

# 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 2014-15

**SUPERVISOR:** TIM WITTENBACH  
**TREASURER:** JEAN HOFFMAN  
**CLERK:** MARI STONE  
**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 Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk*

### Elections

Another election year is tucked away in the storage closet upstairs at the hall. It was great to see so many residents I haven't seen in a while at the polls. Which causes me to have a little debate with myself about Absentee Voting. It's a wonderful option for seniors, travelers, and busy people in general. More and more of our registered voters are taking advantage of it, and I'm very happy to be able to accommodate them in this way. But every once in a while I wonder how this gradual change will affect how we feel about voting. I believe there is something patriotic about making time in our schedule to go to the polls and place our ballot in the tabulator along with all of our neighbors. Standing in line (which really doesn't take THAT much time, does it?) we have the opportunity to observe democracy in action. And if we get a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors we don't see on a regular basis, well that's a real bonus.

### 2014 Happenings

There are lots of other things going on in the township. The pace is starting to pick up on building permits, and it's likely we will see a new multi-phase residential development in the next year. We saw our first major retail operation open with the completion of the J&H gas station/convenience store and Tim Horton's in September.

The Red Barn opened in a former agricultural use building serving ice cream, coffee, lunch, and fresh produce. A company named Industrial Services Group moved their newly consolidated business into an existing building in our Industrial District, bringing an expected 24 new jobs to the facility over the next two years. Another company in the district will be expanding in 2015. A local foundation donated 20 acres to a youth sports group for the creation of a multi field facility. All of this, while we maintain our rural character and natural spaces. I am proud of the fine job our Planning Commission has done over the years with their thoughtful work on the Master Plan, and its execution over time.

### Duane Rasch, Vergennes Township Trustee

Speaking of the Planning Commission, we will be seeing a change in membership this year with the move of Duane Rasch from the Planning Commission to the Township Board Trustee position. Duane successfully ran in the Primary, and was unopposed in the General Election. He will be completing a partial term which was vacated by Allan Baird, which expires in 2016. Duane was sworn in at the November Board meeting, and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome him to the Board, and thank him for his service to Vergennes.

*Continued on next page!*

## CLERK'S CORNER CONTINUED

### Elections 2014

The best news is – they're over! No more political ads, robo-calls or junk mail galore. In my world that also means no more testing machines and programs, preparing precincts, opening and closing down the polls, taking results to the county..... well, you get it. Our Precinct Inspectors are a fabulous group of individuals, and I am so blessed to have such a dedicated group to work with. One of their most important tasks is balancing the numbers at the end of the night. Remember, they have just worked a 14 hour day, and are bone tired. The numbers in the poll book must match the numbers on the tabulators, and there are multiple checks and balances that must be signed and documented or that precinct can't be recounted, if necessary. I would like to thank them here for their service and commitment.

Precinct 1 – Chair, Janine Mork, and her team of Doug Wester, Dale Minier, Carol Rockwall, Courtney Ford and Katie Moore.

Precinct 2 – Chair, Shantell Ford, and her team of Barb Porter, Bev Anderson, Warren Johnson, Kendra Ford, Landon Nethercott and Francesca Robinson.

I'd also like to recognize the wonderful support of my Elections Specialist, Beth Ciangi. Beth came on board in June with absolutely no experience in elections administration. We made it through the August Primary with just a few minor bumps. Our November experience was flawless, if I do say so! Thank you Beth, for all of your assistance.

Finally, a big thank you goes out to the members and staff at the Vergennes United Methodist Church for their willingness to host our Precinct 2. It's great to have good neighbors.

## RECENT ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS

The Board recently adopted two updates to the Zoning Ordinance. Ordinance 2014-2 amended Chapter 4, General and Special Regulations, Off-street parking of motor vehicles section, subsection 201.417 (E) and (F). The amendments are to clarify and add additional parking space formulas for various commercial and industrial uses. A section referencing barrier free parking was also added.

The Vergennes Township Residential Property Farm Animal Ordinance was amended with Ordinance 2014-3, to permit some farm animals in

a site condominium or platted development in the R-A and R-1 districts with a special permit. Such animals may be desired for special purposes such as 4-H or food supplement and are prohibited except for this permit process. If farm type of animals are prohibited by deed restrictions or covenants, then a permit will not be issued.

The complete text of these Ordinances are on file at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5651, and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

## WINTER TAXES – 2014-2015

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – Peace and Blessing for the 2015. The office will be closed on Wednesday the 24th and Wednesday the 31st for the holiday. The last day to be able to pay your tax bill in 2014 will be the 29th of December.

Taxes are due February 14, 2015. Because this falls on a Saturday, interest and penalty will begin on February 17th. Please mail early. Postmarks are not accepted for due date!! We are not responsible for delays in the postal system. Please use the return envelope provided with your tax statements. If you would like a receipt, please enclose the entire bill and a self-addressed envelope. We will stamp the upper part and return it to you. You may also use the mail slot in the door if paying by check, but please do not leave cash.

Remember that you can make partial payments for Summer and Winter through February 14th. You will then only have interest added to the unpaid balance. Payments received after February 14th must include the penalty and interest. State law prohibits the township from waiving these charges. You may pay summer and winter 2014 taxes at the township through February 27th. All unpaid taxes will be turned over to the county treasurer on March 1, 2015.

Make checks payable to: Vergennes Township Treasurer.

ONLINE PAYMENTS must have the parcel number printed on them.

DOG LICENSES can be purchased at the City of Lowell. We no longer sell them at the township.

Jean Hoffman -Treasurer

## NOTARY SERVICES

The Township offers free Notary services to our residents. Jean Hoffman, Treasurer, and Janine Mork, Deputy Treasurer, are both Notaries. If you are wondering what notarization actually does, the Notary is simply certifying that the signature

on the document is that of the identified person. That is why you must show ID to the Notary, and the Notary must witness the signature. Should you need a document notarized, please call the township during office hours to make arrangements

## 911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

The Lowell Area Fire Department will make you a 911 reflective address sign to help locate you in an emergency. These signs are made of aluminum coated with a highly reflective material with large numbers. Double-sided, these signs help us find you! Please send the completed form below along with payment to:

**Lowell Area Fire Department**  
315 S. Hudson  
Lowell, Michigan 49331

1st Sign = \$15

Each additional sign = \$11.50  
(Funds raised are used for fire prevention and education)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

V  
E  
R  
T  
I  
C  
A  
L

1  
2  
3  
4  
5

12345

HORIZONTAL

**Placement instructions:** When you receive your address sign, be sure to punch through the pre-drilled holes that are covered with the green reflective material and attach it to a post or sturdy structure. Be sure to place it on the same side of the road as your driveway. Once you've placed your sign be sure to drive by from all directions to ensure that it is highly visible. (Keep in mind snow depth and plow damage.) If you have questions, comments or concerns, please call 616-897-7354 or 616-893-0521.

# 2015 Township Events

January 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



**Board Meeting**

April 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



**Planning  
Commission  
Meetings**

July 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



**Election Days**

October 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## DOG LICENSES

Vergennes Township will no longer be handling dog licenses. You may purchase licenses at the Lowell City Hall on Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Any questions please call the  
Animal Shelter at 63.7300.**

Rabies vaccinations and dog licenses are required in Michigan for all dogs four months of age or older.

