

Website: www.homertownship.org Newsletter ~ November 2017





From: Todd Lee, Clerk

Fall is fast approaching. Winter will be here before we know it. Remember we do not have a leaf pickup but you are allowed to take them to the city. Each house is allowed 3 yards of trash or waste each month. We just finished our 2016/2017 audit and all went well. Look for some more trees to be cut and trimmed at the cemetery this winter. We are going to try and get it done before the first of the year.

From: John Hanson, Fire Chief, Homer Township Fire Department

Move Over!

MICHIGAN'S EMERGENCY VEHICLE CAUTION LAW

Michigan's Emergency Vehicle Caution Law, more commonly known as the Move Over Law, requires motorists to move over for stationary emergency vehicles with their lights activated or slow down and pass with caution if it is not possible to safely change lanes. The law applies to the following vehicles:

- Police
- Fire
- Rescue
- Ambulance
- Road Service

(Road service vehicles include tow trucks and courtesy vehicles operated by the Michigan Department of Transportation)

ON ROADS WITH TWO OR MORE LANES OF TRAVEL IN THE SAME DIRECTION

- When approaching a stationary emergency carefully move over into an open lane.
- If this is not possible due to traffic, weather, or vehicle with its emergency lights activated road conditions, slow down and pass with caution, allowing the emergency vehicle as much space as possible.

ON ROADS WITH ONE LANE OF TRAVEL IN EACH DIRECTION

- When approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with its emergency lights activated carefully move over into an open adjacent lane.
- If this is not possible due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, slow down and pass with caution, allowing the emergency vehicle as much space as possible.

PENALTY

A motorist found responsible for violating the Move Over Law is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to four points on their driver's license and fines and fees of approximately \$150. Motorists face enhanced penalties of up to 15 years in prison and\or a \$7,500 fine if the violation causes injury or death to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel.

Fire Department Activity for 2017 Year to Date

2017 year to date has been a busy time period. Below is a breakdown of our activity through September:

Medical Calls – 124
Trees/Wires down – 19
Non-Injury Accidents – 16
Injury Accidents – 14
Structure fires – 3
Flood Evacuations - 3
Fire Alarms – 1

Mutual Aid Call – 60 Lift Assists - 14 Alarms / Investigations – 15 Investigations – 5 Carbon Monoxide – 2 Grass Fires – 3 Vehicle Fires – 1

Smoke Detectors

Please remember to check the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors at least two times per year, each time we change the clocks is an easy reminder. Also be aware, these detectors do have a life expectancy of 5 - 9 years. If your detectors are starting to creep up in age, please plan on replacing them.

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

From: Sandra Simmons, Planning Commission, Chairperson

The Planning Commission has completed the revision of the zoning ordinance and it will be effective 1/1/18. We will be completing a minor revision of the township Master Plan by adding some updated items as well as a few items that should have been included in the last revision. There will be a public hearing for that early this coming year. We are also finalizing two new ordinances that have been requested for the last six plus months. These will address numerous resident comments at the township board meetings as well as at our planning meetings regarding the appearance of properties and the impact this has on the property value of adjacent parcels. Comments from any resident on any topic addressing land use in the township are welcomed by the Planning Commission.

There are open positions on the Planning Commission and any resident interested in serving should contact me or Greg Bates, the vice chairperson, to discuss responsibilities. The Planning Commission Bylaws are also posted on the township website and are an excellent resource as to roles and responsibilities.

While there is not always relevant 'Current News' to post on this section of the website all residents are encouraged to check this section at least weekly as all public hearings and other timely relevant information is posted there.

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