

SUMMER 2021 ZONING UPDATE

As things slowly return to normal after the last year we have had, it seems many in Vergennes Township are busy with cleaning up our properties, getting rid of what we have accumulated over the past year (or years), and finally doing those home improvements that have been put off or delayed. The rest of you must be adding pools.

With those things in mind, I want remind you about several ordinances within our zoning code as you go about your business:

Unlicensed Vehicles and Junk - Vehicles in the Township must have a current license and be operable or be stored inside of an enclosed building. Partially dismantled vehicles and junk and scrap are not permitted unless stored inside of an enclosed building. If not stored inside of an enclosed building, they must be removed from the property. Shipping containers, trailers, and storage pods are unauthorized structures and would require a permit if not prohibited in your zoning district.

Flat River – When prepping for summer please remember a path to the river may only be by footpath or stairs and no more than 4 foot wide through the protected 25 foot natural vegetation strip. This vegetation may not be disturbed. Docks, stairs, or any other structures require permits.

Murray Lake – The Murray Lake Dock and Boat Ordinance was recently amended to allow “U” shaped docks and clarify how they can be installed in the water. Please be aware that docks may not run laterally more than 20 feet parallel to shore and may not be closer than 10 feet to boundary lines. Additionally, sanding or any fill must be permitted by

EGLE, which they are not allowing until after July 31st. On-going items that we regularly receive questions about concern home based businesses, fences, signs, and RV parking. Home based businesses, fences, and signs all need zoning approval. Visitors in RVs may be permitted on a property for a limited duration with zoning approval and upon certain health codes being met.

I wanted to also take a moment to thank Jeanne Vandersloot not just for her years of service to Vergennes Township, but also for making it a smooth transition as I attempt to fill her shoes as Zoning Administrator. For those I have met, thank you for the warm welcome to Vergennes Township, and to those I haven't, I look forward to working with you. Please don't hesitate to give me a call or email with any questions related to Zoning or Township Code.

Lastly, I just wanted to mention several items approved by the Planning Commission and Township Board recently. Harvest Meadows Phase 3 was approved, which will open up approximately 25 more lots in the development over the next couple years. Another 14 lots were approved in a development off of Triple Oaks Drive, which will provide homes overlooking the Flat River while still preserving the natural river setbacks and protecting the natural riparian habitat.

Call Ryan Carrigan, Zoning Administrator, for any questions or applications at 616-897-5671 or email to: zoning@vergennestwp.org Be sure to visit the Township's website for all types of information, applications, minutes, notices, ordinances, etc. at: www.vergennestwp.org

FROM THE TREASURER, JANINE MORK

Summer taxes are due Tuesday, September 14, 2021. This office is closed on Tuesdays. Please plan accordingly. Any payments received in the drop box or mail by 5pm on the 14th will be considered on time.

PLEASE, review your check to make sure the amount is correct, both in the box and written words. Any errors will result in a delay posting your payment. If it happens close to the due date, your payment may be considered late and will have a 1% charge added to the amount due.

If you mail your taxes via USPS, allow at least 10 days for the payment to arrive in the Township office, postmarks are not accepted as an “on time” payment. This means it should be in the mail by the 1st of September.

After the 4th of July, we will be in the process of moving our offices to our new location at 69 Lincoln Lake Avenue NE. There is a drop box at both locations. Both boxes will be checked daily for any payments. Watch our Facebook page or website for our official move-in date.

Credit/debit cards or e-checks are accepted to pay taxes. There is a fee which goes directly to the administering

company. The Township only gets the tax amount. This option is available online, in office or on the phone. Check with your bank for online bill pay, as well. Allow at least 10 days for this option.

Partial payments can be made toward your tax bill through March 1, 2022. Anything owing after that will be turned over to the County for collection. Any interest or penalties will be accrued on the unpaid balance only.

If your mortgage company is paying your taxes through an escrow account, you will receive white, information only, bill in the mail. Follow up at least a week before the due date to ensure the bill was paid. This allows time to correct any errors or omissions. It is ultimately YOUR responsibility to make sure the taxes are paid timely. The Vergennes website has tax information updated daily.

Add your phone number to the remittance part of the bill. This makes it so much easier to contact you if there is an issue with your payment. This information is not kept on file in the Township.

Vergennes Township

A Place Where People Like to Live
www.vergennestwp.org



69 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE., P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 897-5671 Hours: M, W, – 9–3, Th – 9–Noon



SUMMER 2021

SUPERVISOR: TIM WITTENBACH
TREASURER: JANINE MORK
CLERK: SHANTELL FORD
TRUSTEES: RICK GILLETT
DUANE RASCH

*Township Board Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the Township Hall.
Planning Commission Meetings are held quarterly at 7:00 P.M. in the Township Hall.*

CLERK'S CORNER

by Shantell Ford, Vergennes Township Clerk

Happy Summer everyone!

These are busy but exciting days here at the township offices as we anticipate the upcoming move! The goal is to not confuse anyone, but to also get into the new space as soon as possible. **The target move in is by the end of July.** Don't forget, the main phone number will NOT change. You can always call the offices at **616-897-5671** during open hours. If the move is delayed we will have signs up at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE to let you

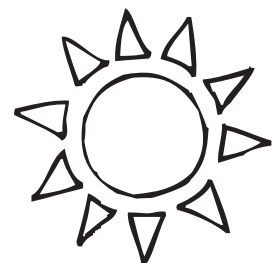
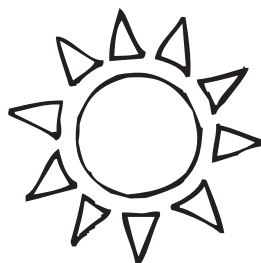
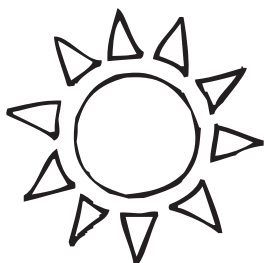
know we are still at Bailey. When the move takes place there will be signs at 10381 Bailey so you can find us at the new hall. We promise not to hide!

Thank you SO much for your patience, we appreciate your understanding through this moving process!

Blessings! ~Shantell

OFFICE CHANGES

- In December we welcomed the new Assessor Cory Burns to the office. We are thankful for Cory's ability to dive right in! He has done an excellent job for Vergennes Township Residents!
 - Our new Deputy Clerk is Paula Thiel. Paula joined the team in January and is a great help with daily duties and getting ready for this year's elections. She is already greatly appreciated!
 - At the end of April, Jeanne VanderSloot retired after twenty three years of service. She has worked a tough job of enforcing the Township ordinances and we are grateful for her gentle spirit, knowledge and experience that she brought to the position. Best wishes Jeanne!!
 - Ryan Carrigan joined the team in March so he had some time working beside Jeanne. Ryan also serves as the Zoning Administrator for Grattan Township so this is a win for both Townships. We are excited for the consistency that he brings with one of our border townships.
- Welcome Cory, Paula and Ryan!**



NEW TOWNSHIP HALL BUILDING UPDATE

The offices are moving! Work has been progressing steadily on the new building, and soon it will be time! We are very thankful for Vander Kodde Construction and all of their hard work and personal attention to all of the little things that come up with a project like this! The move to the new offices should take place in July! We will announce the official move online and in the newspaper! You are always welcome to call prior to coming to the office.

Watch the facebook page, website, and newspaper for fall open house information!

REMEMBER!!

- The mailing address will stay PO Box #208
- There is a drop box at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE
- The drop box at 10381 Bailey will continue through July 31

Phone numbers and email addresses!

The main phone number will stay 616-897-5671, but we will also have individual phone numbers for our individual offices! The following is a list of phone numbers to go directly to the person you would like to talk with, and you will be able to leave a voice mail also. Email addresses will stay the same, and are listed below.

- Marjorie Mayhew, Receptionist – 616-897-5671 – info@vergennestwp.org
- Ryan Carrigan, Zoning and Planning Administrator – 616-421-9181 – zoning@vergennestwp.org
- Mark Fleet, Building Inspector – 616-421-9182 – building@vergennestwp.org
- Shantell Ford, Clerk – 616-421-9183 – clerk@vergennestwp.org
- Janine Mork, Treasurer – 616-421-9184 – treasurer@vergennestwp.org
- Cory Burns, Assessor – 616-421-9185 – assessor@vergennestwp.org
- Tim Wittenbach, Supervisor – 616-421-9186 – supervisor@vergennestwp.org
- Paula Thiel, Deputy Clerk – 616-421-9187 – deputyclerk@vergennestwp.org

PUP UPDATE!

If you have been in to the township offices anytime over the last couple years, you probably saw a dog hanging out in the treasurer's office. Currently Linus is there, learning to ignore distractions and to bribe the office staff into giving him some attention. Linus will be heading off to "college" in September and will be missed desperately by said office staff.

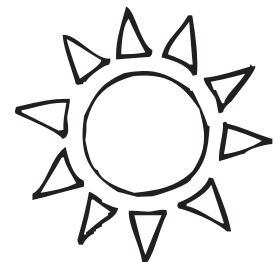
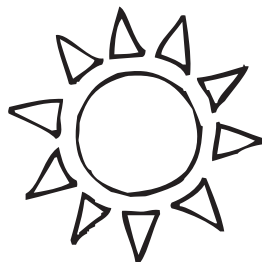
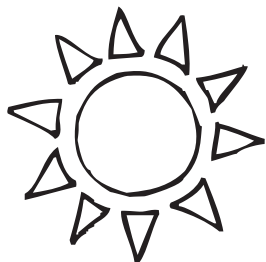
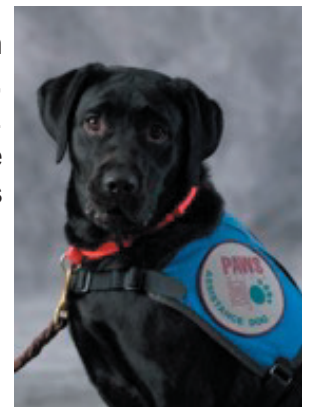
The previous pup, Dumpling, was returned to PAWS in February 2020. She went to "college" at the Muskegon Prison, after which she was evaluated to determine her best career option. I received wonderful news last month that she has been matched with a client as a service dog! Dumpling and her person will be working with a field representative to form a close bond, and then tasks will be added gradually. Over time they will practice these tasks in various public settings, and when they are proficient, they will take their test for certification. I can't

say how long that will take since each team is different, but it could be about a year.

I am beyond proud of her accomplishments. It is always difficult to give the dog up after spending a year or more working with them. I just have to remember that this is the outcome we are working toward.

If you want more information about the PAWS organization, visit their website at www.Pawswithacause.org. I would be happy to answer any questions you have, as well.

Stay pawssitive!
Janine Mork, Treasurer



FLAT RIVER NATURAL RIVER DISTRICT

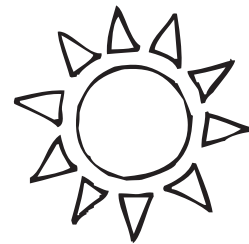
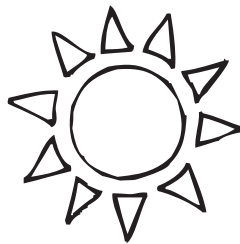
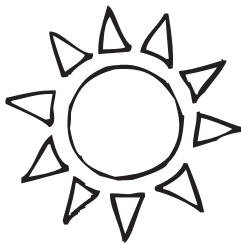
Did you know that the Flat River is one of 16 out of the 120 major rivers in Michigan, to be designated by the state as a 'Natural River District'? The high quality natural system of the Flat is protected through this designation "for the purpose of preserving and enhancing its values for water conservation, its free-flowing condition, and its fish, wildlife, boating, scenic, aesthetic, floodplain, ecologic, historic, and recreational values and uses". (Michigan

Legislature May 24, 1995 section 324.30502) The state works through local municipal zoning ordinances to protect this designation. Please see vergennestwp.org and click on 'property information', then 'Flat River Info' for helpful information for all land owners with Flat River frontage. You may also contact the Zoning Administrator Ryan Carrigan at zoning@vergennestwp.org for information.

ELECTION NEWS

This year we have two elections, an August 3rd Primary and a November 2nd General Election. To register to vote, see a sample ballot, or request an absentee ballot, please click the "Voter Information Center" link on the Township website www.vergennestwp.org/elections/

Both Precincts will be voting at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE!



FIRE SAFETY MILLAGE

Vergennes Township is served by the Lowell Area Fire Department. The LAFD responds to a variety of calls for help including fire, rescue and emergency medical services covering 60 square miles. Recent changes to serve the community include a full time Fire Chief who serves from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and one part-time firefighter also on duty during that time. The Department also includes 28 paid-on-call firefighters who may respond to calls for help from their primary place of employment or home but also work scheduled part-time shifts in our station to help ensure efficient service to our community.

Last fiscal year Vergennes Township's payment to the fire authority was \$120,750.00. This next fiscal year's payment is anticipated to be around \$131,000.00. A fire truck is also in the near future with the Township's portion being around \$100,000 depending upon grants and skyrocketing supply costs.

On the August 3, 2021 Primary Election ballot there is a proposal for a Fire Safety Millage.

TOWNSHIP OF VERGENNES PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Shall the tax limitation on all taxable property within the Township of Vergennes, Kent County, Michigan, be increased and the Township be authorized to levy a new additional millage annually in an amount not to exceed .70 mill (\$.70 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for twenty (20) years, 2021 to 2040 inclusive, to provide funds for the purpose of operating, equipping, purchasing and making capital expenditures for fire services and emergency medical services, including ambulance services? The

estimate of the revenue the Township will collect in the first year of levy (2021) if the millage is approved is approximately \$171,000. All or a portion of the revenue collected may be distributed to the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority for the purposes stated in this proposal.

Yes

No