O. Box 99 • Waters, MI 49797

(989) 732-6929 Ext. 3 • Email: 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	
(989) 732-6923, Ext. #1	Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
CLERK, Lorraine Markovich	
(989) 732-6923, Ext. #3	Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ASSESSOR, Fred Lindroth	
(989) 732-6923, Ext. #2	Mon. & Thurs. 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) 731-7420
BUILDING DEPT.	(989) 731-7400
OTSEGO COUNTY SHERIFF	(989) 732-3555
EMERGENCY	911
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE	(989) 732-5141

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

BASIC INFO FOR 2007: Parcels 4646 Plus Splits; 3 School Districts

Taxable Value 164,272,435 • Assessed Value 216,708,950

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

"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. 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 2008 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), or the Township Web Site.

Fred Lindroth, Otsego Lake Township Assessor

P. O. Box 98 • Waters, MI 49797

(989) 732-6923 Ext. 2 • Email: otstkassessor@charter.net

FROM THE DESK OF TIM BAKER, Trustee

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEES: The Township Board has recently commissioned two new committees. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee mission is to study and make recommendations to the Township Board on ways to improve and manage parks, trails and places of recreation under the authority of Otsego Lake Township. The Parks and Recreation committee meets four times a year.

The Cemetery Committee's mission is to recommend ways to improve and manage the Township Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee meets at least twice a year. Anyone interested in either of the committees can pick up applications from the township hall or go online to the individual committee web pages.

TOWNSHIP PARK: The Township board has recently completed the installation of a new paved parking lot next to the pavilion. The parking lot allows for handicap access to the pavilion as well as a sidewalk to the parking across the street. In coming years the Board will look at the recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Committee on improving access to the park and adding other amenities.

TOWNSHIP CEMETERY: The Township board is in the process of purchasing property behind the township cemetery for future expansion. The new property would approximately double the size of the cemetery.

TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION: The Township is regulated by the Otsego County Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission is working on ways to educate businesses and the public on aspects of the Zoning Ordinance including but not limited to signage and accessory buildings. The Township board would like to thank Leonard Fritz for his years of service on the Planning Commission as his term will expire in December. Dan Yale will assume the permanent position that will open up. The Planning Commission is looking for interested people to serve on the Commission. There is currently one alternate position available. Anyone interested can pick up an application at the Township Hall or visit the Planning Commission web page.

Tim Baker, Otsego Lake Township Trustee

P. O. Box 99 • Waters, MI 49797 • (989) 732-6929 • Fax (989) 732-0926

Email: otslktrusteeba@otsego-laketownship.org • www.otsego-laketownship.org