



MIDLAND, MICHIGAN
TWP. EST. 1862

Homer Township

2015 NEWSLETTER

website: www.homertownship.org

CLERK, Todd Lee 989-631-4399, ext. 2
clerk@homertownship.org

Hope everyone weathered the winter well. We have an **election coming up on May 5th**. It will be at the Fire Safety Facility. Absentee ballots are available, call or email me to request one.

Remember with **spring clean up** Homer Township does not have refuse pickup. Each resident is allowed one pickup load of trash or refuse to bring to the Midland landfill at no charge.

I am in the office most mornings from 8 am to 8:45 am. If there are any concerns or questions please contact me .

RESERVATIONS: TOWNSHIP HALL OR PARK PAVILION, Pam Varner
989-832-9618

The Township Hall is available to all Homer Township residents -- there is a \$20 deposit when you reserve the day for your event and an additional \$40 due when you pick up the key. The deposit will be mailed back to you if everything is OK with the hall.

It is important that you call me to make reservations for use of the hall and for the pavilions in order to prevent any conflict on days of use. There is no rental fee for the use of either pavilion but you still need to check on the availability.

NOTE

The hall is already totally reserved for the month of June.

Don't forget to check Homer Township's website for information on what is happening in your neighborhood!

ASSESSOR, Dawn Gentz 989-389-0332
nmassessing@gmail.com

Summer tax bills will be in the mail soon. Please check your tax bill as soon as you receive it to be sure the Principal Residence Exemption is correct. If your Principal Residence Exemption is incorrect it can be corrected at the July Board of Review and a new tax bill can be issued. The July Board of Review meets Tuesday following the second Monday in July. Contact me if you need a form or have questions concerning the exemption.

WEBSITE NEWS, Sandra Simmons, Website Coordinator homertownship.org

Check out new items that have been added to the township website. On the **LINKS** section you now have direct links to 2 new areas: Midland Daily News (MDN) website and the Michigan Sex Offender Registry. In addition, the Current News section now has a direct link to the history of the township website document including use by website category for 2013-14.

We will be updating the use information on an annual basis (by calendar year). All of the website contact information from the fall election of state/federal officials has also been updated. Let us know if there are items that you would like to see added to the website to make it more useful. /

Thank you Anthony Dittmer, webmaster for your assistance.

**HOMER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETINGS
the 3rd Wednesday
of each month
at 7:00 PM**

TREASURER, Sandra Turk
treasurer@homertownship.org
989-631-4399, ext. 1

We just finished another tax season and I have a few pointers for you. This year I had about two dozen residents write checks for their tax bills where the written amount and the numerical amount of the check did not match. It is an easy mistake to make. It would be very helpful to me if everyone wrote their **phone number on their tax bill or their check**. In case of an error or a question, I would then have a contact phone number. With everyone going to cell phones these days, it is extremely hard to locate a phone number.

As a reminder, **postmarks are not accepted** at the end of the winter tax season. I have to have the delinquent tax roll sent to the Midland County treasurer the morning after taxes are due. By law, I cannot accept taxes after the Feb. 28th due date. **Please allow at least 5 days for mail delivery.**

Many times when we move, contacting the township treasurer to change your address is the last thing we think about and it results in many tax bills being returned for incorrect addresses. **Please contact the treasurer to request a change of address form** to be sent to you. This will help with return mail, trying to find accurate addresses and getting your tax bills to you in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters and enjoy your summer. If I can be of further assistance please call my office.

Chippewa Nature Center

Visit the Chippewa Nature Center to take a hike on 15 miles of trails, enjoy the Visitor Center (free admission 7 days a week) or participate in one of CNC's programs. Visit our web site at www.chippewanaturecenter.org for a full calendar of events, 'Like' CNC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cncmidland and sign up to receive CNC's weekly e-news to stay up-to-date with CNC programs and to hear about recent sightings! Many free programs and activities are available. Phone 989-631-0830.

PARKS COMMITTEE - John Pruiett, Homer Township Trustee japruiett@charter.net

Do you want to help decide the future for our Homer Township Parks? The Township Board has been working to make changes to our parks and we now have bids from three companies to help us to: 1) develop goals for the parks, 2) prioritize and create a schedule for the changes to take place, 3) create a master plan for the parks, 4) identify grant sources and help write the first grant request.

How can Homer Township residents help? Board members have identified several people whom we will ask to help create the Parks Committee, however, we want more residents to participate. If you have any interest in being on the committee, please contact me or Russ Varner, supervisor@homertownship.org asap and tell us about yourself and your interest in being on the committee. We would like you to help us chose the winning bid and to complete a grant request to complete for lighting at the park ice rink.

Once a winning bid is selected, there will be a survey created for residents to give us their input on what they would like to see included in our parks. So the second way to contribute is to think about what you want in the parks and discuss it with other residents. The number of residents who indicate each item helps determine the priority for each item. So let us know how many people would like a walking path, horseshoe pits, basketball courts, volleyball courts, better parking, shade trees, new playground equipment, newer lighting, field marking equipment for soccer and football fields, etc. Let us know what you want to see in your parks in the future!



If you have questions about Homer Township's recycling program or requests for an added or replacement bin, please check the Township website or contact the Township Clerk.

FIRE CHIEF, John Hanson 989-832-8034

Facebook - The Homer Township Fire Department has a new Facebook page, please "Like" us and follow the activities of the department.

Burn Permits Once the snow goes away you need to call to find out if open burning is being allowed in Midland County. You can only burn brush, sticks, leaves and stumps. You cannot burn household waste or any type of building materials. **You MUST call before you burn. The contact number is 1-866-922-2876.**

The Fire Department was very active in 2014 with a total of 349 calls for service. It was also a very safe year with NO firefighters injured.

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Medical Calls - 212 | Mutual Aid Call - 60 |
| Investigations - 1 | Non-Injury Accidents - 12 |
| Injury Accidents - 9 | Trees down - 8 |
| Fire Alarms - 6 | Wires down - 5 |
| Structure fires - 4 | Unknown Accidents - 4 |
| Carbon Monoxide - 3 | Odor Investigations - 3 |
| Chimney Fires - 2 | Car Fires - 2 |
| Grass Fires - 2 | Gas leaks - 1 |

New Fire Engine The new fire engine has been working very well for the firefighters. This has been a welcome addition to our fleet and has served the firemen without a problem.

Once again, **THANK-YOU** to the residents of Homer Township for your continued support of your fire department!

Grace A. Dow Library
1710 W St Andrews, Midland, MI 48640
989-837-3430

There is so much happening at the library, please visit our website for the most up-to-date information on upcoming programs and events, www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary

There are many special programs and classes for all ages, including story times and movies.

Check out books, movies, DVDs, and e-books, and much more, it's a great place to hang out when the rain keeps us inside or when the sun gets hot!



BUILDING INSPECTOR, Kevin P. Varner
homertownship.org 989-839-9181

Before any building, remodeling or demolition project, be sure to contact us for requirements such as Building Permits, zoning setbacks, and updates regarding dwellings and additions.

For your convenience, **forms are available online** at homertownship.org, click on *Fees and Applications*, print off both the *Requirements and the Application*, fill them out and then contact me by phone, fax or e-mail.

Please contact us with any questions you have regarding any aspect of new or existing building you are contemplating,

If you have any questions or comments regarding items being addressed by the Homer Township Board, please contact us and/or come to the next Board Meeting.



PLANNING COMMISSION,
Sandra Simmons, Chairperson
homertownship.org

The Planning Commission is working on the **revision of the township zoning ordinance** so it coincides with the revised master land use plan. This requires a very detailed review and revision of residential and commercial districts as the master plan has consolidated some of the current designations. We will be reviewing and updating every unit of the zoning ordinance to ensure that it complies with recent state legislative changes to current laws and newly added laws.

In addition we will also be addressing current issues such as 'urban farming', domestic animals, The Right to Farm Act, and a number of other important issues.

The Planning Commission meeting schedule and monthly minutes are posted at the township hall and on the website. All meetings are open to the public.

Homer Township Hall
522 North Homer Road
Midland, MI 48640



Homer Township

website: www.homertownship.org

Supervisor: Russ Varner
631-4399 ext 3

Treasurer: Sandra Turk
631-4399 ext 1

Clerk: Todd Lee
631-4399 ext 2

Trustees: Keith Johnson
832-4123
Craig Norton
636-7695
John Pruiett
631-2775
John Stern
835-4203

Fire Chief: John Hanson
832-8034

Building Inspector: Kevin Varner
839-9181

Electrical Inspector: Mike Gravis
486-3743

Plumbing Inspector: Ted Van Wert
631-9645
Water Inspector

Rentals: - Pam Varner
Hall and Pavilions 832-9618

Newsletter: Garlene Glanz
832-3145