



Park Township News

Treasurer's Office Update

REMINDER – 2011 Summer Taxes are due SEPTEMBER 14TH

Park Township is making it easier for you to pay your tax bills and utility bills.



CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Park Township is now accepting credit cards for most payments. A technology fee will apply. You may pay your taxes and water bills on-line at www.parktownship.org, by phone (1-866-587-3981) or in the office. Recreation sign-up can be done on-line or in the office. Any other type of payment can be done at our office.

ACH - PAYMENTS



We are also pleased to announce you can now register for our Automatic Bill Payment for both water bills and tax bills. The Automatic Bill Payment Plan lets you pay your water and/or tax bills electronically from your checking or savings account. The Township offers this service free of charge. However, you should check with your banking institution regarding any possible fees they might charge.

What are the benefits to you? You will save time, save postage and reduce stress by making sure your payment is received on time.

The amount due will be deducted from your checking/savings account on the date due or the next business day if the due date is a holiday or weekend. You will still receive a bill as usual, but once the plan is in effect your bill will clearly state: “**Automatic Bill Payment Plan-Do Not Pay**”. You can stop the Automatic Bill Payment Plan at any time and stop a withdrawal from occurring up to two business days prior to the payment due date. Please note that if there are insufficient funds in the account on the date due, you will be charged a \$20.00 returned check fee.

You can visit our website at www.parktownship.org for the registration forms or you can stop by our office and pick them up. Please allow 30 days for processing.

DEFERMENT (EXTENSION) OF PAYING YOUR 2011 SUMMER TAXES

If you are over 62, a veteran, farmer or disabled and you make under \$40,000 household income per year, you may be eligible for a deferment (extension) of these property taxes. Deferments must be filed no later than September 15, 2011. Forms may be picked up at the Township Treasurer's office. If you have questions, please call 616-738-4236.

Fall Leaf Collection

Disposal of leaves brought to a collection site will again be provided in cooperation with Holland Township. Those wishing to use this service may bring leaves to any of the sites listed from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** on the dates indicated. **LEAF Drop Off Only.** No Branches or brush will be accepted. If leaves are brought to the drop off site in plastic bags, you will be asked to empty the leaves out of the bags into the disposal bins. No plastic bags are accepted. However, paper bags may be used.

Fairgrounds

Ottawa Beach Road

October 22

October 29

November 5

November 12

Dunton Park

Howard Avenue

October 22

October 29

November 5

November 12

Maatman Center

Harrington Avenue

October 22

October 29

November 12



Signs

There have been many issues concerning garage sale and/or yard sale signs again this year. Enforcement of the sign ordinance has been somewhat sporadic, which has resulted in a large number of signs to the point of beginning to look unsightly. While we are not quick to issue citations, we have been removing signs, and educating the owners of these signs about the sign ordinance.



Park Township Ordinance prohibits *any* sign posted in road right of ways or on utility poles. Most roads in Park Township have a 66 foot right of way, or 33 feet

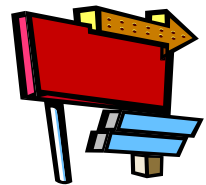
from the centerline. Generally if a sign is not closer to the road than street signs, utility poles, hydrants, or bike path/sidewalks it will be considered to be out of the right of way.

Billboards are also prohibited. A billboard is defined as a structure (sign) advertising a business or goods for sale, which is not located on the land on which the sign is posted.

A Zoning Permit is required for signs, with some exceptions. Open houses and auctions are two of the exceptions, *for the day of the sale only*.

So what does this mean if you are having a garage or yard sale? You are permitted to post a sign on the property of the sale, for the day of the sale only. The sign must not be in any right of way, or attached to any utility pole.

If you have any questions concerning signs, or any other ordinance issues feel free to contact Ed de Vries at a(616) 738-4238 or edevries@parktownship.org.



From the Fire Chief's Desk

FIRE INSURANCE RATES

We completed our ISO Evaluation as of the end of July! The last time we were reviewed, in 1996, the township was awarded an Insurance Classification of 6/9.

- James St. to the south and along Lakeshore Dr., and all of south Park Township – Class 6
- James St. to the north - Class 9 (lack of a water system or hydrants in this area was the biggest reason for the higher rating)

Many of you may wonder what this means to you as a resident. To fill you in.....

ISO, or Insurance Services Office, Inc., is a company who works for property and home insurance companies nation-wide. They are retained to evaluate the fire department, water supply systems and 911 communications in an area. Their findings are translated into the Insurance Classification; the lower the numbers, the better for you, as this classification directly affects the premiums you pay for house insurance.

Fire Department staff spent countless hours preparing for this evaluation. The investigator, who spent three days with us, reviewed

every aspect of our fire operations, apparatus, equipment, pumping capacity, training, training records, personnel, procedures, etc. In addition, many



hours were spent testing fire hydrants for water flow from both of our water suppliers: Holland BPW and Holland Charter Township Utilities.

Results should be available within the next three to six months.

BURNING

Open Burning: Requirements for open burning are regulated by State Law or local ordinances.

1. Water must be available at all times
2. Burn only in calm weather
3. No burning is allowed on roads or bike paths.
4. Do not leave fire unattended
5. Burn in small piles
6. Fire must be completely extinguished by 9:30 pm.

You are NOT ALLOWED to burn:

- Leaves (including pine cones) and yard waste such as grass clippings, etc.
- Household waste (trash, garbage, plastic, paper etc.)
- Construction materials (2x4's, plywood, boards, carpet, plastic, etc.)
- Structures for the purpose of demolition
- Commercial or industrial waste

FIRE FIGHTER OPENINGS

Finally, we are accepting applications for both of our stations. If you or someone you know is interested in a paid-on-call department, please call Station #2 at (616) 399-7388 and request an application.

Have a great fall and let's not meet by accident.

Chief Scott Gamby



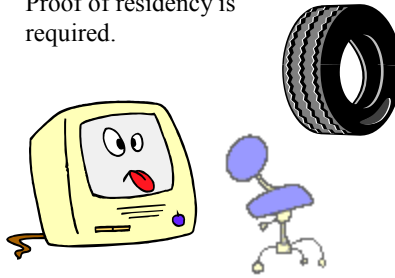
Final Clean-Up Days

There are only two dates left to take advantage of our Clean-Up Days for 2011:

September 17 and October 15, from 7:00 a.m. to noon.

Items may be taken to Black River Recycling, Lakewood Boulevard between 120th and 112th Avenues (first driveway east of Kendall Electric at 11560 Lakewood Blvd.).

Proof of residency is required.



No paints, drain oils, solvents, or other petroleum products, fuel tanks, or sealed containers, or normal household garbage. Batteries and lawn waste accepted (no tree stumps). A limit of 2 appliances and 4 automobile tires per household. All roofing materials must be boxed or bagged. Loose roofing materials will not be accepted.

Park Township Recreation



PARK TOWNSHIP

FARMERS MARKET ON FRIDAYS FROM 8-3 UNTIL SEPT. 16TH



Open-air, outdoor market bringing shoppers, local growers & producers together on Fridays from 8 am – 3 pm. Ottawa County Fairgrounds entrance. Shop early!

Tot Time Update

It's amazing that since 1975, our first year, we have had 2,775 pass through our program.



This year the per semester tuition is \$145 for the two-day sessions (MW a.m., TTH a.m., and TTH p.m.) and \$220 for the three-day session (MWF p.m.) plus an annual \$35 activity fee. Fortunately, Park Township supplies the facility so we have been able to keep your cost low. "Ready for School", a community organization, has also partnered with Tot Time by

providing some need-based tuition grants. Applications for such aid are available for pick-up at Park Township office.

As usual Tot Time is deeply indebted to the creative, caring teachers, Julie Hedges and Beth Monhollon, and also to enrollees' parents for the many assists they provide.

Of special interest, "Ready for School" will premier its new promotional video on Tuesday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knickerbocker Theater. Our own Nelson

family, alums of Tot Time will be featured. Plan to attend if possible.



Studies continue to emphasize the importance of early introduction to formal education. To enroll your child for limited available spaces this fall or for the 2012-13 school year, please call MaryAlice Ritsema at 269.857.2353 or 616.566.3752 or e-mail mritsema@parktownship.org

Pledge to Help Clean Lake Macatawa

Cut the Kids Some Slack, Pledge to Protect Lake Mac. There are three easy ways to keep Lake Macatawa clean. 1) Use fewer chemicals on your lawn; 2) Install a rain barrel; and 3) Teach the future to play and protect.

Go to our website at www.parktownship.org and click on the RESOURCES tab at the top

of the page. Then click Lake Macatawa PLEDGE to record your pledge.

First 100 completed pledges received will get a coupon for a free lawn care analysis from Carefree Lawn Service, a coupon for free delivery of a rain barrel, and one of the Macatawa Watershed Project's children's books.

Brochures are available at the Park Township Office.



PARK TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

PRSR STD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Holland, MI
Permit #19

Fall Recreation
Brochure
Enclosed!

Phone: 616-399-4520
Fax: 616-399-8540
E-mail: info@parktownship.org
Web Site: www.parktownship.org

Office hours: 8 am to 5 pm
Monday thru Friday

Stay Informed

JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST! Go to our web site at www.parktownship.org and sign up to “Join Our Newsletter” at the top right-hand corner of the page. You will only have to enter your e-mail address, and that’s it! Your address is safe, and you can opt out at any time. You will automatically receive monthly e-mails from the Park Township Office keeping you informed on the latest happenings.

Please help us spread the word.

www.parktownship.org



Last Newsletter Mailed

Park Township has sent two newsletters out annually; spring & fall, for several years now. The costs for printing and mailing these two issues exceeds \$10,000. With today’s technologies, we feel that we can get pertinent information to our residents on a more timely basis while saving thousands of dollars.



We will continue to publish a spring and fall newsletter that will be posted on our web site, or you may pick up a hard copy at the Park Township Office. You can also sign up for our on-line newsletter as mentioned above.