

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

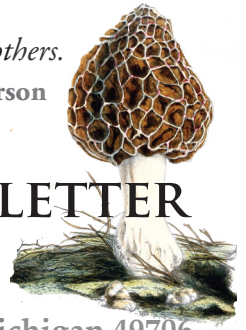
Littlefield TOWNSHIP

Est 1877

SUMMER, 2019 NEWSLETTER

ALANSON • ODEN • PONSHEWAING

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



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE PARKS IN OUR TOWNSHIP

The Littlefield Township Board of Trustees has determined to invest money to ensure future generations of township residents will have access to public lands in our township for their use. This includes both water access and off water access. So far, we've been able to do this without requiring additional millage.

- Damien Henning, Littlefield Township Supervisor

Littlefield Township has multiple recreational properties under its operational control: Oden Gazebo Park, Walter Dow Park, Hay Lake Marina and Park, Woodruff Park, and a new, unnamed acquisition of railroad property that runs between Blumke and Milton Road.

ODEN GAZEBO PARK The township has hired Gosling Czubak Engineering to prepare the concept plan for Oden Park. One feature of this plan is to make this park a trailhead with access to the North Western State Trail. Many improvements have already been made, but some of the upcoming work includes removing existing buildings, completing the restoration of the gazebo, closing the curb cuts and creating berms along US 31 and Luce Street.

WALTER DOW PARK is in Oden on Crooked Lake and is located on the intersection of U.S. 31 and Rose Street. Dow Park has a public swimming beach and is often used as a windsurfing launch site. The Township recently installed a new well and drinking fountain and paved the parking lot. A portable restroom is provided during the summer.

WOODRUFF PARK is a small roadside park on the north side of U.S. 31 in Oden. After years of neglect, the Township was able to acquire this property from MDOT for one dollar. Fourteen dead trees were then removed as well as many stumps. The park is designed for passive recreation with a picnic area, flowing well/drinking fountain and a memorial to Oden residents who have served in the Armed Forces.

HAY LAKE MARINA AND PARK is the township's largest project, having 24 acres and 1,200 feet of river frontage. Located on Crooked



River just north of Alanson off of US-31, this park will provide the public a small boat launch, universally accessible canoe/kayak launch, rental docks, elevated wetland overlook, water trailhead with car-trailer and car parking, and universally accessible restroom/shower building and amenities. All the former buildings have been removed from the property, the sea wall is installed - caps are being installed - and dredging will begin in June. Substantial completion of Hay Lake Marina and Park will be August 31, 2019.

Alanson Littlefield Fire Department 2019 FIREWORKS LAW



Listed here are some things that you need to know before you decide to launch those explosive bursts of potassium nitrate into the sky.

In December 2018, new measures were signed into Michigan law that reduce the number of days fireworks can be used.

The new STATE LAW UPDATE will make using fireworks legal on:

- June 29 - July 4 until 11:45 p.m. (Also, July 5 ONLY if that day is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.)
- The Saturday and Sunday before Labor Day until 11:45 p.m.
- You must be on your own private property, or have permission from the property owner.
- A person is prohibited from using fireworks if said person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

NOTE: The Governor, the State Fire Marshal or the head of the Department of Natural Resources can ban fireworks use in a county because of dry conditions---so be sure to do some checking before the party.

Violation of this act is a \$1000 fine.

A Little Bit of History

THE LITTLEFIELD CEMETERY



A baby boy, born to Hollis and Sophronia Frayer, was the first burial on August 2, 1878 in what was to become Littlefield Cemetery. The father, Mr. Frayer, was postmaster at the Hinman station, which was located near the cemetery.

The land was designated a public cemetery a month later. On September 2, 1891, in *The Petoskey Record*, the following was written: ***The good people of Alanson have at last decided that there is a need of a cemetery and have bought two acres off Mr. Frayer for that purpose.***

The 'Vault' building, which sits across the road from the cemetery, was built by Preston Feather in 1931 for an estimated cost of \$1,813.00. Preston Feather, along with other members of his family, is buried in the cemetery.

Cemetery records currently lists 1,606 burials. Of that number, 253 are veterans. There are 24 Civil War Veterans. Our community puts American flags on the graves of all veterans from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. Only veterans are allowed to have a flag on their graves.

Looking through the old record book for the cemetery the following are listed for 'undertakers': Ralph Peters, Nathan Stone, Harold Briggs, Amos Henika, E.D. Shafer, Archie Burghdoff. All listed in Petoskey and a Erwin from Harbor Springs. Also, interesting is a list of burials with names and what they were buried in. Examples are: Metal Case, Wood Case, Concrete Case/Vault.

- Submitted by, Kim Morgan-Sexton



HONORING VETERANS

The local Boy Scouts Troop 4 once again placed American flags at the gravesite of each veteran in the Alanson/Littlefield Cemetery. This has been an annual tradition for many years and it's the Scouts' special way to honor the men and women who made gave their service to our country.

The flags will remain up throughout the summer.



WILD AND FREE

Spring is the season for foraging for fiddleheads, leeks, asparagus, and morel mushrooms. This spring the local morels were large and abundant. The wild foods of summer are the popular Northern Michigan favorites: tiny wild strawberries, acidic-loving blueberries, and the highly-prized blackberries.

Foraging for food is an inexpensive family activity that can help with your grocery bill, enhance appreciation for nature, and encourage quality family time. Many have fond memories of foraging with a grandparent, who taught them what to look for and where.

A plentiful and underappreciated free food that grows throughout our township is wild mint. Mint flowers are bluish or a slight violet tint. The leaves are up to two-and-a-half inches long and one inch wide and give off a nice, minty aroma while walking through a field. Stopping to chew some leaves will freshen and revive your senses. Besides being filled with vitamins, mint can aid in digestion, heartburn, and may relieve tension headaches. Use wild mint in summer drinks such as cucumber-mint flavored water, or adding a little kick to lemonade or ice tea. Try it tossed in a fruit salad of strawberries, basil, and balsamic vinegar - delicious!



**Crooked River
Firefighter's Antique
Truck & Classic Car Show:**
2nd Weekend in September

**Hillside
Garden
Annual
Plant Sale
Sept. 7
2019**



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

<https://www.littlefieldtwp.org>

Littlefield Alanson Community Hall Rental

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

Alanson 4th of July Celebration
Boy Scout Breakfast 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Parade! Starts at 11:00 Line up 9:30 on Banwell Rd
Afterglow & Awards at the park following the parade.
Contact Person: Art Drayton, 231-548-5646



Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

- Albert Einstein.

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

I love to travel as much as I can off the freeways and on the old US Highways instead. I enjoy driving through all the communities that make up these United States. Some places look like a ghost of what used to be while others have unique character and thriving local businesses.

I think for a town our size we have an unusually large and varied assortments of businesses!

I have seen a lot of changes since I came onto the Township Board in the fall of 2002. We have a really special little town.

When we think of our town we might think of all the natural beauty but it's the people that make this place what it is. Usually when the winter ends I find myself thinking, "We made it through another winter". Then as the spring comes again, I wonder how many more springs I will get to live here with you all. It has been a wonderful privilege. I never could have planned such a wonderful life as the one I have been given here sharing this time and place with everyone in this little town in the North.

Tax Payment Information

- Late payments will be charged to every payment that arrives after the due date without a legible postmark. No exception! I have paid it quite a few times myself.
- Include contact information with tax payment so you may be contacted in the event of an error to save time which may save you money.
- If you want a receipt please send an email address, a fax number or a self addressed stamped envelope with your payment.
- Partial payment will continue to be accepted.
- The Treasurer can change addresses but not names. For name changes please contact Emmet County Equalization 231-348-1708
- All property owners will receive a bill. If you have an escrow account the mortgage company receives a separate notice when they request it.

SUMMER TAX DUE DATE: Sept. 14, 2019

Taxes paid by this date accrue no interest or penalties

ONE DAY ON-SITE TAX COLLECTION

Either the Treasurer or an appointee will be on-site for the last day of summer tax collection before late fees will be charged. This year instead of being on Sept. 14 which is the due date it will fall on the Monday the 16th since the 14th falls on a weekend. The exact place for this collection will be posted at the Town Hall and our web site at least two weeks prior.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

DOG LICENSE IS REQUIRED IN EMMET COUNTY

Three-year licenses are \$30.00 for sterile dogs
or \$60.00 for non-sterile dogs.

(Two-year and one-year licenses are also available.)

* Owners need to present proof of rabies vaccination when purchasing a dog license.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.emmetcounty.org/officials-departments/treasurer-2/dog-license2/