

Summer Newsletter, 2009

Portland Township

773 E. Grand River
Portland, MI 48875
www.portlandtownship.org

Gerald Tiemann, Supervisor
517-526-2568 or 517-647-4270

Charlene Keilen, Clerk
517-647-6643

Leanne Simon, Treasurer
517-647-2075

Julius Platte, Trustee
517-647-7161

Joseph Pung, Trustee
517-647-4877

Welcome to the first edition of the Portland Township Newsletter. We hope to produce a newsletter for your convenience twice a year, to be mailed with your property tax statements. If you own multiple properties, you will receive a newsletter in each tax bill. Please share your extra copies with township residents you know are not property owners and would otherwise not receive this newsletter.

MEETINGS

The Portland Township Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, unless noted otherwise in the local paper. We meet at the township hall (entrance is located on the west side of the Emergency Services Building) at 7:00 p.m. In March and April, our meeting time changes to accommodate the budget meeting and annual meeting, so watch the local paper for those dates and times. All meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend.

ASSESSOR

In December 2008, Dave Pohl retired as the Portland Township Assessor. We are happy to welcome Ann Thompson as our new assessor. Ann can be reached at 616-642-6291.

ZONING

Our Zoning Administrator is Jeanne Vandersloot and she can be reached at 616-897-4242 or email her at zoningadmin@msn.com. Jeanne is whom you need to contact regarding any zoning questions or complaints, zoning permits or zoning books. The board recently adopted a home business ordinance and if you're interested in starting a home business, you should contact Jeanne with questions.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Portland Township has several committees that work in conjunction with the Township Board. Meeting dates and times vary, so contact any board or committee member for information.

Planning Commission

Mark Simon, Chair
Sue VanLente, Secretary
Kami Brown
Ron Carleton
William Manning
Julius Platte
Germaine Simon
Bill Vallier
Clyde Woodman

Board of Review

Larry Blundy
Thomas Krausz
Gordon Smith
Duane Main, Alternate

PAMA Board

Keith Cook
Gerald Krausz

Zoning Board of Appeals

Anthony Simon, Chair
Eileen Main
Julius Platte
Larry Pung
Stephen Smith
Steven May, alternate

SUB-COMMITTEES's (cont.)

Portland District Library Representatives
Rose Mary Leik
Maureen Wallace

Elections

Portland Township is extremely fortunate to have a large number of very dedicated individuals who work our elections. Although too numerous to mention all by name, the township board appreciates all that these workers do and the long hours they often put in. If you have ever thought you might like to become an election worker, contact Clerk Keilen for more information.

Property Tax Reminder

Summer property taxes are due 9-14-2009 and penalties are placed on unpaid taxes starting 9-15-2009. Taxes should be mailed to 5481 Divine Highway, Portland, 48875 or a drop box is also available (your tax receipt will be mailed). Eligible residents should complete their application for deferment of summer taxes as soon as possible. Did you know you can pay your taxes in installments, as long as the entire amount due is paid by 9-14-2009? Contact the treasurer if you'd like more information on this at 517-647-2075.

New Website

We are happy to announce that the township website is now up and running. Check us out at www.portlandtownship.org. The website is filled with lots of helpful information and contact numbers, plus links to various sites that could be useful to you.

Burning Permits

Contact the City of Portland at 517- 647-3205 during regular business hours.

Did You Know?

Portland Township funds multiple services on behalf of its residents. Last year, we paid \$30,750 to provide ambulance service for our residents and just over \$88,000 for fire service (both are contracted (through the City of Portland). The City does their own billing to you on ambulance runs, the township will bill you a basic \$500 nominal fee for a fire run. The township also works with the City and Danby Township to allow you to participate in the Community Clean-up in April and we are looking at a recycling service we can provide you. In addition, the township spent over \$80,000 on road maintenance last year. Portland Township also contributes \$10,000 to the Portland Recreation Department to offset their expenses, which results in lower player fees for our residents. The Board is always looking at the most efficient ways to serve Portland Township and we welcome your comments on the services we provide and would like to hear from you on additional services the Board should consider.

Township Logo

Do you have a creative side to you? We are looking for a new logo or symbol to be used on our letterhead, our website and various other locations. As an incentive, we'll award any township resident **\$100.00** for the winning entry. The logo should represent all Portland Township has to offer. Mail your ideas/sketches to Portland Township, P.O. Box 314, Portland, MI 48875. Deadline for entries is September 14, 2009.

PLEASE NOTE: Our July regular board meeting will be July 15th, rather than the 2nd Wednesday of the month when we usually meet. It will be held at 7:00 p.m.