

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP

HILLSDALE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

December 2014

Supervisor's Office

By Tom Biel

I would like to start out by thanking Don Figiel for the many years of service he has given to Somerset Township. Don's knowledge of township affairs will be extremely missed. As I make the attempt to fill his shoes I will try to always do the right thing for the residents of Somerset Township. Some of the areas that we have touched so far concerns safety. We have repaired the lighting in the parking lot of the township building and have repaired the pavement by the post office. As we go into the planning stage for next year, we have to look at the conditions of our roads. We will try to target the worst and get what we can out of our budget. I will be attending a meeting at the Hillsdale Road Commission in January so I will have a better idea where we are headed. Another one I am pursuing is to see if there is a need for another full time police officer. As I work in the position I will try and communicate information to anyone who is interested and I have a cell phone that anyone can reach me at any time. The number is (517) 740-6406 or contact me through the township office or email at supervisor@somersettownship.org.

Assessing Office

James Bradley, Somerset Township Assessor

Hours: Monday 9 to 12 and 1 to 5

Tuesday & Wednesday 9 to 12 noon

If you are a new resident to Somerset Township and your home is your primary residence, make sure you file a Homeowners Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit with the assessor's office. This can save you a significant amount of money on your property taxes.

There are several helpful links on the Assessing Department web page to assist you with many questions you may have. Among those is a video that helps explain Michigan Property Tax. Another great link is the Property Tax Estimator. The links are easily available at your convenience, give them a try. For information on Land Divisions, Lot Merging and Homeowners Principal Residence Exemptions, contact the Assessing Office at (517) 688-9223 ext. 216.

Additional information online @ www.somersettownship.org

Treasury Department

Pamela Esterline Beck, Treasurer
Brenda Paul, Deputy Treasurer
Hours: Monday *and* Thursday
9am-5pm

Payments must reach my office by

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 – 5:00PM

Please read the message to taxpayer in the upper left corner of tax bill.

The last day to purchase County Dog Licenses is Monday, March 2, 2015.

For additional Treasury information, visit www.somersettownship.org.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Five new aluminum picnic tables have been added to McCourtie Park to replace some older wooden tables. Two older tables were placed at Barnett Field. Two barbecue grills were erected to replace rusted out pits and two new ones were placed, one at the ball diamond.

One tennis court was resurfaced with an all-weather Sports Deck this summer. The new surface was installed just before July 4th. It provides a surface that is void of cracks and makes for a more enjoyable game of tennis.

Work on installing a nine hole disc golf course in McCourtie Park has progressed this fall. Concern to not disrupt the natural beauty of the park and not interfere with the park's other activities has been a major factor in placing of the course. The present layout of the course will take advantage of unused areas in the park and only skirt the edges of the more popular areas.

Repair to the roof of the large Purple Martin House was completed this summer by the committee. Two new Purple Martin Houses have been purchased to be placed on existing posts in the park in the spring.

The Park Rental Agreement has been reworked and anyone wanting to reserve the park for a wedding, reunion or other function is encouraged to stop in to the Clerk's office to fill out a form.

Clerk's Corner:

Deborah Spicer, Clerk
Janet Binder, Deputy Clerk

Well the busy election portion of this year is over. We had a great turnout with 45% in Precinct 1 and 48% in Precinct 2 for the November 4th Election. Thank you all for your participation and especially to my election inspectors for all their hard work and dedication to making sure everything runs smoothly for our voters. If you are interested in becoming an Election Inspector, please contact the clerk's office for an application. Certification training is over for this cycle of elections, but if I have your application, I can contact you when we have another. We can always use more helping hands. Many hands make light the work.

For those of you who are in their "senior" years, if you're not aware of it, the clerk's office maintains what the state calls a "permanent" list of voters who wish to vote by absentee ballot. There are currently 256 people who are on that list. If you would like to be on that list, please feel free to contact the clerk's office and we will get you the necessary paperwork to place you on that list. Being on the Permanent AV list does not mean you automatically receive an Absentee Ballot for each election, it means the clerk's office has your permission to mail out the application to obtain an Absentee Ballot. An application must be filled out for each election in order to vote absentee ballot.

Library

Barb Nemeth

Greetings From The Library!

Another Holiday Season is quickly approaching. If you are looking for a book to put you in a festive mood, why not read Mr. Miracle by Debbie Macomber or The Christmas Train by David Baldacci. Other new arrivals include Gray Mountain by John Grisham, Paris Match by Stuart Woods, and Clive Cussler's Eye of Heaven.

I greatly appreciate your help updating your address and phone number when borrowing library materials. Thank you for placing books in a plastic bag to prevent damage when returned to the outside box and including late fees.

I am still accepting (2005 +) used book donations and audio books on CD's in good/clean condition. We Can Not accept Encyclopedias or Text Books. Donations may be dropped off at the library during normal business hours which are 9:00 ó 12:00 and 1:00 ó 5:00, Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 ó 12:00 on Friday.

Wishing you numerous enjoyable reads this Holiday Season and throughout the coming New Year!

Police Department

Chief

Eric Stolberg

With the winter upon us, the police department would like to remind everyone about some cold weather issues:

- Please help your neighbors especially if they are elderly.
- Give yourself extra time when traveling and make sure your vehicle is cleaned off before you drive (driving down the road is not the proper way to clear off a vehicle).
- Report traffic issues or road conditions if they may be hazardous.
- Watch for children. If we receive the snow like last year, children will use snowbanks to sled down and may enter roadways.
- Be careful when venturing out on the icy lakes, many of our lakes have springs and the ice may be thinner in spots.
- Make sure animals and pets are protected from the elements.

As always, please report suspicious activity and if you are going out of town, please come in or contact the police department for courtesy property inspections.

If you need police assistance, 911 in Hillsdale County; which can also be used for nonemergency's. Our office phone is (517) 688-9223 x 217. Police department email is stpd@somersettownship.org or contact us on Facebook.

Hope everyone has a safe warm winter!

Fire & Rescue

Scott A. Friess
Fire Chief/EMT

Fred Newton Jr.
Asst. Chief/EMT

With the winter months approaching, please make sure your chimneys and furnaces have been cleaned and checked by a qualified service technician. The support the residents have shown the Somerset Township Fire Department in the past is heartwarming and greatly appreciated by our firefighters. Your letters, phone calls, or that small plate of cookies let us know your fire department personnel are excelling in customer service, which is what our goal is on every response regardless day or night. We would like to thank everyone that has donated to our fundraisers that we put on, every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.