

Fire Chief - Al Brouwer



CAN WE FIND YOUR HOUSE?

To assist us in locating your house as quickly as possible, you may purchase a green and white reflective address sign from the Fireman's Assoc. The cost is \$15.00. Cost includes the sign, post, and installation. Order forms are available at the Township Office or on-line.

BURN PERMITS - CALL AHEAD!

Burn permits are required by the State of Michigan. Permits are issued for brush only, no building materials may be burned. Permits may be obtained free of charge by calling the Fire Chief at 677.1610 or the Township Office at 677.1248 Monday through Thursday.

NEW BRUSH TRUCK & MEDICAL UNIT

The Wright-Tallmadge Fire Department needed to replace the utility box on the back of our 2000 Ford F-350 Medical Unit due to deterioration. The truck's chassis is still in excellent shape. Upon final determination of this cost, we decided to "look outside of the box". We found that we could purchase a new 2014 Ford Explorer to serve as a Medical Unit **AND** convert the F-350 chassis into a brush truck for nearly the same cost as just replacing the medical utility box on the F-350. The new Medical unit has been purchased and is now in service.

The 2000 Ford F-350 chassis is in the process of being converted into a brush truck and should be in service soon. This will replace our vintage 1951 military brush truck. A great deal of this conversion is being done by members of the department to help save on the cost.

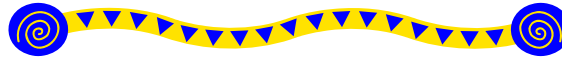
EMERGENCY ACCESS ON PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

There are several driveways in our jurisdiction that are overgrown with brush and trees. This makes access to these homes difficult in case of emergencies, especially for the larger trucks. We ask that homeowners clear/trim driveways to 16 feet height by 16 feet width.

Monthly Township Meetings

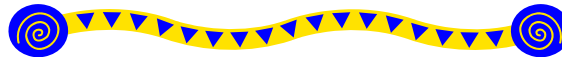
All meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are held in the Township Hall Board Room.

- Planning Commission: 4th TUESDAY
- Township Board Meetings: 2nd TUESDAY
- Zoning Board of Appeals: 1st TUESDAY , as needed



All Offices Closed these Holidays:

Thursday - Nov. 28th
Tuesday & Wednesday - December 24th & 25th
Tuesday & Wednesday - Dec. 31 & January 1st



How WE communicate to YOU

Newsletters - We anticipate sending a written communication with both Summer & Winter tax bills. As stewards of your Township's funds, this saves over \$1000.00 in postage costs each mailing.

Advance Newspaper - The Clerk posts a Synopsis of all Board Minutes and Notices of Public Hearings in both local issues of the Advance Newspaper.

Website - www.tallmadge.com

- The Clerk posts the Minutes of Board Meetings on the website.
- You can also find copies of recent ordinance and zoning changes.
- Many forms/permits available for download.

Township Spring Clean-up



Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 19, 2014. Further details will be posted on our website, www.tallmadge.com by early spring or call the township office

Winter 2013 Newsletter Tallmadge Charter Township

0-1451 Leonard St.
Grand Rapids, Mi. 49534

Phone - 616.677.1248 Fax - 616-677-6133
Website - www.tallmadge.com

Township Hours

Monday - 9-2
Tuesday - 9-7 evening
Wednesday - 9-2
Thursday - 9-2
Closed Friday



Our entire office wishes you a very Blessed Christmas Season and Newfound Joy in the Upcoming Year



Toby VanEss
Supervisor



Lenore Cook
Clerk



Brenda Martin
Treasurer



Joel Terpstra
Trustee



Mike Eppink
Trustee



Tip Bronkema
Trustee



Gerald Walt
Trustee



Tyler Tacoma
Assessor



Val Schwallier
Receptionist



Ellen Grifhorst
Deputy Treasurer



Greg Ransford
Planner

Have you met our new Assessor?

Our new Assessor assists several Ottawa County Townships. He maintains regular office hours at Tallmadge on Thursday from 9-4. It is best to call ahead for an appointment or E-mail him at: assessor@tallmadge.com. We are very pleased to have him join our office staff.

Assessor's Notes

Tyler Tacoma

ttacoma@tallmadge.com

The job assigned to the Assessor's Office is to determine the value of every property in the Township as of "Tax Day," December 31st, for the upcoming year's assessments. In the next several weeks, I will be visiting various work sites and properties. This may involve taking measurements, snapshots and speaking to property owners.

In early February, you will receive a 2014 property assessment notice. Should you have any questions, please call me or follow the outlined appeal procedure.

Beginning January 1, 2014, property transfers between parent and child will no longer be subject to un-capping of the taxable value the parent's property is currently assessed at. This applies only to residential real property. Please call the Assessor if you have further questions.



WE NEED YOUR PICTURES!

We would love to have you submit pictures taken in Tallmadge Township. We are just completing some re-modeling here at Township Offices and would love your help to put some new pictures on the walls!

What do YOU think represents Tallmadge?

Landscapes, buildings, animals, nature, neighborhoods, cemeteries, riverbanks, parks?

Please submit as an e-mail attachment to: bmartin@tallmadge.com. Please note where the picture was taken within Tallmadge. We hope to make collage arrangements of YOUR submissions.

Treasurer's Comments

Brenda Martin

bmartin@tallmadge.com

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer. Should you have questions regarding your taxes, please call me, stop by the Township office, or e-mail to: bmartin@tallmadge.com.

The Treasurer's office hours are the same as Township hours plus these days until 5:00 PM:

- Monday - Dec. 30 - until 5 PM
- Friday - Feb. 14 - until 5 PM
- Friday - Feb. 28 - until 5 PM

All taxes are due FRIDAY Feb. 14, 2014, 5:00 PM, in-hand to Treasurer's office.

Taxes may still be paid at Tallmadge between Feb. 15 and Feb. 28 with added penalty. Call the office for that amount. Taxes are sent to Ottawa County on the close of business day Feb. 28, 2014.

TAX PAYMENTS:

- I would be honored to meet you in person at the Township Office Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM.
- Payments may be mailed or placed in the Township's drive-up drop box located a few steps west of the main entrance. Payments made after business hours are dated the next business day. Postmarks are not accepted as date of payment.

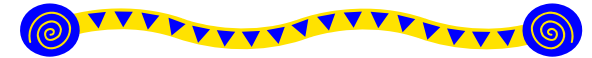
Include the top 1/3 of the bill with your check or money order. Partial payments are acceptable any time prior to March 1st, 2014.

RECEIPTS:

- A receipt will be issued if you include a SASE as well as the entire tax bill.
- **OR** provide your e-mail address on the top 1/3 when you send in your payment.

NOTE: If your mortgage company pays your property taxes, the Township sends them a statement as a service. *However, each property owner is ultimately responsible to see that his/her property taxes are paid.*

Tax payments not **IN-HAND** to the Treasurer's office by close of the posted business hours will be receipted as the following day and will incur late fees as shown on your tax bill. This includes after-hour use of the drop box. We cannot accept postmark as date received.



Could we save you some money?

1. Most Special Assessments for road or water/sewer were begun when interest rates were much higher. The Treasurer will be happy to give you a current pay-off amount.
2. If you realize you can not pay the entire property tax bill by the due date, you may pay what you can as a partial payment. Interest/penalty is only charged based on the balance due.
3. Review your check carefully before sending it in. In most cases, we must return the payment to you for any of the following reasons: post-dated checks, overpayment, number and written amounts do not agree, just to mention a few. If you have waited until the due date to send in, this will likely cause late fees and penalties. The penalty after close of office on February 14th is 3%.



RECYCLE to Benefit locally!

There is a PAPER GATOR recycle bin located at the NE corner of the Township building. All proceeds from the collection of newspapers and other paper products benefit the Tallmadge Community Church. Your contributions will be most appreciated!

Greg Ransford planner@tallmadge.com

An Update from the Allendale Library

Two years ago, the residents of Tallmadge Township approved a 3 mil tax to support the library system. Because we have no library within the township, we were “adopted” by the Allendale Library. Tallmadge residents can now be part of the Lakeland Library Cooperative as well as the MelCat statewide catalog. This gives us access to millions of books throughout the state which can be delivered to Allendale Library at no cost! In addition, your library card gives you 24/7 access to thousands of e-books and downloadable audio-books via the website. The Allendale Library has over 4,000 movies free to check out for 1 week as well as several Wii games.

They also offer free computer classes as well as hundreds of free programs throughout the year. A full list is available at website:

www.allendalelibrary.org.

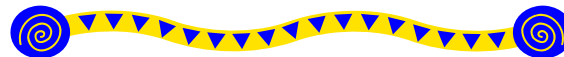
The library is located at 6175 Library Lane, just west of 60th Ave.

Library hours are:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9-9,

Wednesday 1-9 Friday 9-5 Saturday 11-5

We encourage you to visit the Allendale Library as well as take advantage of the entire library system that is now available to our residents.



Plan ahead for spring!

Each year in mid-April, the Ottawa Conservation District holds a tree seedling sale fundraising event. This year’s fundraiser date has not been confirmed, but it will most likely be either Saturday, April 14, or Earth Day, Saturday, April 21.

All tree seedlings and shrubs are pre-ordered, with availability of certain species the day of pickup. There is a wide variety of trees native to West Michigan for use in landscaping, reforestation, or as windbreaks. This is a great way to support the Ottawa Conservation District while we assist landowners in conserving, maintaining and improving the natural resources of Ottawa County.

Order forms for the fundraiser and descriptions of the trees available will be posted on our website in early spring at: www.otawacd.org. You can request to be added to our mailing list through our website. For information, call 616.846.9770 ext. 5.

Snowmobile Safety Class

Tyler Kempema, our local Ottawa County Deputy, will be teaching a snowmobile safety class. This class will be held December 10th at the Coopersville City Hall. There is no charge but you must pre-register. Contact Deputy Kempema @ 616-738-4000 Ext. *3002#.

