

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP MICHIGAN

Township Talk

Supervisor's Note

This is an exciting time to be living in Northfield Township. Over the past 18 months, the Board of Trustees, with the help of the Downtown Planning Group and Downtown Development Authority, had initiated a great deal of planning that will set the stage for a revitalization of the Township. **With work on the North Village Synthesis Plan and the Downtown Strategic Action Plan complete, more opportunities have been identified for new and better development and redevelopment in Whitmore Lake.** We have a way to go, but new businesses, such as Dominos, are finding opportunity in the downtown as older ones retire.

The **Planning Commission is working on improvements to the development process and ordinance changes** that will help businesses and residents realize their projects more easily.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is building a **new Park and Ride Lot** on 8 Mile Road just west of US 23 near the railroad tracks. Their **plan to add bus service into Ann Arbor** will help our residents get to jobs or services more easily. And **next year, the Lakeland Trail, part of the Great Lake to Lake Trail, will dip down Lemen Road to that very lot.** My hope is that it will help reinvigorate our downtown as bicyclists visit for food or a bed and breakfast stay. We are also exploring the feasibility of extending that trail down to Barker Road to better serve our residents.

Recently, the Board **approved a review of the Master Plan**—the community's vision for our Township. I hope you will become involved in shaping our future through the workshops and surveys. Sign up for our e-newsletter and watch for notices of those opportunities and much more information.

In the coming months, we will have many more decisions to make as a Board and as a community about development. Some will be easy and others hard. I was struck by a quote from Abraham Lincoln as I thought about those decisions: **"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."**



Please feel welcome to share your thoughts with me and the Board and join the conversation. It's an honor to serve you. **Have an enjoyable summer.**

Marlene Chockley,
Township Supervisor

Road Issues

We receive many calls about the conditions of the roads, potholes, flooding, etc. We are recording your concerns and have been in contact with the Road Commission about them.



The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) is responsible for maintaining all public roads located outside of city and village limits. By law, WCRC can only provide 50% of the funding for improvements on the 1,060 miles of local roads in the County. The remaining funds for maintenance of our roads comes out of the township's budget with approval from the Board of Trustees. On May 8, the Board committed to a contribution of \$125,000.00 to go toward our roads which includes:

- 3 brine applications for dust control
- Roadside berm removal, ditching, culvert installation, reshaping the existing surface, and placement of limestone on parts of Kearney, Dixboro, and Spencer Roads
- Limestone resurfacing projects on roads yet to be determined.

The Township Board is currently reviewing the budget for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) and is looking to see if there are any additional funds available to put toward roads.

In the meantime, potholes and other county road issues can be reported to the WCRC at <http://www.wcroads.org/residents/report-an-issue/> or by phone at 734-761-1500.

Treasurer's Office Tax Tidbits

Summer is here and so are Summer Taxes. Mark the date of September 14, 2018. This is the date that Summer Taxes must be paid to avoid any late fees. Deferments may be available to seniors, veterans, and farmers if specific requirements are met. Please call or visit our office or website for more details.

There are many ways to pay your taxes. You can mail your payment to the Northfield Township Treasurer at 8350 Main St., PO Box 576, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189, use the 24/7 drop box, or pay by check or credit card at the Township Offices, located at 8350 Main Street, or pay by credit card online through the link on our website: www.twp-northfield.org.

Please remember, postmarks are not accepted as the payment date and postdated checks are not accepted. When paying by check, please ensure all information is included and correct (date, 'Pay to the Order of' information, written and numeric amounts, and signature). If any information is incorrect or missing from the check, payment processing will be delayed and/or your check may be returned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are here to help you.

Have a happy and safe summer.

Your Township Treasurer - Lenore Zelenock, and Deputy Treasurer - Dawn Samfilippo



Our Land, Our Future: A Note from the Land Preservation Committee

Essential to life are food and water. The valuable farms, forests, and wetlands of Northfield Township provide us food and protect our drinking water. As the climate warms and population increases, farms contribute food and, as a bonus, beautiful vistas for us to enjoy. Open land, forests, and wetlands filter the water we drink; they keep our beautiful lakes clean, reduce flooding, and harbor wildlife of all sorts.

In order to plan for the future of these irreplaceable and essential resources, the Board of Trustees named a Land Preservation Committee for Northfield Township in January 2017. The eight residents on this committee have worked hard to educate us all about ways to protect these essential resources for the future.

Residential development has put pressure on the open land in our neighboring communities like Lyon Township. Webster, Scio, Ann Arbor, and Salem Townships all have strategies so that housing developments can grow in areas close to services rather than paving over irreplaceable farmland. We must use our resources wisely to protect them for future generations. Surveys show that strong rural areas support strong urban areas. Mother Nature will never be making any more land in our township.

Landowners may voluntarily choose to preserve their farms, forests, and wetlands through legal conservation agreements, by donating or selling development rights, as several of our farmers have done.

Take a drive through our township; enjoy the fields of wheat, corn, and glowing sunflowers, the ancient oaks and clear lakes, the sandhill cranes, blue herons, wild turkeys, horses and cows and more. And remember, "field" is in our Township's name.

The Land Preservation Committee invites you to attend any of our meetings on the 2nd Thursdays at 7:00 PM at the Public Safety Building.

Board of Trustees

We're honored to serve the residents of Northfield Township!

Please contact us with any comments, questions, or concerns.

(Board of Trustees email suffix:
@northfieldmi.gov)



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From the Clerk's Office

Sewer Billing

Northfield Township sewer billing is on a quarterly billing cycle.

February 1st - covers service from November 1 to January 31

May 1st - covers service from February 1 to April 30

August 1st - covers service from May 1 to July 31

November 1st - covers service from August 1 to October 31

****10% Late fee added if payments are received after due date****

****Failure to receive your bill does not waive past due penalties****

You may pay your sewer bill at any time. Questions? Call the Clerk's office at 734 449-2880 ext. 14.

Election News

2018 is a gubernatorial election year for Michigan. The Primary Election is August 7, 2018 and the General Election is November 6, 2018. You must be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote. If you are not yet registered, you can do that at the Clerk's office.

Are you interested in the election process? Why not become a paid Election Inspector? Paid training is available and you can choose to work a whole or half day on election day. Contact the Clerk's office for details.

Kathleen Manley, Clerk, and Cristina Wilson, Deputy Clerk

Please Don't Gum Up the (Sewer) Works!

Each month workers at the wastewater treatment plant are forced to clean out pumps that are clogged with baby wipes, cleaning wipes, paper towels, and other materials that **don't readily disintegrate even though they may say flushable**. Please, toilet paper only and throw those other materials in the trash.

Wastewater Treatment Rates

The Township received a grant from the State to study the operations of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer System. This includes examining the sewer lines, manholes, pumping stations, and the Plant's equipment to determine when improvements and maintenance are needed.

One part of the study examined the current rates charged to the users of the Sewer System and the fees charged to new customers for hooking up to the sewers. The study suggested that to maintain the system over time, the current rate of \$84.00 per REU (or residential equivalency unit) per quarter be increased by \$3.00 per quarter (\$12.00 per year).

This proposal and others will be discussed at future Township Board meetings. In order to stay informed, please check the on-line posting of the meeting agendas, or sign up for the Township's free e-mailed newsletter by clicking on the sign-up button on our website, or call or stop by the office to enroll.

Township Manager Steve Aynes

Calendar of Events

June 30

- Fun Run: 7 AM Registration at the Middle School
- Music at the Lake: 7 - 10 PM
- Fireworks over Whitmore Lake at Dusk

July 4 - Township Office Closed

- 4th of July Parade on Main Street: 10 AM
- Root Beer Floats: Noon at the Community Center
- Ice Cream Eating Contest: 3 PM at Dee's Place
- Boat Parade of Lights: 9:50 PM at Mac's Marina

July 9 - Last Day to Register to Vote in the August Primary Election

July 11

Northfield Twp Historical Society Summer Potluck and Euchre Party
6 PM at 660 W Joy Rd, Ann Arbor

August 7 - Primary Election

September 3 - Township Office Closed

September 14 - Summer Taxes Due

September 25

Board of Trustees Open House
7 PM Public Safety Building

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Northfield Township Library
Community Picnics
6 - 7:30 PM
Friday, July 20 and August 17

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Movies Under The Stars

Join us at the lakeshore across from the Post Office. All movies begin at dusk.

Rain location: Community Center

July 27	Star Wars: The Force Awakens
August 10	Ferdinand
August 24	CoCo

Meeting Information

The Northfield Township Board of Trustees meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. If you are unable to attend a meeting in person, the meetings are broadcast live on Charter Channel 191 or you can view the recorded meetings on-line via Northfield Township's Livestream account: www.livestream.com/accounts/1160710.

Meeting agendas and packets are available to view in the township office and on-line the Friday prior to the meetings.

Other meetings—all are open to the public:

[Planning Commission](#): Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

[Zoning Board of Appeals](#): Meets the 3rd Monday of the month

[Park and Recreation Board](#): Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month

[Downtown Development Authority](#): Meets the 4th Monday of the month

[Board of Review](#): Meets in March, July and December

[Land Preservation Committee](#): Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month

Good Neighbors Make Good Fences

If you plan to enclose your yard with a fence, be sure to contact the Building Department to ensure that your plans are in compliance with the zoning ordinance. We have had recent cases where fences were constructed without permits on neighboring property or were built too high or in the wrong location. Don't take a chance and have to remove or relocate your fence!

Summer Fun and Peace and Quiet? Yes, please!

Summer is a time for fun and outdoor activity, but it can also be a time when we get so engrossed in it that we forget to be considerate of our neighbors. Help us all enjoy the peace and quiet by not allowing dogs to bark incessantly and controlling the volume of the radio. Thank you for being good neighbors!

Office Information

Northfield Township Offices are open from 8 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted.

Mailing Address: 8350 Main Street
PO Box 576
Whitmore Lake MI 48189

Phone: 734-449-2880
Fax: 734-449-0123
Website: www.twp-northfield.org

Building Department	734-449-5000
Community Center	734-449-2295
Wastewater Treatment Plant	734-449-4159
Police Dept. (non-emergency)	734-449-9911
Fire Dept. (non-emergency)	734-449-2385

