

Fraser Township News

November 2019

Phone: (989) 697-3820 • Fax: (989) 697-3998 • www.frasertownship.org

From The Supervisor's Desk...Mark Galus

FLOOD MAP INFORMATION SERVICE

As a public service, Fraser Township will provide you with the following information upon request:

- 1) Whether a property is in or out of the special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Fraser Township.
- 2) Additional flood insurance data for a site, such as the FIRM Zone, the Base Elevation (BFE) or depth, if shown on the FIRM.
- 3) We have a handout on the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement that applies to people who are getting a federally-backed mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.
- 4) Access to Elevation Certificates that have been processed in Fraser Township if they exist for a certain property.
- 5) Information for the Bay County Drain Commission at (www.baycounty-mi.gov/DrainCommissioner/). For wetlands contact Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at (www.michigan.gov/deq/).
- 6) For more information about National Flood Insurance try (www.FloodSmart.gov) or call 1-888-379-9531.
- 7) Reminder, with the high lake water levels, high easterly winds will cause local flooding, washed out sea walls, and large deposits of vegetation that plugs drains. We experienced this in April of 2019. Spring time ice breakups with the easterly winds can cause ice damage along shoreline properties. The last major occurrence happened in March 2009. If you would like to make an inquiry, please have the address and property's legal description available. Contact the Township Supervisor on Monday or Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. There is no charge for this service.

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 about \$94,000.00 for road work. In 2019 Fraser Township invested over \$260,000.00 in road construction and money from the general fund helped in the overall improvements of our local roads. Where did the money go? Erickson Road from Tower Beach East to the bay had a double coat of chip and seal because it was crushed and shaped 2 years ago. We also chipped and sealed 7 miles of local roads. We want to thank the people of Fraser Township 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 road bed. This is most important in early spring when the spring thaw begins leaving the road edge vulnerable.



Fraser Township residents can deposit household waste or bulky items once per year at the Whitefeather Landfill that they haul themselves. The load cannot be larger than a maximum of 3 cubic yards. Prior to hauling any material to the Landfill, the resident must get a "DUMP PERMIT" from Fraser Township office. The permit outlines all the rules that need to be followed. Before loading any type of trash on your vehicle or trailer, please get the permit first so you know what will be accepted.

RAIL TRAIL UPDATE

Cutting and trimming of the rail trail took place in early August. All funding for maintenance of the rail trail continues to be provided by DNR and MDOT. Vehicles that are being used to remove trees that fall on the trail during the various times of the year are identified by a sign stating "MAINTENANCE".

As a reminder, a parking lot is available just south of Kitchen Road west of the 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. The trail is monitored by the Bay County Sheriff's Department.

MICHIGAN DRAIN CODE

Joseph Rivet, the 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.

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... Steve 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

The 2019 winter taxes will be in your mailboxes around December 1, 2019. As always, please check to make sure that you are not being overcharged. On the top right hand side of the bill, there is a spot that says Principle Residence Exemption. If you own and live in the house, it should read 100%, or if it's a rental or business it will read 0%. If you think there is a problem, please feel free to call me at 989-697-3820 on Wednesday or Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and I will be happy to check it out for you. Please do this as soon as possible, so if need be, it can be corrected at the Board or Review which is usually held the first part of December. I'm also asking residents to please provide a phone number with your payment by mail so I can quickly contact you in the event there are any issues with the payment.

As in the past, we will continue to sell dog licenses to the residents of the Township.

Possibly you have read or heard in the media that recycling in the US is suffering from lack of participation and knowledge about how and what to recycle. Also, China has been downsizing the amount of recycling they buy from us due to improper recycling. In conjunction with our trash/recycling services, we will be having an informational session for our residents regarding the recycling program in Fraser Township. A representative from Republic Waste will be present to answer any questions you may have. You may also attend to voice your opinion on whether we, as a township, should continue the recycling program, due to the possibility of increased collection fees. This session will take place on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Any questions, please call the hall at 989-697-3820. Hope to see you there.

Have a great Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

From the Clerk's Desk... Patricia Powers

Fraser Township has 3,192 residents and of those 3,192 we have over 2,200 registered voters. We also have a permanent absentee voter list of over 220. If you anticipate that you cannot make it to the polls on Election Day, please contact the clerk to be placed on this list. For every election in our Township you will automatically receive your absentee voter application and ballot by mail.

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

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.

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. I would like to wish everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday.

HALL & PAVILLION RENTAL

Anyone wishing to rent the Township Hall or the pavilion, please contact Kolleen Hugo 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.



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



Holiday Office Closures
2019/2020

November 28-29, 2019	Thanksgiving
December 24-25, 2019	Christmas
January 1, 2020	New Years Day
January 20, 2020	Martin Luther King
February 17, 2020	Presidents Day
April 10, 2020	Good Friday
April 13, 2020	Easter Monday
May 25, 2020	Memorial Day
July 4, 2019	Independence Day
September 7, 2020	Labor Day
November 11, 2020	Veterans Day
November 26-27, 2020	Thanksgiving
December 24-25, 2020	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 to 4pm
Zoning: Tue & Thurs 7:30 to 11:00 am
Hall/Pavilion Rentals: Friday 9am to noon

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

Area Code Enforcement
4742 N. Huron Road
Pinconning, MI 48650
Phone: 989-313-2168
Hours are 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

BURN PERMITS: 866-922-2876



Fraser Township

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1-800-578-2664
8:00 am - 4:00 pm