

*"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis." - Abraham Lincoln*



## WINTER, 2020 NEWSLETTER



Alanson • Oden • Ponshevaing

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

### HAY LAKE PARK MARINA

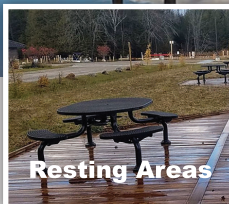
**PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE INLAND WATER ROUTE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**



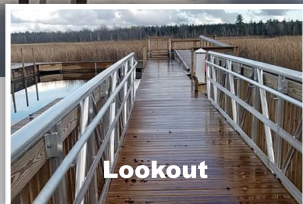
**Restrooms**



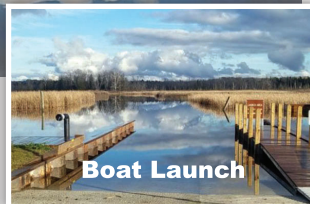
**Kayak/Canoe Launch**



**Resting Areas**



**Lookout**



**Boat Launch**

Just north of Alanson, adjacent to Admiral's Pointe, is Littlefield Township's new Hay Lake Park Marina. The completion and opening of the marina were delayed this year because of the coronavirus crisis. The opening is rescheduled for spring, 2021. Slip rentals be available and ramp fees will begin this spring and will help with marina upkeep costs. Information about rentals, fees, and start date will be posted on the township webpage. It is truly a marvelous and enduring amenity that will benefit our entire community. **Township Supervisor, Damien Hennin**

## Local Business Moves

Racc Enterprises, LLC, owned by Rick and Anne Bacon, opened for business 35 years ago. For the past 25 years they have been located on the corner of M-68 and US 31. Recently they sold the wireless internet service portion of their business to a local company, Venture Technologies. The new website is <http://www.venturetechit.com>.

The Bacons have retained the sales and services and have moved their shop near their home at 8364 M-68, 2 miles from their former location in Alanson. Currently, they are moving in and getting Racc Enterprises' new location set up. For the time being, if you need computer supplies or repair please call ahead, 231-203-1243. Rick or Anne will gladly assist you. They are still in business!

### WINTER TAX DUE DATE: Feb.16, 2021

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

#### OPTIONAL 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. Locations and exact times of on-site collections will be posted at the township hall or you may call or email the treasurer's office.

### ALANSON-LITTLEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

**There were 77 fire runs and 309 EMS runs in 2019**

**NOTE:** The Fireboard is looking for community members to serve on the Alanson-Littlefield Fire Board. Anyone interested should contact Littlefield Township for more information. It's a great way to serve your community. The Fire Board meets once a month at the fire hall.

#### ***Is your woodstove chimney cleaned and alarms working?***

*Test your smoke alarms monthly, beginning now. Replace the batteries twice a year or sooner if they start to chirp. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. A smoke alarm, with a carbon monoxide detector, should be located on every floor and a smoke detector should be installed in every bedroom.*

**THE STACK EFFECT:** Do you keep setting off your smoke detectors when you start a fire in your wood stove? The problem is a situation called the stack effect which is caused by cold air inside of the chimney being denser than the air inside your house. When you opened the wood stove door, the heavy cold air moves down the chimney, creating a downward draft, causing the smoke to spill out of the stove. The solution is to "prime" a cold chimney, by lining the backwall of the stove or fireplace with crumpled newspaper and lighting them. Replace the newspaper and relight repeatedly until you see the smoke from the paper fire suddenly disappear up the flue. Now you're ready to build your fire.

**Please dial 2-1-1 if you need non-emergency, non-public safety related information. If you have a police, fire or medical emergency, dial 9-1-1**



## FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

It is now mid-October as I write this for the newsletter deadline when it goes to the printer which is the first week in November and then you will just be reading this as December begins which will be bringing 2020 to a close. Wow! I don't know what it will be like then but the weather now is really pleasant and the colors are beautiful and I am bringing the harvest in and putting it away like I have every year since I came here to live back in 1992. The land kind of demands it at this place. I have a milk cow now and that is a real pleasure. She is delightful. I still have my milk goats and a pet sheep and chickens and a bunny and a few barn cats and a dear old collie dog named Honey. I have good neighbors and we have many interesting businesses in our town. I have loved living here more than any other place I have ever been, and I have lived here longer than any other place in my life and this is my home. I don't really understand what all happened to us this year! I tried to but I don't. I have a plan of action to do my own personal resistance to it. I am going to boycott Amazon and other such stuff and keep as much as possible all my dollars local. I have always been that way, but I am going to do it even more. I like having all these wonderful neighbors and businesses here and I am going to vote with my dollars. I am going to continue to try and grow food as much as possible and I am going to try to appreciate the people in my life as much as possible while I have a chance to. That's how I am fighting back.

You may have noticed that we were able to finish our Hay Lake Park Marina Project and it is really going to be a lovely asset to our community. We have a beautiful little town!

As usual, we will have someone at the community hall a few days until the end of the tax season for you to hand deliver your tax payments and times and dates will be posted and other arrangements can also be made. Please feel free to call me anytime with any questions or if I can be of help at all. Keep looking up! - **Kim Shomin**

### 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 contact the treasurer

**231-548-2142 or email, [treasurer@littlefieldtwp.org](mailto:treasurer@littlefieldtwp.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.*



*"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."*

— Frederick Douglass

## A Little Bit of History

In 1884 Littlefield Township had four school districts, with four schoolhouses for sixty-one area students. The first school was located on the northeast corner of Valley and Honeysette Road. The teacher was paid \$18 a month. Each school day, the children living in the village would have a long walk along the railroad and then west to the school. Coming home from school they occasionally were fortunate to hitch a ride on a railroad handcar.

In 1893 a two-room school was built within the village limits and taught eight grades. In 1900, a second story was added and another grade. Five years later, there was a tenth grade. Thereafter, each year another grade was added as well as additions to the building including a gym.

All the area schools were consolidated in 1928, creating the Littlefield Township School. And in 1957 voters approved a new school across the road from the old building. On March 19, 1964, the old school building burnt to the ground. Later that year, a new gymnasium was built using the insurance money gained from the fire. A few years later, an addition was built that added a cafeteria and library.

*This information is from a wonderful history resource that can be found at the Alanson library in a book not-for-loan: "Alanson, Our Town 1882-1982", written by Yolanda Banwell in cooperation with the Historic Book Committee.*

## CEMETERY NEWS:

- Recently a few families have decided to 'decorate or paint' headstones/markers that honor our veterans. This is not allowed on these markers. They are the property of the US government and any 'decorating/painting' of them is not allowed. If you want to make any changes to any headstone, please contact the sexton at [sexton@littlefieldtwp.org](mailto:sexton@littlefieldtwp.org) to discuss what you would like to do.
- Progress is being made to the future addition. The trees are almost all cleared from the north end of the cemetery.

**Kim Morgan, Littlefield Township  
Sewer Billing/Cemetery Sexton/Fire Board**

## The Alanson Area Public Library Book Discussion Group

Meets 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

in the Community Hall. Check the library website for further information including the reading selection.

<http://joomla.uproc.lib.mi.us/alanson/index.php/library-programs>

### Blight Enforcement Officer

Mike Vargo 231-838-3692  
P.O. Box 166, Alanson, MI 49706  
[blight@littlefieldtwp.org](mailto:blight@littlefieldtwp.org)

**ALANSON  
OPEN HOUSE  
Dec. 11, 2020**

Watch for  
updates on  
Facebook.com  
[/villageofalanson/](https://www.facebook.com/villageofalanson/)



### 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 Township Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the Community Hall the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m**

***This newsletter is created bi-annually for Littlefield Township by Key Creative. Contact: 231-203-4847***