

*This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays. - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# Littlefield TOWNSHIP

Est 1877

## SUMMER, 2020 NEWSLETTER

ALANSON • ODEN • PONSHEWAING  
Emmet County, P.O. Box 188 Alanson, Michigan 49706



### *Notice of Elections*

**August 4, 2020 – State Primary Election.**  
**November 3, 2020 – State General Election**

#### **From the Littlefield Township Clerk, Sondra Festerling**

For upcoming elections you still have the option to get out and vote at the polls. There will be some changes such as maintaining the six foot distancing rule because of COVID 19. However, all of Michigan's 7.7 million registered voters will be mailed absentee ballot applications so they can take part in elections in August and November without the risk of in-person voting if they choose to do so.

***Littlefield Township does not have a permanent Absent Voter List. A separate application will need to be done for each election.***

If you have had a change of address and you have not notified the township, you may not see an absentee voter application in the mail. To receive an absentee ballot application, please call the Littlefield Clerk at 231-348-8464. Or find the link for the download at:

<https://www.littlefieldtp.org/departments/clerks-officeelections/>

NOTE: Notify the township if you have an address change by sending the new address to: Sondra Festerling, P.O. Box 295, Conway, MI 49722

## **LITTLEFIELD TOWNSHIP During the Coronavirus**

*Township Supervisor, Damien Henning*

These are unprecedented times with the declared Coronavirus state of emergency and it has definitely changed our lives. The Littlefield Township board canceled the April meeting. In May and June, meetings were held practicing social distancing by placing chairs six feet apart and requesting masks be worn. The May meeting, including the board, had seven participants, and in June there were thirteen. Here are some of the areas our community has been affected:

- The restrictions of construction work have put plans for the Hay Lake Marina behind 90 days. But since the construction ban was lifted on May 7, the sidewalks have been poured and the bathroom is nearing completion. The township is hoping for the new marina to be open sometime in early July.
- The Annual Spring Cleanup was canceled. The event is not being rescheduled for this year. But hopefully, it will happen the first Saturday in May, 2021.
- The Littlefield-Alanson Community Hall has been closed and is still not available for rent. Spring is usually a busy time for the community with graduation parties and wedding showers.
- The library has been closed due to the executive order. But with restrictions being lifted throughout June they will be opening in stages. Visit their website to find out more: <http://joomla.uproc.lib.mi.us/alanson/>

Road work wasn't scheduled for Littlefield Township this spring. But a third-party engineer has been engaged to develop plans for Crupp Road which is in great need of an update.

## **A Little Bit of History The Ponshewaing Hotel**



Ponshewaing is the small community just south of Alanson and is home to just over fifty Littlefield residents. Ponshewaing was used as a winter home by the Ottawas and some say the name means "Peaceful Waters", others say "Winter Home". The two earliest white settlers were the Rufus Myers and Novacious Kellam families of Alanson. By 1900, so many fishermen were stopping and asking for meals and rooms, that the Kellams decided to enlarge their home and turn it into a hotel. The hotel became widely known among railroad officials and fishermen. Mr. Kellam took keen delight in showing the visitors just where the big fish were to be found on Crooked Lake. He was one of the region's most enthusiastic fishermen. The hotel proprietor would greet train passengers and take them to their boat liveryes. Several boats would be towed via launch to various fishing holes in the morning, later, in the afternoon, the launch would tow the fishermen back to the hotel. Mr. Kellam died in 1923 and the 20 room hotel continued to be managed by his remaining family. The hotel burnt down on August 24, 1955. The fire started from somewhere under the kitchen. Six fire departments battled the intense fire that consumed most of the building. The hotel's stone pillars marking the driveway can still be seen from U.S. 31.

- information from *The Steamer Topinabee and The Inland Water Route of Northern Michigan* by Mark Hill and Petoskey News Review archives



## LITTLEFIELD CEMETERY NEWS

- 257 flags were placed on veterans graves in time for veterans day. Did you know that flags are allowed only on veterans graves? Any other flags placed in the cemetery will be removed. It is a way for cemeteries to honor veterans.
- We are fortunate that the Emmet County Veterans Affairs office supplies us with the flags each year, flag holders when needed, and the stakes. It is a service they have provided for many years at no cost to the cemetery/township.
- Of the 257 veterans, we have 27 (known) Civil War veterans.
- There are binders with a list of all burials/memorials and their location in the cemetery, along with a plat map.



New this year is a section that lists the veterans and their service information if we have it.

*Here is a sample:*

Eliphalet Pemberton: 1822-1919 06 -- 14 mich. L.A.

If you have information on a veteran that we haven't included, please let us know. The cemetery can be a place for history lessons for children or grandchildren. Feel free to explore. Our rules and regulations are included in the binders and if you have a question give me a call.

- Kim Morgan, Cemetery Sexton

### DO YOU KNOW about Waldron Fen Nature Preserve?

The Waldron Fen Nature Preserve is 148 acres that borders Banwell, Haines, and Miller roads. The entrance is on Banwell Road and leads to two miles of hiking trail that takes you along two small ponds and a large wetland-fen complex. The trail loop goes primarily through wetlands offering birding opportunities to view some of the 116 resident and migratory bird species. It is an easy walk through diverse habitats. A covered picnic table is available near the parking area.

*Because of nesting birds, dogs and horses are not allowed.*



### SUMMER EVENTS

The Village of Alanson is considering a 4th of July parade. The decision will be posted on the Village of Alanson Facebook page.

Alanson Movies in the Park may happen!

Watch the Alanson Village Facebook page for updates.

Crooked River Firefighter's Association has canceled the September 2020 Annual Car Show. However, watch on the Alanson/Littlefield Fire & Rescue Facebook page as they are discussing a virtual show.

### 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

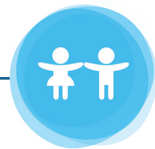
Cemetery Sexton & Sewer Clerk:

Kim Morgan 231-529-5542

Trustee: Dean Morford 231-347-0653

Trustee: Katie Derrohn 231-347-1937

<https://www.littlefieldtwp.org>



The Alanson Village Park will have a new addition:

**TODDLER PLAY  
STRUCTURE/AREA**

At the June meeting, the Littlefield Township voted to contribute funds towards the joint project of the Village, Township, and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation who will also provide funds.

*When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden.*

- Minnie Aumonier

## FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Right now it is the end of the Spring of 2020 and the lilacs are starting to bloom. At the time this newsletter will be sent to you along with your property tax bill it will be the summer of 2020. I sent out the first newsletter in the summer of 2003 after I took over the treasurer's duties the previous fall of 2002. People around here right now are getting out their boats and motorcycles and going to nurseries/flower shops and planting vegetable gardens or starting new home projects. It is such a short season so we really get going up here! I am trying to plant a vegetable garden too. It is very comforting to me to observe the normal rhythms of the season continuing which is so dramatic for those of us who live in the North. I noticed that Katie Derrohn, who is a Littlefield Township Trustee and was already on the board at the time I began in 2002, has already been out and planted flowers in strategic places in the township, like under the sign at the township hall.



She does seasonal changes there yearly and it makes it attractive! There are so many people doing helpful positive things out there and we benefit so much from it. It for sure isn't what you might see on the news but it is there and will continue to be there until the end of time. I am sure of that!

As usual, the summer property taxes will be due September 14, 2020, and we will have someone available all day that you can go to and drop off your taxes in person. If you have any questions at all call or email anytime and I am usually able to get back to you the same day. Remember that this office has always and will continue to accept partial payments so feel free to send any amount that you are able. Remember if you want a receipt please request one at the time of your payment and provide an email address or a self-addressed stamped envelope along with the request.

For several years now there has been a personal property tax exemption available for most businesses depending on their size. Most businesses in our township have already qualified for this exemption. Please contact me or the assessor right away if you need further information about this. Our contact information along with others in the township may be found in every newsletter and our website, [littlefieldtwp.org](http://littlefieldtwp.org).

If you find there is an error in your homestead or veterans status or you are a senior who need to pay a bit late and want to be exempt for the interest after Sept. 14th or have any other questions please contact me as soon as possible so that anything that can be corrected could happen at the July Board of Review and not have to wait until the December Board of Review.

Keep looking up. *Kim Shomin*

**SUMMER TAX DUE DATE: September 14, 2020**  
*Taxes paid by this date accrue no interest or penalties*