



You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks. - Winston Churchill

WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER



ALANSON • ODEN • PONSHEWAING

Emmet County, P.O. Box 188 Alanson, Michigan 49706



New Fire Department Sign

Littlefield Township has hoped for a new sign for the New Fire Hall for years. An old bell that someone with foresight held onto that once belonged to the Fire Hall on River Street was then for a while outside the Township Hall. It was then earmarked to place on the new Fire Hall sign when we would have the ability to complete it and was stored. Finally this year that project was finished and the new sign is done and the picture above tells the rest!

NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASED FROM FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND GRANTS AND LITTLEFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Crooked River Firefighters Association at their annual fundraising brat booth at the Riverfest had an additional fundraiser to collect money to purchase a new chain saw which was on display for folks to see. If you haven't visited the brat booth give it a try. I always enjoy my yearly brats there! This chain saw is necessary in clearing downed trees for access and also for entry into buildings through roofs when there aren't other options and other such events. Enough money was raised, not only to buy the chain saw, but it helped in purchasing replacements for outdated fire hoses. These new hoses will now be purchased by the end of the year and were made possible by two grants. One was from the Baiardi Family Foundation and the other was through the annual revenue sharing of the Casino. Littlefield Township of course appropriated funds for this project as well. I am always really inspired by the diligence involved in maintaining the fire department equipment and also in the time volunteers put forth in training and exercises. I don't want to take things like this for granted and I am so thankful for it! It really is important!

WINTER TAX DUE DATE:

February 14, 2017

Taxes paid by this date accrue no interest or penalties



2017 ROADS

Every year, the Emmet County Road Commission rates the condition of the roads in Littlefield Township using an asset management or "Paser Road Rating System". Once the Littlefield Township Board of Trustees receives the Paser Report, maintenance projects are selected and funds are appropriated. Of the 2 mil General Fund levy for Littlefield Township, 1 mil is set aside for road maintenance projects. This 1 mil currently generates approximately \$112,000. This year, the Township allocated approximately \$132,000.00 for road maintenance projects.

Projects for 2017 included the resurfacing of the following roads:

- Armock Road, from Lakeview Road then east for 0.68 miles.
- Burley Road, from Banwell Road the south for 0.08 miles.
- Cincinnati Point, from U.S. 131 to Crooked Lake for 0.014 miles.
- Honeysette Road, from Valley Road the north for 0.61 miles.

In addition, gravel was placed, graded and compacted on 8 segments of roads in the Plat of Ponshewaing. These roads included Birch Trail, Jefferson, Wildman, Marina Drive, Indiana, Birch Street, Petoskey Street and Park Avenue.

Damien Henning, Littlefield Township Supervisor

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The Village of Alanson and Littlefield Township are jointly preparing a new Parks & Recreation Plan that will serve as a guide for parks facility improvements and recreation programming within the community over the next 5 years. All citizens and interested persons are invited to participate in a parks and recreation survey. Your thoughts are very important to us and will be used in the development of the new plan.

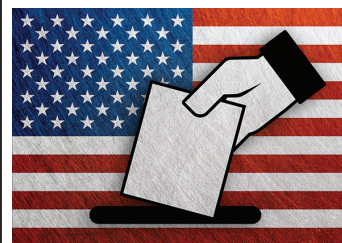
The survey can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alanson-littlefield-recsurvey>

or from the Village and Township websites. The survey will be active from November 26, 2017 to December 31, 2017. If you would prefer to fill out a hard copy, you can pick up a survey at the Alanson Area Public Library at 7631 Burr Avenue/Hwy 31, Alanson, MI 49706.

Damien Henning, Littlefield Township Supervisor

CLERK NEWS



New voting machines have been provided by a grant from the State and information about these may be seen at the Township Hall on the bulletin board. The old machines were not malfunctioning but by law old machines must be replaced when the service contracts have expired and new ones must be implemented.

ODEN PARKS



There is a continuing effort to revitalize the Oden area by Littlefield Township along with a lot of footwork by Trustee Katie Derrohn who herself is a resident of Oden. The Oden Parks happen to be situated along the shores of Crooked Lake and now along the new trail way going from Charlevoix to Mackinac City. One new project is completed and another on the way in this Park District.

LIGHT INSTALLED IN GAZEBO

A new light was installed in the Oden Gazebo. It is light and dark activated and can be seen as one drives past. It is very attractive and does much to enhance the delight of this quaint little area. Thanks go to many individuals (you all know who you are!) who through their donations helped Littlefield Township to pay for this lovely addition.



NEW ODEN POST OFFICE SIGN

Through the concerned citizens of the area in maintaining the viability of this small community Post Office, again in an effort to maintain the vibrancy of the surrounding area and through the diligence on the part of the current Postmaster, all the paperwork has been submitted for two new signs for the Oden Post Office, one of which is planned to be in the Oden Park and will be visible from the highway and the trail.

Township Phone Numbers

Emergency: 911
Fire Department: 231-548-5646
Supervisor: Damien Henning 231-548-5443
Clerk: Sondra Festerling 231-348-8464
Treasurer: Kim Shomin 231-548-2142
Assessor: Jim LaPeer: 231-238-9606
Cemetery Sexton & Sewer Clerk:
Kim Morgan 231-529-5542
Trustee: Dean Morford 231-347-0653
Trustee: Katie Derrohn 231-347-1937



PUBLIC
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**Straits Area
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231-597-9262
888-731-1204

Littlefield Alanson Community Hall Rental

Call: Brooke Milbrandt 231-881-4924

For more information:
www.villageofalanson.com/services/other-services

**BUSINESS OWNERS PLEASE
FILE YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY
TAX EXEMPTION FORM ON TIME
EACH YEAR. Contact your assessor
for more information.**



A Little Bit of History



THOMAS JEFFERSON AND TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENTS

THOMAS JEFFERSON PROMOTED THE CONCEPT OF SMALL GOVERNMENT. "This is near to my heart", he wrote to a friend in 1816. He wanted these divisions of Counties to be small enough that everyone knew each other. He wanted these governments to oversee everything in their area and supply public education. Township comes from words meaning the entire boundaries of a Town. Townships developed in the New England States and came from England which had similar systems of small communities with governments to go with them. The Northwest Ordinance of 1785 and 1787 created territories and so townships came into being even before people lived there. Some but not all Townships even predated statehood. Thomas Jefferson is recognized to be the initiator of this ordinance.

MANY STATES ONLY HAVE LARGER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Southern States because of large single land owners never had enough land owners in an area to have townships and Western States had very small populations over large areas as well so Counties were the smallest units of governments in these areas.

THE ROLES OF TOWNSHIPS PAST AND PRESENT

Originally established for the purposes of land surveying, titles and descriptions, moving to land tax collections, public schools, public safety and now roads, cemeteries, public halls to meet in, libraries, recycle centers and recreational amenities...but some things haven't changed. Township officials still live in the community they serve and the resources used and decisions made by the people that live there are to make their community more pleasant and prosperous to live in.

2017 AREA WINTER EVENTS

Alanson Open House

The merchants of downtown Alanson cordially invite you to the annual Alanson Open House. Friday, December 8, 2017 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Petoskey Steel Drum Band plays at 6:30 pm

Emmet County Holiday Arts, Crafts and Gifts Show

Saturday Nov. 18, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Emmet County Fairgrounds
\$2 admission or a canned food item.



STATE MANDATED OFFICE HOURS

The Treasurer or Deputy will be on-site for tax collection on Wed. Dec. 27, 2017 and Wed. Feb. 14, 2018. Times and places will be posted at the Township Hall.

TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION

TAX RECEIPTS AVAILABLE ONLY UPON REQUEST Please submit a S.A.S.E. or email along with your payment. It's a good idea to include contact information along with your tax payment. In the event of an error the treasurer is able to save you money by contacting you immediately.

IMPORTANT: If you think your payment may arrive after the due date it is wise to have the post office hand stamp a postmark so you won't be charged any interest.

This newsletter is published bi-annually by the Littlefield Township Treasurer. If you have events to advertise please call the treasurer at 231-548-2142.

All articles unless otherwise stated are written by the Littlefield Township Treasurer. Graphic Design by Julie Peurasari 231-548-3300