

## WINTER, 2019 NEWSLETTER

ALANSON • ODEN • PONSHEWAING

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



## HAY LAKE MARINA COMPLETION DATE IN SIGHT

For the past few years Littlefield Township has been investing in the new project at Hay Lake, just north of Alanson on the Crooked River. The overall vision calls for creating a marina that will be equipped for residents, as well as vacationers, to have public access to the Inland Water Route in the Alanson area.



Construction completed includes the floating docks with 33 slips. The boat ramp is completed, faces east and lining up with the canal. The well is drilled and the footings for facility that will house the restrooms which are being built over the winter. The seawall is in and currently the board walk is being constructed.

The Littlefield general fund as well as revenue from slip rentals will maintain the facility. The township's goal

is for the project to be finished by Memorial weekend, 2020. We all look forward to the ground breaking ceremony that will signify completion. *Photo by Township Supervisor, Damien Henning*

## WILL YOU (please) WEAR THIS JACKET?

Volunteer first responders help their fellow neighbors and friends in times of need. At the recent Littlefield Township meeting, the Alanson Littlefield Fire Department shared a list of benefits they are considering in an attempt to put together a package to encourage volunteering. Some ideas are enticing monetarily. But, for all who volunteer, there is a sense of accomplishment, achievement, and pride in the work you'll do. You'd learn new skills, make new friends, be a part of a team, give back to the community, and make a real difference.



## ALANSON – LITTLEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Is looking for dedicated volunteers  
For both our fire and EMS crews

*We'll be hosting an Open House*

**On January 14th, 2020 from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

Training will be provided,  
Open to anyone age 18 and up with a valid driver's license.

*Visit our facebook page for more information.*

## Wetland Banking on Banwell Road

There was much discussion and wondering amongst the Littlefield Township residents who live near or travel Banwell Road concerning the fall construction project that happened on the corner of Smith and Banwell Roads. The project is a wetland mitigation bank constructed by MDOT. In 2018, MDOT purchased 21 acres for the bank development. Wetland mitigation banking is the establishment of new wetland areas, or "banks," in advance of anticipated losses.

Unlike traditional mitigation which occurs just prior to or concurrent with projects, wetland banks are on the ground and functioning before any credit can be released. Mitigation banking benefits the state's wetland resources by providing new wetlands in advance of losses.



MDOT already had eight active wetland mitigation banks with almost 54 acres of approved credit. The department also uses other established banks for project mitigation, as well as preservation credits. Wetland mitigation banking can facilitate compliance with permit requirements and are available for purchase. Emmet County has purchased a one acre credit of the new construction on Banwell Road.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) maintains a registry of mitigation bank credits to inform the public as to where credits have been established and where they are available for sale. For answers

to frequently asked questions visit: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-wetlands-banking-faq\\_558429\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-wetlands-banking-faq_558429_7.pdf)

## A Little Bit of History

### 24/7 FREE FLOWING ARTESIAN WATER



*How many lessons of faith and beauty we should lose, if there were no winter in our year! - Thomas Wentworth Higginson*

"Flowing wells (along with springs and geysers) symbolize the presence and mystery of subsurface water, and as such they have always evoked considerable public interest".

(From Groundwater, Freeze and Cherry, 1979)

An artesian well is defined as an aquifer containing groundwater under positive pressure. The word artesian comes from the town of Artois in France, where the best known flowing artesian wells were drilled in the Middle Ages. A "flowing artesian well" runs clear, cold water without pumping--a real gift. Seeming to defy gravity, the water pressure builds up between layers of rock and is relieved when the water finds a path to the open air.

Emmet County has a large flowing well district that extends from Harbor Spring to Littlefield Township, mainly along the north side of the Crooked Lake and Crooked River. In the late 1800s over 100 artesian flowing wells were identified from Conway to Alanson. With the railroads making transportation to Northern Michigan accessible in the late 19th century and early 20th century, flowing wells attracted visitors to Michigan resorts that advertised the therapeutic benefits of their artesian mineral waters. In 1884, there was



an effort to contain a flowing well in Oden in a search for suitable water for boiler use in the busy railroad engines of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railway. There was an excellent flow, but the water was found to be too hard for use in boilers.

The flowing artesian well (fondly named Crystal's Well by locals) on US 31 just north of Alanson has been a very popular spot for many years. Due to its location and easy access people often stop by to fill their water bottles. This well was placed into the hands of Littlefield Township by the Fairbairn family to make sure the flowing well remained in public use. The township maintains 2 flowing artesian wells in Oden as well.

Some of the earliest water supply legislation in Michigan dealt with regulating the use of artesian wells. State regulations concerning flowing wells can be found at:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-wb-dwehs-wcu-flowwellhandbook\\_221323\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-wb-dwehs-wcu-flowwellhandbook_221323_7.pdf)

#### 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.littlefieldtp.org>

**ALANSON  
OPEN HOUSE**

**Dec 13**  
5:00 to 8:00

**PETOSKEY  
STEEL DRUM BAND**  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Downtown Alanson

## FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

I don't remember seeing all the leaves on top of the snow before although I am sure that it has happened. The first time I sent out winter tax bills was back in 2002 and our very first newsletter was sent out not long after that. It is interesting to go on our website and see the newsletters almost from their beginning. It gives a brief history. I think Julie at Key Creative, who is now putting together the newsletters, is doing an excellent job.



#### Tax Payment Information

1. Late Payments will be charged to every payment that arrives after the due date WITHOUT a legible postmark. NO EXCEPTIONS. If you think it may arrive late please have a hand post mark applied at a Post Office near you.
2. Include current contact info with your tax payment so you can be quickly contacted in the event of an error with your payment. This may save you money.
3. If you want a receipt, please send an email address or a fax number or a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.
4. Partial payments will continue to be accepted.

#### also

- The Treasurer may change addresses. Please do not attempt to have us change your address every year for seasonal moves as this isn't workable. Please pick one of your locations for both your tax bills. **Thank you.**
- The Treasurer cannot make name changes as this changes ownership! This must be done properly at Emmet County Equalization. Contact them for help with this at 231-348-1708
- All Property Owners will receive a bill. If you have an escrow account your mortgage company receives a separate notice when they request it.
- If the bill is for your primary residence and has a 0% PRE exemption you are probably being charged too much. Contact your Assessor or Treasurer right away.

To email the treasurer, please use the new address:

**[treasurer@littlefieldtp.org](mailto:treasurer@littlefieldtp.org)**

*All phone calls and emails to the Treasurer's Office are usually answered the same day. Remember to leave contact info where you can be reached or info left for you after business hours.*

**BUSINESS OWNERS PLEASE FILE YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FORM ON TIME EACH YEAR. This form typically will arrive soon after the first of the year from Jim LaPeer your assessor. It is an easy form to complete and will save you money and it must be done timely every year. Call the Assessor or Treasurer if you need clarification on this.**



**WINTER TAX DUE DATE: Feb.14, 2020**

*Taxes paid by this date accrue no interest or penalties*

#### ON-SITE TAX COLLECTIONS

The Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer will be on-site two state-mandated tax collection days: one at the end of Dec. and the other before unpaid taxes are turned over to Emmet County. An additional day of on-site collection will be before interest is charged on Feb. 14. LOCATIONS AND EXACT TIMES FOR THESE 3 DAYS OF ON-SITE COLLECTIONS WILL BE POSTED AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL OR YOU MAY CALL OR EMAIL THE TREASURER'S OFFICE.