

# Chester Township Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2019

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## CALENDAR

Oct 14-Township Board Meeting  
Oct 28-Planning Commission Meeting  
Nov 2-Office open for absentee voters 8 am-4 pm  
Nov 5-Election Day  
Nov 11-Township Board Meeting  
Nov 25-Planning Commission Meeting  
Nov 28 & 29-Office Closed  
Dec 9-Township Board Meeting  
Dec 23-No Planning Commission Meeting  
Dec 24 & 25-Office closed  
Dec 30-Treasurer's office open 9 am-7 pm  
Dec 31 & Jan 1-Office closed

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

## ELECTION NOTICES

The election scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2019 is for voters in **Kent City and Sparta** school districts only.

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

All registered voters are now able to request an absentee ballot without a reason. You may also request that your name be placed on a permanent list to receive an application to vote absentee for all upcoming elections.

## NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

In order to save on printing and mailing costs, we are asking that anyone willing to receive their newsletter by email to contact us at mail@chester-twp.org.

## NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary public service is available at no charge to residents at the township office. Please call first to be sure the clerk or treasurer is in.

## OTTAWA COUNTY HELPLINE

If you need information about resources to help with counseling, food, clothing and shelter needs, senior citizen programs, job assistance, substance abuse services or any other health and human service problem, just dial 2-1-1. Cell phone users can call 888-353-6717.

This is a 24 hour, 7 day a week service that can link you with the agencies, professionals and businesses who can help.

## 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 who is in the office on Monday afternoon. 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.

## WIND TURBINE ORDINANCE

Chester Township is in the process of updating our existing ordinance regulating wind energy systems. We plan to hold an informational forum on the subject early in 2020. Please watch our website for details.

## CEMETERY CLEAN UP

Fall cleanup of the cemeteries will begin soon. All plantings not in a container and other decorations will be removed. Except for Christmas & Easter, decorations are not allowed from September 1<sup>st</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## WINTER PARKING

In order to ensure that snow plows are able to access your street, please do not park vehicles in the road right of way during the winter months. On the streets listed below, there is an ordinance prohibiting parking from 1:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. during the months from November 1 until April 1.

Conklin St., Main St., Cherry St., Maple St., Miller St., Grove St., Daggett St., Sehler St., Crockery Shores Rd., Melbye St., Van Dyke St.

## ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

We are in the process of updating our photo records for the assessment files. Under standards set by the State of Michigan, this will be done for each property every five years 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, unless improvements have been made that have not previously been included. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact the township office.

## 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.

## 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.

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