

Chester Township Newsletter

3509 Sehler St., PO Box 115

Conklin, MI 49403

616-899-5544

mail@chester-twp.org

April 2019

Fax 616-899-2937

CALENDAR

April 22-Planning Commission Meeting
May 4-Office open for absentee voters 8 am-4 pm
May 7-Election Day SPARTA SCHOOLS ONLY
May 13-Township Board Meeting
May 20-Planning Commission Meeting (note date change)
June 10-Township Board Meeting
June 24-Planning Commission Meeting

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

ELECTION NOTICES

Tuesday, May 7 is election day for residents in the Sparta School district. New state laws allow absentee ballots without a reason. A signed application requesting a ballot is still required and is available by calling our office.

Registration and mailing deadlines have also changed. You can call our office for more information, or check www.michigan.gov/vote.

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 construction 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.

BURN PERMITS

A permit to have an open fire is required except when the ground is snow covered, or for domestic purposes, to protect persons or property in case of fire. To obtain a permit, call the township offices during regular business hours or Fire Chief, Dwight Sheridan, at 231-853-6848 any day except Sunday.

- Permits are not valid for more than 3 consecutive days.
- No fire shall be set when a high wind is blowing.
- An adequate fire line shall be made around the area to be burned.
- A force of adults, sufficient to control the fire, shall be on hand at all times.
- Permit holders are liable for any damage to property which may occur.
- Permits are revoked if conditions are such that burning may not be done safely.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

Anyone selling goods or services door-to-door in Chester Township is required to register with the Township and obtain a peddler's license. There are exceptions for some community groups and service organizations.

A sales person who comes to your door should be able to provide a photo ID card provided by the Township that will confirm their identity and ensure that they have registered their business with us.

More information is available on our website, along with a list of current license holders.

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.

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

MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, May 26 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 K of C Hall on 32nd Avenue. The price is by donation and the proceeds this year will be used for safety equipment.

On Monday, May 27 there will be a program held in Conklin beginning at 11:00 a.m. The parade will follow at approximately 11:30 a.m.

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

SENIOR SERVICES

There are a number of programs and activities available to our local seniors and their families. More information is available on our website under Community Information-Senior Services. Also, under "Quick Links" you'll find a link to the Four Pointes Senior Center. A representative from Four Pointes is at the Township offices on the second Wednesday of each month from 9-11. They can help with answers for seniors and their caregivers about a variety of aging issues. Their toll free number is 1-877-548-1507 to find out more of what assistance they can provide.

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

We are in the process of updating our photo records for the assessment files. This is being done to insure that our records are complete and include a current photo of all buildings. It will not affect the assessment values of your property. You may see Township employees taking photos of your property. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact the township office.

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

If you are interested in learning more about being a firefighter or medical first responder, please check with the Township office or contact any member of the Chester Township Fire Department. We are in need of men and women willing to serve our community!

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

County Commissioner 5th District-Matt Fenske

State Representative 88th District-Luke Meerman

State Senator 30th District-Roger Victory

US Congressional Representative 2nd District-Bill Huizenga

US Senators-Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters

Supervisor-Gary Meerman

Township Officers

Treasurer-Evelyn Coxon

Trustees-Troy Goodno & Mike Dunnuck

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Website: www.chester-twp.org

Clerk-Jan Redding