

Green Oak Charter Township Newsletter

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Our Mission Statement

"Enhance the quality of life by promoting a secure, welcoming and diverse community that is both respectful of our historical, rural heritage and responsive to current and future needs through honest, open and proactive involvement of all, creating an enduring sense of community."

Supervisor's News

Road and Path Information Update

The 2016 road construction season has ended for Green Oak projects. It has been a very productive year in Green Oak. We are continuing work on the connection to Lakeland Trails, the Fieldcrest South Pathway, and Lemen Road paths. We are finalizing easements and engineering work on these paths. Along with these, the Township is in design of a new sidewalk on the east side of Rickett from Lee Road and connecting with the sidewalk belonging to the City of Brighton and a connecting sidewalk along Grand River from Pleasant Valley Road east to the Township line.

Rushton Road:

Construction activity on Rushton Road will continue through the winter. Beginning in the spring and early summer of 2017 a final asphalt layer will be added to the entire road and final construction will be completed on the box culvert, bridge deck repairs.

Silver Lake Road

This is the Township's next project from Rushton Road to the intersection of Silver Lake and Silver Side. Soil borings and survey work is done. Currently, the design work is being done. There is no date set for construction.

Upcoming Events

December 23, 26, and 30th 2016

Township Offices Closed

January 2nd 2017

Township Offices Closed

January 16, 2017

Township Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

February 14, 2017

2016 Summer and Winter taxes due before 5:00 p.m.

February 20, 2017

Township Offices Closed for Washington's Birthday

May 29, 2017

Township Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Treasurer's Department News

2016 Summer and Winter Taxes are due on February 14, 2017 before 5:00 p.m. Interest on unpaid summer taxes is accumulating at 1% per month since September 14, 2016. 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.

Bills paid through your on-line banking system – We have added a new feature where our bank is capturing your checks before it goes to a third party. If the check is not marked with either a parcel number or utility bill account number (dashes included), it may go through a third-party processor and may take up to 15 to 20 business days to be received. Make sure you give enough time for your payment to arrive at the Township offices since we do not take postmarks. Tax bill payments can be checked through our website under "Property and Tax Search".

Senate Bill 972 was passed requiring notification that you may have prior year delinquent taxes at the county. Look for the information statement in the Property Information section of your tax bill.

Dog Licenses – a 1 year spay/neuter license is now \$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. We have the new 2017 tags available. We are always happy to see you and your dog.

Clerk's Information

Passport Information

You may apply for a passport or passport card at the Clerk's office from 9-4 daily at the Clerk's department. To apply you will need photo ID and an original birth certificate. Application forms are available. Any Walgreens, CVS, or Costco provide picture services. 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.

The passport fee for anyone over the age of 16 is \$135.00 and is good for ten years. For children under the age of 16, the passport fee is \$105.00.

Notary services are available for free to residents most days during regular township business hours for the residents at no cost.



Police Department News

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.

Police Department Welcomes New Officers

Chief of Police Jason Pless and the members of the Green Oak Charter Township Police Department would like to introduce three new Police Officers that have recently joined the Green Oak Police Department.

OFFICER DAVID VASIOFF - Officer Vasiloff is a Green Oak Township Native, graduating from Brighton High School in 2006. Officer Vasiloff is a Veteran of the United States Military, serving honorably in the United States Marine Corps from 2007-2011 that included two combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Officer Vasiloff attended the Washtenaw Police Academy in Ann Arbor and was hired by our Agency in May of 2016.

OFFICER DANIEL FRENGER- Officer Frenger is a native of Howell, graduating from Howell High School in 2009. Officer Frenger is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard, serving honorably from 2011-2016. Officer Frenger attended the Schoolcraft Police Academy in Livonia and was hired by our agency in May of 2016.

OFFICER TIMOTHY NISENBAUM - Officer Nisenbaum is a native of Livonia, graduating from Brighton High School in 2013. Prior to being hired by Green Oak Township Officer Nisenbaum obtained Law Enforcement experience by working as a Police Service Aide for the Wixom Police Department. Officer Nisenbaum attended the Schoolcraft Police Academy in Livonia and was hired by our agency in June of 2016.

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, but must be stored behind the front yard setback (next to or behind the house). 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 @ (517) 641-4903 or the Township @ (810) 231-1333 x100 with any questions.

For more information, please visit our Green Oak Township website or call (810) 231-1333 x107.

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. We completed the new kitchen which allows the Historical Society to host additional events. Check out their website: greenoaktownshiphistoricalsociety.org

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.

Business Spotlight

Wyman Gordon, a long-time firm in Green Oak Charter Township, has added a new 40,000 square foot building on their current site. In addition, they will be adding a little over \$4 million dollars in equipment and office space, and additional employment opportunities.

EDCLC Microloan Funding Available for start-up and expansion of a business that are having difficulty getting loans from traditional banks. Small Business Loans may be used for equipment, inventory, machinery and some working capital. This fund was created in a partnership between the EDCLC, First National Bank, and the Great Lakes Women's Business Council.

C&B Machinery has relocated its 45 employees to Green Oak Township, expanded its operation, and plans to hire an additional 16 more people next year.