

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP MICHIGAN

Township Talk

Supervisor's Note

The March 26th meeting of the Board of Trustees will be a public information meeting on issues about which the Board would like to hear from you. This will include discussing a bond to build the wastewater equalization basin that was first proposed in 1988. Please attend or send us your comments.

The Township is working to improve the community for our residents, but we face challenges. For years the downtown has languished. Competition from larger newer businesses elsewhere has taken its toll. A revitalization of the downtown will take the right mix of business and residential. One won't thrive without the other. We hope to improve the attraction and recreational opportunity of the downtown by developing a waterfront park. If we want revitalization, we must actively attract that mix.

Residents tell us they love our small town rural character. Others tell us they want the amenities that larger communities provide. There are strong feelings on both sides of the development vs. land preservation argument, but we can choose to make decisions that will move both goals ahead. One doesn't have to exclude the other.

Homes *are* going up, mostly in the rural areas, but not yet in the numbers and price points that will energize the Township's economy. Those numbers are master-planned for the US-23 corridor near the interchanges, and affordable price points will be dependent on accessing sewer service. As a result, the Board is evaluating expanding the wastewater treatment plant's capacity by adding an equalization basin. With a basin, excess sewage on high flow days can be detained and metered into treatment as the flow decreases. Currently, on a few days each year, partially treated high flows are released, surpassing the plant's permit, but as users are added to the system and the system ages, those days will increase.

To help us plan for the upcoming year, please tell us how *you* would prioritize these efforts for the Township. **If you had \$100 that you could split up as you like to reflect your priorities, how much would you give to each area of interest?**

- _____ Preserve farms and natural areas
- _____ Improve downtown Whitmore Lake
- _____ Encourage business development
- _____ Develop a lakefront park
- _____ Encourage residential development in the sewer service areas
- _____ Improve township roads

My voting precinct is _____. Don't know? Go to www.michigan.gov/vote.

You may also answer this question by going to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B985LVQ>.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts so we can serve you better. Feel welcome to call or email me if I can be of assistance.

Best wishes,

Marlene Chockley, Township Supervisor

PUBLIC MEETING

7 PM - March 26, 2019

To receive comments on a proposed equalization basin for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Please attend or email your comments to the Board at BoardOfTrustees@NorthfieldMI.gov.

Treasurer's Office Tax Tidbits

2018 Taxes are due **by Thursday, February 28, 2019**. As of February 14th, penalty and interest has been applied. Please see your tax bill for more information. **Property Taxes not paid by February 28, 2019 must be turned over as delinquent to Washtenaw County and must be paid at the County Treasurer's office. The Township cannot legally accept tax payments after February 28th.**

For your convenience, there is a 24 hour payment drop box in the vestibule of the township offices. Taxes are payable by cash, check or credit card. Please Note: The credit card company charges a processing fee of 2.68% of the amount paid. Northfield Township does not receive any portion of this convenience fee. If you have any questions, we are here to help.

*Warm Regards -
Your Treasurer, Lenore Zelenock and Deputy Treasurer, Emily Hofsess*

Manager's Corner

As we enter into 2019, many people tend to reflect on their current situation, their accomplishments of the past year, and their goals for the coming year. I feel it is also appropriate for Northfield Township to discuss the same.

With taxes due in just a few short days, this seems to be a great place to start. The Township often receives comments about how high our tax bills are. The Township is the collecting agency for all the property taxes for our township, the local school districts, and the county. However, only 4 specific taxes are allocated to Township operations. The general township millage of less than 1 mill is established by the Board of Trustees based on need and state law. The Police, Fire, and Building Bond taxes were implemented following voter approval. More information on taxes is available on the Township website.

Property taxes are a major revenue to fund the operations of the Township as approved during the annual budget process. We are currently working to establish our budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. We encourage citizen input on where township funds would be best utilized. Please contact myself and the Board of Trustees with your suggestions.

The 2018 Auditor's report complemented the Township Board of Trustees, Township Controller - Yvette Patrick, and me for the sound fiscal management of the Township. The Board had previously established a goal that the General Fund balance be at 85% of the budgeted expenditure amount. Over the past fiscal year, our fund balance has increased from 61% to 82%. This is a major accomplishment.

Here are some other accomplishments from the past year:

- * 5-year lease of space in the Public Safety Building to another governmental agency resulting in over \$100,000 of increased revenue plus the installation of over \$40,000 of permanent office space on the second floor.
- * Approval of a State Grant to evaluate the Wastewater Treatment Plant and its lift stations, sewer lines, etc.
- * A grant was received for kitchen equipment at the Community Center for the Senior Nutrition Program, and picnic tables for use at the Community Center and North Village.
- * Improved efficiency in the Township Office by:
 - * filling all vacant positions
 - * establishing office hours for the Zoning Administrator
 - * securing additional part time assistance for the Assessor's Office
 - * transitioning our previous Assessing Assistant to working full-time on planning, zoning and building department matters
 - * transforming the conference room into much needed office space for 3 employees without any additional costs or structural changes to the building
 - * developing an updated employee handbook -- final version will be adopted at an upcoming board meeting
 - * beginning the process of updating our Capital Improvement Plan for roads, parks, sidewalks, and equipment improvements

I believe that Northfield Township is at a cross roads with major decisions to be made that will have many long term effects on the direction of the Township. It is an exciting time to be working for Northfield Township, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the public as I have during my 41 year career in non-profit and local government.

- *Steve Aynes*, Township Manager

ayness@northfieldmi.gov (734) 449-2880 ext. 12

"Like us"
on Facebook:
Northfield Township
Government
Office

Board of Trustees

Proud to serve the residents of
Northfield Township!

Please contact us with any com-
ments, questions, or concerns.

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



Marlene Chockley
Township Supervisor
chockleym@
734-449-2880 ext. 15

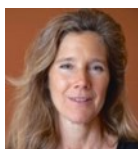


Lenore Zelenock
Township Treasurer
zelenockl@
734-449-2880 ext. 21

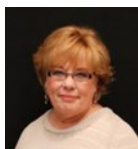


Kathleen Manley
Township Clerk
manleyk@
734-449-2880 ext. 22

Township Trustees



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Janet Chick
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Wayne Dockett
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Jacki Otto
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(734) 368-2251

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****

As of August 1, 2018, a new sewer rate of \$90.20/quarter went into effect. If you use automatic payments, please remember to update it to reflect the new rate.

Election Information

Are you registered to vote? Visit www.Michigan.gov/vote to see if you are registered, verify your voting precinct, and answer all of your voting and election questions!

Kathleen Manley - Clerk, and Cristina Wilson - Deputy Clerk

Keep our Lakes and Streams Clean!

When it rains, storm water runs over yards, roads, parking lots, and playgrounds carrying with it debris and pollutants. This debris and pollutants ends up in our lakes and streams!

Here are some tips to help keep our lakes and streams clean!

- ➔ Never dump anything down a storm drain!
- ➔ Use de-icers conservatively in winter.
- ➔ Use an oil pan when changing oil and contact local body shops or quick lubes to dispose of used oil.
- ➔ Bag pet waste and dispose of it in a trash can.
- ➔ Leave grass clippings on your lawn as an alternate nutrient to fertilizer.
- ➔ Wash your car on your lawn to filter excess water, chemicals, and dirt through the lawn.
- ➔ Dispose of household hazardous wastes, such as harsh cleaners, paint, car fluids, and batteries at a household hazardous waste center, or use environmentally-safe alternatives.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ◇ Northfield Township has a **Red Barrel Drop Box** available at the Public Safety Building for disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications? The Red Barrel Drop Box is located in our lobby near the elevator.
- ◇ The Northfield Public Safety Building is a designated **Meet-Up Spot for Internet Purchase Exchanges?** OfferUp has partnered with local businesses and police stations to create Community Meet-Up Spots. These Spots are brightly lit and have video cameras. They're great places to meet up with someone else to inspect items purchased on-line and complete sales. Look for the Green Sign in front of our building
- ◇ It's time for the Northfield Twp. Community Center's 5th Annual **Project Bunny** program?! We will be delivering spring baskets to folks in our community who need a little spring cheer! If you know of someone who is in need of a cheerful surprise, please call Tami at 734-449-2295 by April 12th.

If you would like to contribute items, here are some suggestions: baskets or gift bags, small gift items, soaps & lotions, snack items, candy, cards, small coloring/puzzle books, crayons/markers, note pads & pens, small toys. Please drop your donations off at the Northfield Township Community Center no later than April 15th.

Calendar of Events

February 28

Last day the township can collect property taxes

February 28—6:30pm - 7:30 pm

Neighborhood Watch Safety Program at the Northfield Twp. Area Library. Register for this FREE event today!

March 2—12:30pm-2:00pm

Llama, Llama Reading Party at the Northfield Twp. Area Library. Register for this FREE event today!

March 23—10:00am- 4:00pm

Cabin Fever Craft Show at the Northfield Township Community Center. Contact Tami for details (734) 449-2295.

March 26—7:00pm

Public Meeting to receive comments on a proposed equalization basin for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



COMING UP AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Pizza & a Movie Nights – Enjoy a pizza dinner and a movie! \$4.00 per person. Feb. 22, March 22, April 26

Painting with Jan – Create a painting with artist and instructor, Jan Rad! Class is held on the last Friday of each month from 1:30p.m. to 3:30p.m.
Fee: \$23.00 includes all supplies.

Movies Under the Stars – Starting in June, join us on the lakeshore to enjoy games, pizza, refreshments, and a movie!

For a full list of Programs, Classes, and Special Events, please visit the Community Center page on our website or follow us on Facebook.

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

Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

Just a reminder that per township ordinance, it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain, repair, and keep safe all sidewalks adjacent to or upon their lots and premises in or along the public street and alley rights-of-way in the township. This includes clearing of snow and ice during inclement weather.

Note: The Township will clear the Debra Mozurkewich Memorial Path along Barker Road.

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

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