

Vergennes Township

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



10381 Bailey Dr., P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331

897-5671

Hours: M, W, – 9–3, Th – 9–Noon

WINTER 2018

SUPERVISOR:
TREASURER:
CLERK:
TRUSTEES:

TIM WITTENBACH
JEAN HOFFMAN
HEATHER HOFFMAN
RICK GILLET
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 Heather Hoffman, Vergennes Township Clerk

Hello Neighbors!

So much has happened in the township since the summer newsletter was published. It seems like a cliché, but wow, we have been busy. Amongst day-to-day operations at the township offices, we successfully ran two elections, experienced the first go-around with brand new election equipment, researched and implemented a new payment method for residents, and received Board approval to move forward with a new township hall project. I would say we have been extremely busy at Vergennes Township!

Vergennes Township saw the highest voter-turnout for a Midterm Election in recent history. All Election results can be viewed at <https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/Results/>.

I want to express a sincere THANK YOU to all of our voters. I thank you for your patience as we implemented new voting equipment and the procedures that went along with it. The November General Election saw a 71.9% voter turnout in Vergennes Township. This was one of the highest voter turnouts in Kent County! Our Election Inspectors commented multiple times on how patient and gracious everyone was even through long lines, a few hick-ups and waiting to tabulate their vote. Voters were kind and accommodating.

I have to also say a big, HUGE, thank you to our Vergennes Township Election Inspectors. These wonderful people assist our voters on Election Day. They serve our community and put in hours of election training before an election and work multiple hours during an Election Day to make certain the integrity of our elections is upheld. They are trained to assist voters with questions and efficiently and

effectively manage a large-voter-turnout like what we experienced in November. They do an excellent job and I truly believe Vergennes Township has the best Election Inspectors in Kent County. If you get a chance, let them know what a great job they do for Vergennes Township!

Precinct 1 Election Inspectors:

Doug Wester
Sue Lindhout
Kathy Gruizinga
Michael Tummino
Courtney Ford
Rebekah Birmingham

Precinct 2 Elections Inspectors:

Shantell Ford
Kendra Ford
Beverly Anderson
Warren Johnson
Barb Porter
Micaiah Ford

I also want to thank my deputy clerk Mari Stone. Mari is always willing to assist me with anything I need, and help figure out the answer to any question I throw her way. I truly appreciate every single one of these people and their dedication and willingness to serve our community.

We live in such a great community and I am thankful to be a part of it.

Wishing your family a happy and healthy 2019!

-Heather

FROM THE TREASURER, JANINE MORK

December Tax Payment information:

- The treasurer will be in the office to collect tax payments on Thursday, December 27, 2018 from 9am – 5pm.

Winter Tax Payment information:

- The treasurer will be in the office to collect tax payments on February 14, 2019 from 9 a.m. - 5 pm.

Non-Sufficient Funds information:

- Effective December 1, 2018, Vergennes Township will charge \$30 for any payment returned to our bank with non-sufficient funds. This covers the fees the bank charges the township, as well as an administration fee to cover reversing the payment and attempts to re-collect the funds.
- The fee will be added to the tax bill as a special assessment, similar to a county drain or delinquent water/sewer bills. The charge will be forwarded to the Kent County Treasurer for collection if it is not paid by February 28.
- If you have any questions about this charge, please contact Janine Mork, Treasurer, during regular office hours.

Escrow fund Information:

Your tax bill may show the mortgage company as "Corelogic" or "Lareta". Please do not worry. These companies are tax clearing-houses that receive escrow funds from your bank then send tax payments to townships and cities in bulk. If you have any questions

on this, please contact your mortgage company directly for assistance

Reminders:

- You can leave your tax payment after hours in the drop box on the driveway near the flag pole. Pull up to the top parking lot, turn around and pull up to the box. You don't even have to get out of your car! If you need a receipt, leave the entire bill and I will send the top half back to you with the date paid. We accept checks or money orders in the drop box. Cash can be brought into the office during our open hours, Monday and Wednesday 9am- 3pm and Thursday 9am – Noon.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your taxes are paid. You can log on to the Vergennes Township website at www.vergennestwp.org to see the payment status of your taxes. Click on assessing/tax info and you will be directed to another web site. You can search by name, parcel number or address.
- If you are having difficulty making a one-time tax payment, please feel free to make ANY partial payments from July 1 through February 28, 2019. Interest will be added at the rate of 1% per month on any unpaid balance after this date. On March 1, 2019, any unpaid taxes will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurer for collection.
- If your mortgage company pays your taxes, please check the status of payment at least a week prior to February 14, 2019. Contact your mortgage company if you feel there has been an error. You are ultimately responsible for timely payment of the tax bill.

NEW PAYMENT METHOD AVAILABLE!

Effective December 1, 2018, Vergennes Township will begin accepting credit/debit cards and e-checks as payment for property taxes, building/zoning permits and cemetery fees. We are working with a company called Point & Pay. Many municipalities in our area already work with them and have found them easy to use and navigate. You will be able to use your card in our office too! Of course, the township will still accept checks through regular mail, township drop box, or in the office. Cash is accepted in-office only.

Please note, a fee will be assessed to use the credit/debit card and e-check service. This fee goes directly to Point and Pay to cover their costs and to cover the

fees charged by the credit card companies. Vergennes Township does not assess a fee.

Point & Pay fees are as follows:

Credit/Debit card payments 3% of total with a \$2 minimum (\$1000 tax bill will be charged \$30).

E-Check - \$3 for checks up to \$10,000; \$10 for checks over \$10,000.

Instructions for using the credit card option online will be posted on our website as soon as it is up and running. Go to our website, www.vergennestwp.org, to link to the payment screen and for further instructions.

Remember to 'Like' our Facebook page to be one of the first to know when this option is available.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROPOSAL 1 PASSAGE- MICHIGAN REGULATION AND TAXATION OF MARIHUANA ACT (MRTMA).

What does this mean for Vergennes Township and surrounding areas? PLEASE NOTE: As of the date of the publishing of this newsletter (November 14), the Township Board had not yet made a formal decision with regards to allowing MRTMA establishments in Vergennes Township. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.VERGENNESTWP.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE LOCATED ON PAGE ONE.

With the passage of Proposal 1, the new MRTMA, a state operating license shall be issued to operate in every municipality unless a municipality enacts an ordinance to opt out.

Vergennes Township can choose to either completely prohibit all license types, or allow all and can limit the total number of each license type. The Township may not pick and choose what license types it authorizes. Unless a municipality passes an ordinance opting out, the state would be required to issue a license to marijuana facilities seeking to locate in the township.

With 71.9% of registered voters voting in the November 6, 2018 election, Vergennes Township voters turned down Proposal 1: NO: 1307 YES: 1179. Both Lowell City and Lowell Township voters approved the passing of Proposal 1.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

Vergennes Township, Lowell Township, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Area Schools and the City of Lowell worked with a number of clean-up day partners to provide a community wide clean-up day that took place on September 29 from 8 am until 11 am at the Kent County Fairground property. Participants needed to show proof that they live in the Lowell Area School District and were allowed one trailer or pick-up load per household. There were close to 400 vehicles that utilized this service and waited in line to throw away or recycle their items. Every year, many volunteers assist residents on this very busy morning. Many garages, basements and yards are a bit cleaner after this day! Mark your calendars. The 2019 community clean-up date has been set for Saturday, September 28, 2019.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE INFORMATION

We are working toward a new township website that will be user friendly and mobile compatible. Until we get this project completed, be sure to visit the Township's current website (www.vergennestwp.org) to get information on a variety of township services. Residents and applicants can save time, mailing, and driving for zoning and planning procedures by obtaining meeting schedules, meeting minutes, fee schedule and escrow policy, accessory building information and setbacks, application forms, zoning ordinance, other ordinances, public notices and Flat River information.

Call Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator, for any questions or applications at 616-897-5671 or email to: zoning@vergennestwp.org

