

DECEMBER 2018

GREEN OAK CHARTER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

10001 Silver Lake Road; Brighton, MI 48116

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Upcoming Events

December 24, 25, and 31, 2018

Township Offices Closed

January 1st, 2019

Township Offices Closed

January 21, 2019

Township Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

February 14, 2019

2018 Summer and Winter taxes due before 5:00 p.m.

February 18, 2019

Township Offices Closed for President's Day

May 27, 2019

Township Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Notice our new logo. We are updating our website so any Township photos you may have are welcome. Send photos to admin@greenoaktwp.com

Supervisor's News

Road and Path Information Update

Our Paths

We completed the work necessary to start construction on the Lakeland Trails and Lemen Road. Clearing will begin this winter with construction starting in the spring of 2019. We are working on options and plans for the Fieldcrest South Pathway and do not anticipate any construction work until 2020. The Township completed new sidewalk on the east side of Rickett from Lee Road and connecting the sidewalk belonging to the City of Brighton. Design for a connecting sidewalk along Grand River from Pleasant Valley Road east to the Township line has started.

Silver Lake Road: This is the Townships next project from Rushton Road to the intersection of Silver Lake and Silver Side. Clearing should begin this winter following an informational meeting for the residents along Silver Lake Road. The design work is complete, and the County Road Commission is working on securing easements. Construction is anticipated for the summer of 2019.

Dixboro between 8 and 9 Mile Road: Dixboro Road from 9 Mile to 8 Mile is scheduled for paving in 2019 and into 2020 with clearing of trees during the winter. This project is through a Federal Aid distribution of 1.6 million dollars. The remainder of the 2.6 million for this project will be split through a working agreement with the City of South Lyon, Lyon Township, Oakland County Road Commission, and Green Oak Charter Township.

Treasurer's Department News

New Dog License Information

Livingston County Dog Licenses are NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE www.livgov.com

THE TOP 3 REASONS TO LICENSE YOUR DOG:

- **Rabies Control/Prevention**
- **Reunite lost dog with their owner**
- **IT'S STATE LAW!**

Residents can either go online to order their tags (we have a link on our website on the Treasurers page) or come to the Township to get their license. We are always happy to see you and your dog. Please bring proof of rabies.

The County will notify you when your license is due through a postcard. Once you get the postcard, do not wait. Any licenses due at the end of the month must be purchased by the end of the month or the late fee will apply. The Township has not charged the late fee in the past. However, under the new system, the late fee will be assessed since it is required by the County. A 1 year spay/neuter license is \$10, a 3 year spay/neuter license is \$25, and replacement licenses is \$5. All licenses are based on the expiration date of the rabies shot.

Therapy dogs and service dogs must be processed at the County. Therapy dogs are free. Current fees apply to Service dogs.

2018 Summer and Winter Taxes are due on February 14, 2019 before 5:00 p.m. Interest on unpaid summer taxes is accumulating at 1% per month since September 14, 2018. After February 14, a 3% penalty applies. We do not take postmarks.

Taxes become delinquent to the Livingston County Treasurer on March 1 and are payable with additional 1% interest per month and 4% administration fee. Between March 2 and March 20 (or until Green Oak is settled with the County) tax payments cannot be accepted. The interest and administration fee will remain the same if the tax is paid between March 2 and March 31. Delinquent tax payments can be sent to the Livingston County Treasurer, Jennifer Nash, at 200 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. Phone: 517-546-7010.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not waive interest, penalties, or administration fees. The legal responsibility of paying taxes on the correct parcel of property rests with the taxpayer. The Treasurer will not be responsible for payment on wrong descriptions. Status of your Tax bill payments can be viewed through our website under "Property and Tax Search"

Cash and Check Information: **1) Cash-**It is not always possible to break large bills, as the office keeps minimal change on hand for security reasons. If possible, please pay with some smaller denomination bills when possible; **2) Checks-**Make checks payable to "Green Oak Charter Township" and include your current telephone number and parcel number of the property (i.e. 4716-xx-xxx-xxx); **3) Deposit Drop Box-**For your convenience, the Township has a drop box located in front of the Township Hall main entrance. Please use only checks or money orders when using the drop box. **Any payments made after 5:00 p.m. will be applied on the next business day;** and **4) Partial Payments-**The Treasurer takes partial payments for taxes. Any amount not paid by the due date will go delinquent and does incur penalties and interest.

Utility Bills: The Treasurer's Office handles all sewer utility billing and water utility meter reading and billing for the Livingston Community Water Authority (LCWA). All utility services are billed in arrears on a quarterly basis. If you are moving in or out of your residence, please call the township for a final bill and mailing address information.

Clerk's Information

Passport Information: You may apply for a new passport or passport card at the Clerk's Office from 9-4 daily. To apply you will need photo ID, a birth certificate with original seal, and a passport photo. Application forms are available for new and renewal passports. Allow 4 to 6 weeks to receive your passport with regular processing, or 2 to 3 weeks if you pay extra fees to expedite processing. Per Federal Government regulations, **passport fees can only be paid by check or money order. Cash is not accepted.**

The passport fee for anyone over the age of 16 is \$110. For children under the age of 16, the passport fee is \$80. There is an additional \$35 execution fee for processing. Two separate checks will be needed for payment.

Notary services are available for free to residents on most days during regular Township business hours for the residents at no cost. Bring a photo ID and do not sign the document until you are in front of the Notary.



Police Blog

The new Police Building is almost complete. We are still working on finalizing inside walls, tile, furniture, etc. The Police Staff is anticipating moving into the building the first part of January. The Township anticipates having a grand opening in the spring, but no date is set at this time. All residents will be welcome.



Winter Driving Tips from the Police Department

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicle and adjusting your driving for the winter season are the keys to safe winter driving.

- **Don't drive if you don't have to!** If you must drive, get an early start and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
- **Keep your gas tank full.** It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a bad storm or you may be caught in a traffic delay.
- **Visibility is important!** Keep your windshield and windows clear. Clear your windshields before you set out and keep it clear throughout your trip. It may be necessary to stop at a safe place to use a brush or scraper.
- **Slow down!** A highway speed of 70 miles an hour may be safe in dry weather but an invitation for trouble on snow and ice. Snow and ice make stopping distances much longer. Keep your seat belt buckled and leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. Remember to avoid sudden stops and quick direction changes.
- **Watch for Ice!** Bridges and overpasses accumulate ice first; approach them with extreme caution and do not apply your brakes while on the bridge.
- **Be more observant!** Visibility is often limited in winter by weather conditions. Slow down and move over for other vehicles that have flashing lights, visibility may be so restricted during a storm that it is difficult to see the maintenance or emergency equipment.
- **Be Safe!** Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt appropriate for his/her height, weight and age.
- **STOP TEXTING!** Every Michigan driver knows writing and reading texts is both **ILLEGAL** and **DANGEROUS** when driving, yet countless people continue to do it. It not only steals your attention away, it robs your vision from the road and your hands from the wheel. When you concentrate on your phone, for that instant, there is nothing else on your mind. Meanwhile you are barreling down an icy road in a multi-ton vehicle and only chance alone keeps you from a potentially life-ending accident. If you text and drive, **PLEASE** cease doing so immediately.

Fire News

Seasonal Fire Hazards: Heating equipment is a leading cause of many home fires during the winter months. Home furnaces, alternative heating equipment such as fireplaces and space heaters should be regularly checked and maintained. The Fire Department responds to several chimney fires and improper use of woodstoves each year, many of which could be prevented by annual chimney cleaning by a qualified chimney contractor and by burning only wood (no cardboard, wrapping paper, etc.).

Any fueled (non-electric) heating device has the potential, if malfunctioning, of emitting dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Generators, even if properly running, emit dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide and should never be located inside a home, shed or garage when running. Generators need a well-ventilated open space to operate safely.

As the Holidays approach please remember that natural trees used for decoration should be watered daily and that using candles as a decoration requires adult presence and vigilance. The Fire Department discourages their use. Finally, smoke detectors do save lives and if you did not change all your smoke detectors' batteries when the time changed in November, please be sure to pick up an extra package of batteries and do so today. Best wishes for a safe Holiday season.

News from your Ordinance Officer

Friendly reminders from the Ordinance Department:

- 1) **Dog feces:** Please clean up after your pets daily (Sections 4-27 & 4-28). This eliminates offensive odors and one of the main sources for rat harborage.
- 2) **Recreational Equipment storage:** Boats and campers can be stored at most properties. They must be stored behind the required front yard setback (40' off the road in R2). Recreational equipment can be parked in front yard setback for no more than 72 hours for loading/unloading and maintenance (Section 38-314).
- 3) **Hunting** is allowed in many areas of the Township while governed by Federal, State, and Local laws. However, hunting is prohibited in sections 22, 23, 26, and 27 as well as the Fonda/Island/Briggs Lake area and the Whitmore Lake portion of the Township. There may be other restrictions; please consult the Department of Natural Resources at (517) 641-4903 or the Township at (810) 231-1333 x100 with any questions.

Community Information

Work on the Historic Township Hall: The Township has continued to work on the 1856 Historic Township Hall with the support of the Green Oak Township Historical Society. During one of our summer storms, a large tree fell on the hall and damaged some of the roof and gutters in the back of the building. Many people helped, but a special thanks to Green Oak Gutter for adding new gutters to replace the damaged pieces. New carpet which was long overdue will be installed before Christmas. Everyone looks forward to spring when we can continue to spruce up the property with new landscaping. Donations to the Historical Society are always welcome. Please contact Marilyn Harrington (President) at (586) 556-0116 for further information. Check out their website: greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.org

Business Spotlight

Oxford Recovery Center recently had their grand opening in August. Oxford Recovery Center (ORC), an innovative therapy center that promotes healing through a variety of research-based therapies, has opened its new, state-of-the-art treatment center at 7030 Whitmore Lake Rd, Brighton, Mich. The new location provides room to house all of its therapy offerings, plus the addition of a medical suite for its new medical director. In addition to its core therapies, ORC is now running their new program, Autism Recovery Thru Synergy (ARTS), which combines its current therapies with several new offerings that lead to autism recovery.

Oxford Recovery Center is a proud supporter of the Oxford Kids Foundation, a 501 (C)(3) Non-Profit that provides life-changing therapies not covered by insurance to children with disabilities, chronic illness, and traumatic injuries.