

OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

December 2010

OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP

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TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

SUPERVISOR, Tom Wagar 732-4288

TREASURER Christie Jacobs 732-6929 ext.1

CLERK, Lorraine Markovich 732-6929 ext 3

TRUSTEES: Mary Brown & Tim Baker

ASSESSOR- Fred Lindroth 732-6923 ext.2

COUNTY COMMISSIONER- Erma Backenstose

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR- Hello Neighbors, it's been another great year in the Township. When you have time, I suggest you visit the Township Park, and see the nice job the Parks and Recreation Committee has done, it's beautiful. The Cemetery Committee has been hard at work making improvements to your Township Cemetery. I invite you to stop by and walk around; it's very peaceful and well maintained. I'd like to thank Paul Millikin for the fantastic job he does for the Township, maintaining our grounds and snow plowing. This next spring and summer, it's "Road under Construction Time". Both West Otsego Lake Drive and the hill on Mancelona Rd will be repaved and improved. If you ever have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to give me a call or stop by my place of employment. You're always welcome. **Tom Wagar (989)732-4288**

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK - I hope all of you enjoyed our beautiful northern Michigan summer. I am very proud to be part of this township and proud of our taxpayers. To date, over 93% of our summer taxes have been collected. Considering the economy, I feel this is quite impressive.

The 2010 winter tax due date is February 14, 2011. If paying in person you will need to be at the office by 5p.m. on that day. If payment is by mail, I will accept a postmark of February 14, 2011. We have also installed a drop box to the left of the double doors of the back entrance to the township hall. Payments after February 14, 2011 are subject to penalty and interest.

I try to catch any unpaid summer taxes when I receive a winter tax payment. If this is the case, I will send you a winter tax receipt along with a summer tax notice. Due to the volume of payments I may process in a given day, I may not catch all of them. If you are unsure whether you paid your summer bill, please check your records or feel free to call me.

My normal office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Special Treasurer Office hours: Thursday, December 30 from 9 am – 5 pm.: Monday, February 14 from 9 am -5 pm.: Monday, February 28 from 9am – 5 pm.

Please be sure to inform me of any address changes. 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.) and a transfer affidavit filed with the assessor.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Christie Jacobs, Treasurer 989.732.6929, Ext. 1 otslktreasurer@charter.net

FIRE DEPARTMENT- Well, it's been a quiet year for structure fires but all other calls appear to be up. So, at this time I would like to share a few safety tips that may make your life and ours just a little bit less stressful. 1. When traveling in the wintertime, slow down, leave early and drive carefully, also always drive with those headlights on. 2. Clean your woodstove/fireplace chimneys at least twice a year or more depending on usage and type of wood you burn. 3. Check your batteries in your smoke detectors at least twice a year, and if you don't have a carbon monoxide detector, please get one. They cost less than \$50 and could save your life!!! 4. As soon as you realize you may need help from Fire/EMS call 911 immediately. Our station is not manned. We are part time paid volunteers, and minutes DO count, so, please don't hesitate. Please check the Township website for upcoming fundraisers and social events. Also check out our new facebook page @ Otsego Lake Township Fire Department. Thank you and let's have a safe and Happy New Year! Fire Chief/EMT Joseph Shelly

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK – It should be a quiet year as far as election scheduling. I am a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee and I wanted to update residents on some of the improvements that have been done at the township park. Our purpose is to make the park a place for families and groups to enjoy. A vault toilet was installed, further improvements were made to the baseball diamond, and a smaller pavilion was built across the street near the nature trail for use if the main pavilion is reserved or for those wishing a quieter setting. More wood chips were added to the Nature Trail to better define the path and make it more enjoyable for walking. Rental rates are the same as last year for both the park and township hall and are listed below.

Rates for Township Hall

No. of people	Resident	NonResident	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			

Rates for Township Park

Businesses	\$35.00 + \$5 for electric
Township Associations	No charge, \$5 for electric
Residents	No charge, \$5 for electric
Non-residents.....	\$25.00 + \$5 for electric
Church Groups...	By donation, \$5 for electric

Funeral receptions..... Donations accepted *Refunded if cleaned after use.

The Otsego Lake Township Board meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00PM unless otherwise posted. Board meetings for 2011 are: **January 19, 2011 February 16, 2011 March 16, 2011 April 20, 2011 May 18, 2011 June 15, 2011 July 20, 2011 August 17, 2011 September 21, 2011 October 19, 2011 November 16, 2011 December 21, 2011**

Lorraine Markovich, Clerk otslkclerk@charter.net

From Trustee Mary Brown – *It has been a wonderful summer! In addition to serving as trustee, I have enjoyed being on the Cemetery Committee and seeing some of the improvements being made there. The pump house was painted and a new roof was put on.. Nora Corfis continues to plant the flowers and maintain them. She spends a lot of her time there and it looks beautiful. We had Landscape Plus add some black dirt and grass seed on the north side of the cemetery. There is a new water source there so we can improve the grass in that section. The driveway marker posts were replaced and installed evenly to better mark the drive. There is a new software program for Cemetery Mapping that is almost completed with information on our cemetery. This is a computerized, detailed record of who is buried there and where they are located. Next year's project includes starting to refurbish some of the civil war veteran's headstones. We continue to make improvements and welcome any suggestions you may have. Feel free to call me at 989-939-8269. Have a great Winter!* **Mary**

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK - Basic Info for 2010: Parcels 4792 with 3 school districts. Taxable Value 156,258,041. Assessed Value 184,822,800: Public Act 591 of 1997 requires local approval of all property splits or divisions. Contact Assessor's office to discuss splits and receive application forms. Homeowners Principal Residence exemption affidavit "Proposal A" saves you 18 mills of school operating millage on your principal residence. You must file this or rescind it if you move or change use of the property. Law states only one principal residence exemption. If you claim one in Michigan, you cannot claim one in another state. Lots adjoining principal residence qualify as part of the exemption, but you apply for on separate form. The law states you must own and occupy the property as principal residence. Date of occupancy is the effective date. The state's criterion for residency is place of voter registration, address on driver's license and income tax return address. Take notice because the state of Michigan is going to aggressively identify exemptions that do not qualify. It also shares info with other states. Property Transfer Affidavits: This 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, trust, 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 if there is a change in assessed or taxable value. Principal residence Exemptions are not updated until May so form may not show current status. The Board of Review meets in March. Times and dates are on notice and forms are available at Township Hall, on the Michigan Depart of Treasury Web site (www.michigan.gov/treasury), or the Township Web site. Note: Please notify us if you receive a Trash assessment on your bill and the property is VACANT.

Fred Lindroth, Assessor otslkassessor@charter.net

TRASH GUIDELINES- American Waste (231)258-9030 Areas NORTH of Old State/Mancelona are picked up on Tuesdays. Areas SOUTH of Old State/Mancelona are picked up on Wednesdays. If Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Christmas or New Years falls on Monday, trash will be picked up on Wednesday and Thursday that week. All trash must be bagged. No yard waste or hazardous materials. Six Bags per week and One Large Item each month.