

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



SUMMER 2018

SUPERVISOR:
TREASURER:
CLERK:
TRUSTEES:

TIM WITTENBACH
JANINE MORK
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

It's an Election Year!

Happy Summer to all! The Clerk's Office is in full election mode and in this newsletter, I will provide you with a lot of information to help guide you through the 2018 election cycle.

Important dates to remember:

- **July 9, 2018** If not already a registered voter, this is the last day to register to vote for the August 7, 2018 Election.
- **August 7, 2018 Primary Election- Polls are open from 7 am – 8 pm** One change you will see is the Libertarian party will join the Republican and Democratic parties on the ballot. *Partisan Offices:* Partisan primaries are held to nominate candidates to partisan offices. One thing to remember is- you cannot cast votes under multiple parties; you must cast votes under one party only. If you vote under multiple parties in a partisan primary, the partisan section of your ballot will not be counted. *Nonpartisan Offices:* the offices must be voted by casting individual votes for the candidates of your choice.
- **October 9, 2018** If not already a registered voter, this is the last day to register to vote for the November 6, 2018 Election.

- **November 6, 2018 General Election- Polls are open from 7 am – 8 pm** This election will decide which Partisan and Nonpartisan candidates are elected. Partisan Elections: are held to fill partisan offices. You may cast a "mixed ticket" during this election. This means you may vote for the individual candidates of your choice in each office. Candidates appearing under any party column may be selected. You will see proposals on this ballot. Proposals: must be voted by casting a "Yes" vote or a "No" vote on each question.

Reminders:

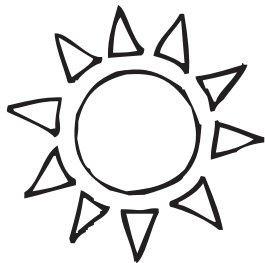
- Fill in the oval completely- Avoid stray marks – called ambiguous marks.
- Avoid "Overvoting": When voting the partisan and nonpartisan sections of the ballot, do not cast a vote for more candidates than are indicated under the office title.

FROM THE TREASURER, JANINE MORK

As you may know, Jenean Hoffman, the previous township treasurer, retired on December 18, 2017. She served the township in several capacities and her knowledge of everything Vergennes will be missed. I proudly served as her deputy treasurer for 12 of the 15 years I have worked at Vergennes. In addition to collecting your taxes, I was the one who usually answered the phone or greeted you when you came in the office. I learned a lot about how the township runs over those 15 years, from Jenean and the others in the office. I am excited to take over for Jenean as treasurer and look forward to carrying on where she left off.

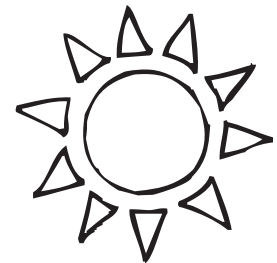
With that being said, if you are reading this newsletter, you received your summer tax bill too. I have just a few reminders for you.

- Taxes are due September 14, 2018 by 5 pm. As this is a Friday, the office is not open. Please plan accordingly. I will be checking the drop box shortly after 5 pm. Any payments received after that will be considered late.
- 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.
- If you pay online through your bank, please make sure to allow at least 10 days for the payment to reach us. The bank is going to send us a check in the mail, just as if you wrote it yourself.
- I am working to offer more convenient payment options. I hope to have them available in time for the winter tax cycle.
- It is your responsibility to make sure your taxes are paid. You can log on to the Vergennes Township website 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 September 14, 2018. On March 1, 2019, any unpaid taxes will be turned over to Kent County Treasurer for collection.
- If your mortgage company pays your taxes, please check the status of payment at least a week prior to September 14. Contact your mortgage company if you feel there has been an error. You are ultimately responsible for timely payment of the tax bill.



Community Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 29, 2018
Cleanup AND Recycling



Kent County Fairgrounds, Lowell, MI – enter the at the Grand River boat launch
USE BOTH DRIVES and follow the signs!

**You must live in the Lowell Area School District. Please present a tax bill or voter's registration card and driver's license. One trailer/pickup truck load per household-
*please note there will be a fee for electronic disposal- CASH ONLY**

For more information on recycling visit www.recyclekent.org
Please check the Lowell Chamber of Commerce site at: www.discoverlowell.org for more details

ABSENT VOTER INFORMATION

Pursuant to Election Law, if you meet one of these requirements, you may vote by absent ballot:

- I am age 60 years old or older
- Expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

To receive an Absent Voter Ballot, you must first complete an Absent Voter Ballot **APPLICATION**. Once the Clerk's office receives and processes your completed application, we will issue your Ballot by mail, or directly to you in person (if we issue a Ballot to you in the office, Michigan Voter Identification Requirements must be met).

College Students and first time voters- PLEASE NOTE

Michigan Law allows mail-in voter registration. The law requires that if a voter has never voted in Michigan and choose to register to vote by mail, unless the voter falls under an exemption, the voter must appear in person to vote. To avoid the MUST VOTE IN PERSON tag, a voter can personally deliver the voter registration form to the clerk's office or register to vote through an authorized election assistant appointed under Michigan election law. An example of an authorized elections assistant is any branch of the Secretary of State office or County Clerk's office.

Please note a voter who has never voted in Michigan must also meet the Federal Identification Requirement prior to being issued a ballot. You must send one of the following forms of identification when mailing the mail-in voter registration form to the Clerk's office:

- a copy of any current and valid photo identification
- or a copy of a paycheck, government check, utility bill, bank statement or a government document which lists your name and address.

This federal identification requirement does not apply if: the voter hand delivers the mail-in registration form to the county or local clerk's office; the voter is disabled; or the voter is eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

First-time voters who are heading off to college: If wishing to vote by absent ballot, before heading off to college, come into the Township offices to register to vote and satisfy the state and federal identification requirements. Doing this can avoid or lift the MUST VOTE IN PERSON tag on your voter registration and allow the option of voting by absent ballot in future elections.

PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER LIST

Vergennes Township maintains a list of voters who wish to be sent an absent voter ballot APPLICATION prior to each election. Upon receipt of the completed application, the Clerk's office will then issue the official ballot to the voter. If you would like to be placed on the Permanent Absent Voter List, please complete, detach and return the request slip that is in this Newsletter to the Clerk's office.

PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER LIST REQUEST

Yes, I am 60 years old or qualify under one of the other reasons to allow me to vote absentee, and I would like to be placed on the Permanent Absent Voter List. By returning this form, I will receive an absent ballot application for every election from this date forward.

PRINTED NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

BIRTHDATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

MICHIGAN VOTER INFORMATION CENTER

Check out the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote. On this site, you can register to vote, verify your voter registration, view a sample ballot,

find your polling location, track your absentee ballot, and even check out the new state approved voting equipment that is being used in Kent County.

NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT

As you may have heard, WE HAVE NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT! The entire state of Michigan is in the process of implementing new election equipment which means that all of the old M100 tabulators and AutoMark equipment was happily disposed of by Clerks throughout Michigan. The new tabulators and Voter Assist Terminals are manufactured by Dominion and have been

delivered and tested, and have a proven track record of performance and reliability in other states. They are MUCH more user friendly than the old equipment, and I certainly look forward to this much needed update for our voters. Our wonderful Election workers will have been trained using this new equipment and can help anyone who has questions.

NEW TOWNSHIP HALL BUILDING PROJECT

The Board has received a lot of positive feedback from residents on the proposed New Township Hall building. We heard from multiple people at the Community Expo that are looking forward to seeing this building built. There are many people in Vergennes Township who would like to have a rentable space for gatherings that a proposed community room would provide. Please stop

into the Township Hall offices and take a look at the new building design and layout. The current plan has been downsized to better fit the Township's budget. The Board is currently working to gather information on pricing for interior finishes and furnishings, site work costs and financing options.