



MIDLAND, MICHIGAN
TWP. EST. 1862

Homer Township

FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

website: www.homertownship.org

SUPERVISOR, Russ Varner

supervisor@homertownship.org 989-631-4399, ext. 3

Homer Township Residents,

We chip and sealed, with a FOG seal overlay, several miles and reconstructed Putnam Drive. In 2016 Homer Township will get an additional \$56,000.00 to spend on roads and ditches due to the increase and passage of the County Road Millage. If you have a suggestion for a small drain/ditch project, let a Board Member know and we will consider it for the 2016 year.

The Midland Community Foundation has offered a matching grant to all Townships in Midland County. Your Board is considering additional picnic tables and benches at the park and hall. Also, new charcoal grills and shade trees will be requested with the grant money. This will be a Township-wide activity. More information will be available on the website soon.

One last reminder, if you are planning to combine or split parcels of land, you must go to the website or stop at the office for a form to do so. Combining parcels is a "no fee" permit, splits are \$100.00.

ASSESSOR, Dawn Gentz

nmassessing@gmail.com 1-989-389-0832

If you owned and occupied your home as a primary residence prior to November 1, 2015, you may be entitled to an exemption from local school operating taxes. If you no longer own and occupy the property as your primary residence and are currently receiving the exemption, it should be rescinded.



The **Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)** appears on your winter tax bill which will be in the mail by December 1st. Please check your tax bill as soon as you receive it to be sure the Principal Residence Exemption is correct. If it is incorrect it can be corrected at the December Board of Review and a new tax bill can be issued. Contact me for questions concerning assessments and principle residence eligibility requirements.

WEBSITE NEWS, Sandra Simmons,

Website Coordinator 989-631-0366

homertownship.org

The **Township Website** is seeking resident input on ways in which it can be of more value to you. As you will note on our home page we have a lot of township information available as well as links to a broad number of community resources, legislators, other townships, the county website and more. If there are added topics you would like to see added please let me know.

Sandra Simmons, website coordinator

Anthony Dittmer, webmaster

**HOMER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETINGS
are held the 3rd Wednesday
of each month
at 7:00 PM
Public Is Welcome!**

PLANNING COMMISSION,
Sandra Simmons, Chairperson 989-631-0366
homertownship.org

The Planning Commission is now revising the current zoning ordinance with the focus on **three major goals:**

- 1-increasing ease of accessing the information,
- 2-consolidating many residential/commercial district requirements through the use of charts,
- 3-focusing on the issues most often identified in the Master Plan as needing attention.

Concurrent with the zoning ordinance revision we are developing stand-alone township ordinances. Some are new and some are sections of the current zoning ordinance that are being updated and relocated. We would like any/all input you have as to areas that you would like us to consider and your suggestions as to how to address them. Our meeting minutes are posted on the township website within a week of our meetings (the meeting schedule is also on the website).

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

Hello Homer Residents,

As fall begins I would like to remind you that Homer Township does not have **leaf or refuge pickup**. Each residence is allowed one trip per month to the landfill though.



Also, this fall you will see some **more trees being trimmed** and cut at the cemetery. Please be patient with us about the mess as we will get it taken care of as soon as possible.

We just concluded our **2014/2015 audit** and all went well. Andrews, Hooper, Pavlik are our auditors and will be giving a report at a meeting in the next couple of months.

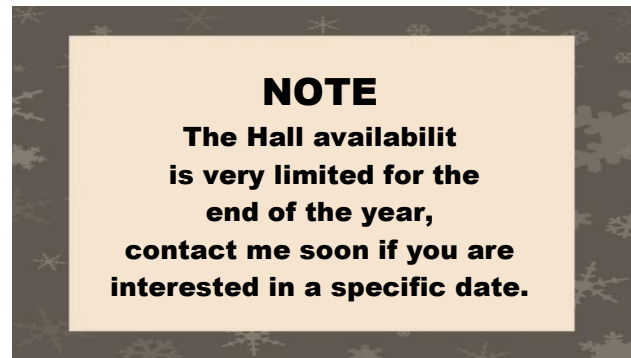
I try to be in the office most mornings from 8-8:45 and am also there some evenings. Please contact me with any comments or concerns you may have.



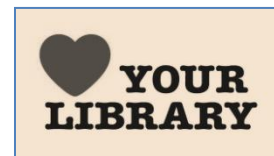
RESERVATIONS: TOWNSHIP HALL or PARK PAVILION, Pam Varner 989-832-9618

The Township Hall is available to all Homer Township residents with 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.



GRACE A. DOW LIBRARY
1710 W St Andrews, Midland, MI 48640 989-837-3430



Please visit our website (www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary) for the most up-to-date information on upcoming programs and events, Many programs and classes are offered for all ages; including story times and movies.

Check out books, movies, DVDs, e-books, and much more. It's a great place to hang out when the weather keeps us inside!

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



CHIPPEWA NATURE CENTER

400 S Badour Rd, Midland, MI 48640



Rain or shine there's always lots to do at the Chippewa Nature (free admission 7 days a week) or participate in one of CNC's programs.

'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 all of our programs and to hear about recent sightings! Also, be sure to visit our web site (www.chippewanaturecenter.com) for a full calendar and description of events. Phone 989-631-0830

FIRE CHIEF, John Hansen 989-832-8034

Grant Money: Homer Township Fire Department has been awarded \$136,667 in funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. This grant will be used to purchase protective clothing and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

- **New Radio System:** Midland County Central Dispatch has been working very hard the last two years to upgrade our emergency radio system. The old system was no longer cost effective to continue to repair. The new system has increased coverage and reliability.
- **Burn Permits:** Once the snow starts flying, you do not need to call to find out if open burning is being allowed in Midland County. If the ground is snow covered you can burn brush, sticks, leaves and stumps. You cannot burn household waste or any type of building materials. **The contact number is 1-866-922-2876.**
- **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Please check these devices often during the upcoming heating season. These detectors will save your life if they are working properly. Check them monthly and change the batteries when you change the clocks, once in the fall and once in the spring. The cost of replacing batteries does not compare to the cost of a life. If these devices activate, call 911 and have the fire department come to check your house.

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

TREASURER, Sandra Turktreasurer@homertownship.org 989-631-4399, ext.

This year you will see a change in your **winter tax bill due date**. The due date will be February 16, 2016. This change in due date allows me time to complete all the payments and balance the tax roll before I have to send it to the Midland County Treasurer on 3/1/16. This will also help when tax bills are delivered by the post office a day or two past the due date and will save some of our residents the interest penalty. If you have concerns or find this change creates a hardship for you, please contact me.

I would also like to remind everyone that it is very helpful if you **include your phone number** with your payment. You can write it on the tax bill or your check. This is very helpful when I have errors with the check payments.

It was nice to see some of you take advantage of our **FREE notary service this year**. If you are in need of this service, please call me at 989-631-4399 extension 1, to make an appointment.

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

If you are planning your next building project, please be sure you have a worksheet, checklist and permit application to guide you. The forms are available online or by contacting me by phone or e-mail.

We are here to assist you with questions you have regarding any aspect of new or existing building you are contemplating,



**For all Plumbing or
Water Inspection issues
please call the Code Authority
837-6521**