

Chester Township Newsletter

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April 2016

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CALENDAR

April 11-Township Board Meeting
April 25-Planning Commission Meeting
April 30-Office open for absentee voters 9 am-2 pm
May 3-Election Day-Sparta School District Only
May 9-Township Board Meeting
May 23-Planning Commission Meeting
May 29-Pancake Breakfast
May 30-Memorial Day Parade

All meetings of the Chester Township Board or any township committees are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

FEATURED SUBJECT

Zoning Permits

- Anytime you cover ground, from a small shed or deck up to a huge house, you will probably need at least a zoning permit. The purpose of a zoning permit is to make sure that what you build and where you place it does not violate the zoning ordinance.
- If your lot is less than 1 acre in size you may also need a permit for cement work. There are limitations to the amount of your lot than can be covered.
- Qualified agricultural buildings do not require building permits, but do need zoning permits.
- Swimming pools, even temporary, inflatable pools require permits if they hold more than 2 feet of water or 5000 gallons.
- Zoning permits are issued by the Zoning Administrator. Check with the Township Office for appointment times and forms. There is no charge for zoning permits.

Getting permits protects you! Beginning work without a permit is a violation of the State's codes and can result in fines. The building might not meet code and may have to be torn down, moved, or repaired at great cost. Problems with insurance coverage, mortgages and future sales can also occur for projects that have no permits or required inspections.

ELECTION NOTICES

May 3-Sparta School district residents only will be asked to vote on a millage request for school construction.

August 2-Primary Election

November 8-General Election

Absentee Ballots will be available approximately 30 days before each Election Day. If you are over 60 years old or permanently disabled, you can ask to receive an absentee ballot application automatically.

MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, May 29 the Conklin Firefighters Association will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the St. Vincent DePaul Building on 32nd Avenue. The price is by donation and the proceeds this year will be used for equipment. We hope to see you there for food and fellowship!

On Monday, May 30 there will be a program held in Conklin beginning at 11:00 a.m. The parade will follow at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Following the parade, a Memorial Day Picnic will be held at the Conklin Reformed Church. Donations of \$5.00 per meal are appreciated.

Please come and join us for a day of community fellowship and to honor our veterans and their families!

FLAG RETIREMENT

If you are replacing your flag, you can drop off your old, unserviceable flags at the Township office. The American Legion holds flag retirement ceremonies each fall and will properly dispose of them. They will also take orders for replacement flags.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLASHOVER

With your help, as safety minded citizens, and with knowledgeable action taken when help was needed, there was a minimal amount of property damage, and more importantly, no fire related loss of life this past winter.

If you did not test your smoke detectors and change the battery, if needed, when you set your clocks ahead, please do so. Your detectors should be tested at least once a month. Smoke Detectors, when cleaned and maintained, have an effective service life of 10 years. It is recommended that they be replaced at this time. *Working smoke detectors save lives!*

What we call the "Spring Fire Season" is now here. Burn permits must be obtained for any outside open burning. Permits can be obtained, at no cost, from the Township office during regular office hours, or by calling the Fire Chief at 231-853-6848. (no Sunday calls, please) If conditions become too dry or windy for burning, permits will not be issued or may be revoked. Please call before you burn.

Testing of the Weather Sirens will be the first Friday of each month through November.

Finding your house in an emergency is greatly enhanced with the green house number yard signs that many of you have purchased for your homes. There are still some homes, especially ones with long driveways or not visible from the road, that need one. The signs can be ordered at the Township Office or from the Fire Department. The cost is \$15.00.

On March 19 the annual Fireman's Dance and Dinner was held at the St. Vincent DePaul building. All the members of the NEOFC extend a huge "thank you" to all who attended and supported this fundraising event. The money raised helps to enhance the interoperability of Chester, Wright-Tallmadge, Allendale and Coopersville-Polkton Fire Departments.

Thank you for Clark Insurance Agency for again sponsoring our Firefighter of the Year Award. They provide an award plaque, and we choose the recipient. This year our Firefighter of the Year is Jason Krey. Jason's leadership and dedicated service to the community and to his fellow firefighters has earned him this distinguished award. Congratulations and Thank You, Jason!

To all the Chester Township Firefighters and their families, thank you for your dedicated service. To the citizens of Chester Township, thank you for your continued support!

Dwight Sheridan, Fire Chief

HELP WANTED

We are in need of Firefighters and Medical First Responders. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call Fire Chief Dwight Sheridan at 231-853-6848.

BOATER SAFETY CLASS

The Ottawa County Sheriff's department offers a Boater Safety Class. A session can be held in Chester Township if there is enough interest. Anyone born on or after July 1, 1996 may operate a boat legally **ONLY** if they have been issued a boating safety certificate. Please call or email the Township office if you are interested in taking a class.

JUNK CARS

Please help to keep our township looking nice by following the ordinance regarding vehicles that are unlicensed and/or inoperable.

If your property is less than one acre in size, no unlicensed or inoperable vehicles may be stored on your property. Parcels between 1 acre and 40 acres may have up to 2 unlicensed vehicles (but they must be operable). Parcels of 40 acres and above may have up to 4 unlicensed vehicles. Any unlicensed vehicle must be stored in the rear yard of a property with a dwelling on it. There are some exceptions allowed for farm vehicles and for vehicles being repaired or sold.

The full text of the ordinance is available on our website at www.chester-twp.org or you may call the office for more information.

HALL RENTAL

The Community Room at the Chester Township Hall is available to rent. The cost for residents is \$100 for up to 6 hours and \$150 for rentals lasting between 6 and 12 hours. Non-residents will pay additional costs. Please call the township office or check our website for more information.

Supervisor-Gary Meerman

Township Officers:
Treasurer-Dianne Berenbrock
Trustees-Troy Goodno & Ed Kelly

Clerk-Jan Redding

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Website: www.chester-twp.org