
Fraser Township News

November 2017

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From the Supervisor's Desk...Mark Galus

CEMETERY UPDATE

I would like to thank Pinconning Genealogy Society for cleaning the headstones and updating our old records.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

As you may know, the one mill for construction, maintenance, and improvements of local roads within the Township was approved in the November 2016 election. The one mill generated \$94,000.00 for road work. In 2017 Fraser Township invested over \$280,000.00 in road construction and money from the general fund helped in the overall improvements of our local roads. Where did the money go? Newberg Road from Mackinaw Road west to I-75 had a double coat of chip and seal because it was crushed and shaped last fall. We also chipped and sealed 8.5 miles of local roads and crushed and shaped 1 mile of Coggins Road from 7 Mile Road west to 8 Mile Road. We want to thank all of the Fraser Township residents for getting this millage approved.



From The Desk of...George Augustyniak

TRASH PICKUP REMINDER

To minimize damage to the road edge by trash trucks, trash bins should be placed next to the road edge. This keeps the trucks more centrally located in the roadway. The road edge is the weakest section of the road bed. This is most important in early spring when the spring thaw begins leaving the road edge vulnerable.

RAIL TRAIL UPDATE

The DNR has provided the necessary funds for having the rail trail cut, which was done in mid-August. MDOT has also taken steps to control the spreading of various vines and brush encroaching onto the trail.

As a reminder, a parking lot is available just off Kitchen Road west of rail trail. Also, since this is a non-motorized trail no recreational vehicles of any type are allowed. This includes Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, Golf carts, ATV's, etc.

NEW BAY AREA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The old treatment plant which was located just west of the new plant has been in the process of being demolished and was completed in August. Landscaping where the plant was located is to be completed this fall.

Townships that get water from the treatment plant and the City of Bay City are currently developing a BAY AREA WATER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATING STANDARD. This plan should be completed by December 2017. The benefit of this plan to Fraser Township water customers could result in no increase in water rates for the next three years and possibly a reduction in our quarterly debt payment.

MICHIGAN DRAIN CODE

Joseph Rivet, Bay County Drain Commissioner, provided an overview of the Michigan Drain Code which outlines the process for having maintenance done on a County Drain and is as follows:

The Michigan Drain Code provides drain commissioners a great deal of authority to address flooding issues within the State. This authority exists due to the unusual nature of storm water management. Because the powers granted are significant, the Legislature requires that larger drain projects be requested by citizens. Drain Commissioners can't simply decide to do a large project.

Maintenance can be done by the Drain Commissioner within a limit of \$5,000 per mile of a drain's length. Nearly all work done by the Drain Office is done under maintenance, but attempting to improve drains in need of significant work is not plausible under that method. Maintenance projects are normally done at the request of property owners.

There are two methods for initiating major drain projects. First, a municipality (township) can pass a resolution to request maintenance be done on a drain in excess of \$5,000 per mile. In that instance, drains can only be restored to their original design, with some slight modifications like increasing the slope of the bank ("Pulling the banks"). Culverts cannot be replaced. This is the more affordable option but it requires cooperation with the township and means the capacity of the drain cannot be upgraded.

The next method is petition. In most instances, five people with an ownership in property (freeholders) that contributes water to a drain can initiate a project by signing a petition. Once signed, the Drain Commissioner can begin the process to improve the drain.

The process looks like this:

1. Petition received
2. Signatures validated and tax payment verified
3. Civil engineers are engaged to define a tentative project scope

4. A Board of Determination public hearing is held to allow residents to provide input
5. If a project is warranted, the civil engineer/Drain Office will finalize the project plan
6. The project will go out for bids. A notice will be sent to residents as to when the bids will be opened and reviewed (called Day of Letting)
7. Once a bid is accepted a final project cost is determined and an assessment roll outlining the cost for each property, the Township, MDOT and County – including over how many years it will be collected. A notice is sent to residents providing them the opportunity to review the roll (it is called Day of Review)
8. After 14 days, bids are awarded
9. Contractor completes the work
10. The assessments are collected on the winter tax bill until the project is paid off.

This is the general approach to doing work in most Bay County Drains. Of course, each project is looked at as creatively as possible to ensure the maximum value is provided for residents. The Drain Office will assist in developing petition language and provide any other support possible. The Drain Office can be reached at (989)895-4290 during regular business hours.

I wish all a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Happy Holidays



Area Code Enforcement...Al Thompson **Waterline Installment Procedures**

1. Contact Fraser Township and Bay County Water & Sewer (DWS) to determine debt fees and associated connection costs. A debt fee receipt from the township must be provided to DWS when paying for the connection. Installation instructions and a meter bar will be provided at that time. (Note: Current DWS standards only permit use of Type "K" copper tubing between the meter and the water mainline.)
2. A permit must be obtained from Area Code Enforcement (ACE) before starting work.
3. Install water service line from the road right of way to the building. Contact ACE for an inspection before covering the line so it can be inspected. ACE will immediately notify DWS when service is approved.
4. DWS will schedule water service connection to the water mainline.
5. When ready for final connection and meter installation, contact both ACE and DWS to minimize time without water. Provide minimum 2 days advance notice. Water well must be disconnected at time of ACE inspection.
6. DWS will not turn on water unless a plumbing sticker from ACE is present near the meter bar.

7. ACE will immediately notify DWS when final inspection is approved.

***It is the responsibility of the property owner to make sure that these steps are followed. The only responsibility of the inspector is to make sure that the code requirements are met. He will leave a green sticker when approved, but does not contact DWS to schedule the meter set.**

Contact numbers:

Area Code Enforcement – 4742 N. M-13, Pinconning MI 48650 – Phone: 989-313-2168

PERMITS: www.areacodeenforcement.com

Bay County Water & Sewer

3933 Patterson Road – Bay City, MI 48706 - Phone: 989-684-3883

From the Zoning Administrator...Thomas Fouchea

I hope everyone has had a good year. In this article I will cover questions asked of me and requirements that residents should know. Please note that it is very important that everyone in the community should call the Township to ask questions prior to building any type of structure on their property.

A Zoning Permit is required when building any structure on property, unless the accessory building is less than 195 sq. ft. There must be a main building on the property and the structure must be located in the rear or side yard. The only exception to this is if the main building is over 100 ft. from the road right of way. Then it can be built in the front yard.

When building a deck, do I need a Zoning Permit? Yes, especially if it will be connected to the main building and have a roof.

Every Township has building codes that are issued by the State and must be complied with. Therefore, please call the Township when you don't know the codes.

Awareness Permits are required when doing standard maintenance of your buildings, such as replacing roofs, siding, windows and doors. (This information is kept in our files for new owners and existing owners for reference as to when any maintenance was completed.)

From the Assessor...Christopher Coucke

A re-inspection of the Township will be ongoing. We will be doing 1/5 of the township every year.

We want to thank the people of Fraser Township for their patience and support as we go door to door to update all the assessment records.

If you have questions about these re-inspections, please feel free to call the Township office.

Land Division Act

This is a brief review of the Land Division Act, Public Act 591 which went into effect in 1996. The act has required local officials to review certain proposed land divisions. Section 109 of the act requires that a township must approve or disapprove the proposed division within 45 days after the filing of a complete application. To comply with the law, anyone planning to do a land division shall file a land division form which is available from the township, and return the completed form to the township with all the required documentation prior to the split taking place. The land division form is also required if the division is a boundary line move. This is when an

individual purchases an adjacent parcel and enlarges the primary parcel. If you have questions please call the township office. My hours will be from 9am to 4pm on Tuesdays. Thank you for your cooperation.

From the Treasurer...Shelly Hadd

Summer taxes will be collected at the township office until 2/28/18. Interest of 1% will be added for each month commencing 9/15/17. An additional 3% penalty will be added if paid February 15th through the 28th. If paying by mail, please call the office for a pay-off amount. If you pay in person, collection hours are Tuesday 11-4, Wednesday 9-4 and Friday 9-12 and 1-4.

Again this year I am asking residents to please include their phone number with their tax payments by mail or if you put them in the drop box. If there is a problem with the payment and I am unable to contact you by phone, I have no choice but to return it to you by mail which may result in your payment being late and interest being assessed.

Cat and dog licenses are available at the township office. Please provide a rabies certificate at the time of purchase.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy 2018.

*Enjoy winter fun
with the family*



From the Clerk's Desk...Patricia Powers

My first year here at the Fraser Township Hall as your newly elected Clerk has been a great learning experience. I would like to take this time to thank everyone who voted for me. I will do my best to serve all the residents of our beautiful township.

I am very grateful to all the staff here at the hall for helping me learn the ropes. As a new member of the board, I am very impressed by our board. It's an honor to work with such hard working individuals who always have the township residents' welfare in mind.

All new voting equipment was purchased in 2016. The township was reimbursed all of the cost from the State. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by or call the hall.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the Fire Chief...Dave Ramsey

The department has a great need for people to volunteer to be firefighters. The training is long, but the return is great. You must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma and complete the required training.

You are requested to have a house number on your mailbox or a post in front of the house so first responders can see it from the roadway. The department has the sign order forms available at the Township office. The fee is \$15.00. If you have a problem installing the sign or changing the batteries in your smoke alarm, the Firefighters will be happy to come and help you. Call 989-233-8898.

In closing, I would like to thank the community for their support of the department and the firefighters who give a tremendous amount of time and energy to making it a safe

community. Also the Township Board for their support and for the maintenance at Station 16. Wishing everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday.



HALL & PAVILLION RENTAL

Anyone wishing to rent the Township Hall or the pavilion, please contact Theresa Andrejewski at the hall on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Some specific items of interest about the Pavilion are:

- Pavilion is open to the general public from 7 am to 10 pm
- Fee Schedule: \$50 total, of which \$25 will cover damages to pavilion and bathrooms and \$25 will be returned if there is no damage

Flood Insurance

Fraser Township has been in the Federal Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 1976. This allows residents in Fraser Twp. to purchase Flood Insurance

The NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available for all buildings, whether they are in a flood plain or not. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river overflowing its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement applies to all forms of federally related financial assistance for buildings located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This requirement affects loans and grants for the purchase, construction, repair, or improvement of any publicly or privately owned building in the SFHA, including machinery, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings contained in such a building. If you wish to have a determination made to see if your property is in SFHA, you can contact the Township Code Enforcement Office (989-313-2168). For a fee of \$30 a determination can be made. You can also view the Flood Maps at the Township office.

DEQ Wetlands

A county wetland inventory has been completed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) pursuant to Part 303, Wetland Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The inventory map is on file at the County Extension Office, Register of Deeds, County Clerk or may be viewed online at.

www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands.

The map provides potential and approximate locations of wetlands but cannot be used to identify wetlands for regulatory purposes. Property containing wetlands may be subject to regulation under Part 303.

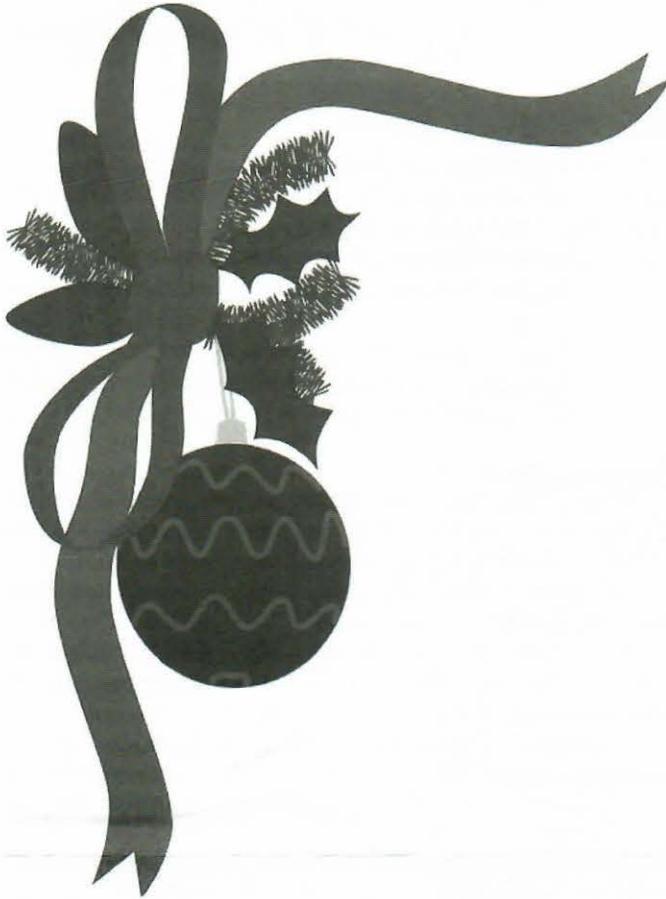
For more information, including how to obtain a wetland permit or a determination of whether property contains regulated wetland, visit the MDEQ web site above.

Merry Christmas

Fraser Township
1474 N. Mackinaw Rd.
Linwood, MI 48634

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAGINAW MI
PERMIT #268

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Holiday Closures
2017-2018**

November 23-24, 2017	Thanksgiving
December 25-26, 2017	Christmas
January 1, 2018	New Year' Day
January 15, 2018	Martin Luther King
February 19, 2018	President's Day
March 30, 2018	Good Friday
April 2, 2018	Easter Monday
May 28, 2018	Memorial Day
July 4, 2018	Independence Day
September 3, 2018	Labor Day
November 12, 2018	Veterans' Day
November 22-23, 2018	Thanksgiving
December 24-25, 2018	Christmas

Township Hours
9am to 4pm Monday through Friday

Supervisor:	Mon & Tues – 9am to 4pm
Treasurer:	Wed & Fri – 9am to 4pm
Clerk:	Mon & Thurs –9am to 4pm
Assessor:	Tuesday 9am – 4pm
Zoning:	Tues & Thurs 7:30am to 11am
Hall/Pavilion Rental:	Friday 9am to 12 noon

Permits for Building, Mechanical, Electrical or Plumbing
are available at:

Area Code Enforcement
4816 N. M-13
Pinconning, MI 48650
Phone: 989-313-2168
Hours are 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

BURN PERMITS: 866-922-2876

*The Township Officers
wish Everyone a Happy,
Healthy, Safe and
Prosperous 2018*



Fraser Township

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