



# PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

*Fall 2022*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **OCTOBER 3** **FIRE PREVENTION NIGHT 6-8PM**

The Port Sheldon Fire Department will be hosting Fire Prevention Night this year on Monday, October 3rd. The fire station will be open from 6-8pm. Pizza, pop, water and ice cream will be provided! Stop by the fire station on Port Sheldon Street, east of the township hall and check out the fire trucks, gear, displays and get some cool stuff for the kids. We hope to see you there!

### **NOVEMBER 8** **GENERAL ELECTION**

**Polls are open 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.** and both precincts vote at the township hall located at 16201 Port Sheldon St. Please park behind the township building and use the back entrances.

### **NOVEMBER 8** **TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED**

The **township offices will be closed** to allow for extra room to count absentee ballots.

### **NOVEMBER 23-25** **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY HOURS**

Offices are closed Wednesday, November 23, and all day November 24 and 25. Happy Thanksgiving!

### **DECEMBER 1** **WINTER TAX BILLS MAILED**

Payments may be made in person, by mail, 24/7 in the township drop box, or online. All credit/debit card processing is performed by Point & Pay with a 3% convenience fee added at the time of the transaction.

Taxes are due February 14, 2023.

### **DECEMBER 1** **SHELDON DUNES WATER BILLS MAILED**

### **DECEMBER 1** **2023 TRASH BAGS ARE AVAILABLE**

### **DECEMBER 2** **FIREFIGHTER CRUSADE FOR TOYS 6-9PM**

Fire fighters will be at Port Sheldon Party Store collecting small unwrapped toys and/or monetary donations in exchange for pumping gas and cleaning windshields. All donations provide Christmas gifts for area children in need.

### **DECEMBER 23-26** **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS**

Offices are closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. Merry Christmas!

### **DECEMBER 27** **EXTENDED TREASURER HOURS**

The treasurer will be in the office 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for tax collection. As always, your tax payments are accepted in person, by mail, or can be deposited in the township drop box. POSTMARKS are NOT accepted. To have your payment processed with a 2022 collection date, your payment must be received in our office by noon on December 30th.

### **JANUARY 2, 2023** **NEW YEARS DAY HOLIDAY HOURS**

Offices are closed Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

Visit us at: [www.portsheldontwp.org](http://www.portsheldontwp.org)

## NEWS TO USE

Bathroom facilities at each park are open and maintained during daylight hours through October 31st.

Reconstruction of the Kouw park stairs has been held up due to state permitting.

### **TRASH BAGS FOR 2023**

Trash bag allotments are available beginning December 1st and may be picked up anytime throughout the year during normal business hours. M-F 9-12p, W 5-7

### **NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS**

We welcome our new Administrative Assistants, Tatjcha Lambers and Diane Jansen, to Port Sheldon Township.

Tatjcha is the first point of contact at the township office and is bilingual in English and Spanish. She and her husband, Jared, are lifelong West Michigan residents and live in Holland with their dogs, Basil and Asher.

Diane's focus will be assisting the Building and Zoning Department and she has extensive work history with a local building company. She and her husband, Greg Schuetz, are empty nesters, and also live in Holland. Diane grew up in Port Sheldon Township and is glad to be back in the area!

Please join us in welcoming Diane and Tatjcha to our staff.

### **GATED DRIVEWAYS**

If you own property with a gated driveway entrance secured with a keycode, please contact the township. Allowing the Fire Department access to the gate code saves valuable time and possible damage to the gate in case of an emergency.

### **ANNUAL SNOW REMINDER**

The township would like to remind all residents and businesses to use both caution and courtesy with snow shoveling and storage. Please do not pile snow on the bike paths or in locations where it could limit road visibility.

### **ASSESSING REVIEW**

Each year the State of Michigan recommends that local Assessing Offices review 20% of the parcels in their jurisdiction. This information is then updated to ensure a more accurate appraisal of the property. Staff from the Assessor's Office will be in the area completing these exterior reviews. Vehicles will be marked with Port Sheldon Township Assessor signage.

### **ABSENT VOTER APPLICATIONS AND BALLOTS**

Absent Voter ballots are available beginning September 29.

The Clerk **recommends making use of the dedicated election drop box** for the return of applications and ballots. The drop box is under surveillance and ensures the timely return of your election materials. It is located at the front entrance of the township office.

Use the Secretary of State's website to view:

- Registration Status
- Polling place location and hours
- View a sample ballot

Track an absentee ballot, and more...

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

Become an educated voter. The Citizens Research Council of Michigan has information regarding the three statewide proposals on the November ballot. Use the website below and scroll down to "Latest Research Posts."

<https://crcmich.org/publications>

**PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP**

**16201 Port Sheldon Street**

**West Olive, MI 49460**

*Supervisor, Mike Sabatino*

*Clerk, Teresa De Graaf*

*Treasurer, Rachel Frantom*

*Trustee, Bill Monhollon*

*Trustee, Gerald Smith*

*Administrative Assistant, Tatjcha Lambers*

*Building and Zoning Administrator, Ryan Capson*

*Building Administrative Assistant, Diane Jansen*

*Assessor, Tyler Tacoma*

*Fire Chief, Brad Dirkse*

[www.portsheldontwp.org](http://www.portsheldontwp.org)

**QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT:  
CONSUMERS J.H. CAMPBELL DECOMMISSIONING**

As you are likely aware, Consumers Energy has announced the early closure of the coal-fired power generating plant located in our township.

The plant has been in operation since the 60’s and has been a good neighbor and benefited Port Sheldon for many years. We have been given assurances that throughout the decommissioning process, they intend to maintain that good relationship, and leave Port Sheldon on a positive note.

With the announcement of the accelerated closure schedule, many rumors have been circulating. To my knowledge, we are not getting a casino, or a Walmart (yes, I have heard these). Along with the rumors, residents have raised some very legitimate questions: What will happen to the approximately 2000 acres of land? How will the change in tax revenue affect the township? What kind of future development might be needed to replace the reduced tax base?

Rest assured the board is doing the work now to best position the township to navigate this next chapter in Port Sheldon’s future. In regards to the land, Consumers Energy is the landowner, so ultimately, they will decide whether to divest, or re-invest in the property. Currently, CE has contracted with Percheron, LLC to conduct a “Future Use Study” of the site. This study is due to conclude in the late fall/winter. At that point, we will have a little better picture of what the future might hold. We will endeavor to be transparent and prompt with any information we receive as we journey down this new path together. Be sure to check out the township website and Facebook page for the latest information.

Respectfully,  
Michael A. Sabatino – Township Supervisor

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
NEWS AND CALL LOG**

**CALL LOG:** During June, July and August, our Fire Department responded to **89** calls:

- Medical—48    Personal Injury Accident—5    Good Intent—4    Service Call—1    Lift Assist—4    Fire Alarm—5
- Smoke Investigation—1    Brush Fire—4    Building Fire—1    Residential Fire—1    Trash Fire—1    Cooking Fire—1
- Fire Other—3    Unauthorized Burn—1    Burning Complaint—1    Electrical Issue—1    Water Rescue—1
- CO Alarm —3    Gas Leak—2    Down Power Line—1    Cancelled Enroute—1    Assist Another Dept.—2

**Port Sheldon Township Office**

**Phone:** 616-399-6121    **Fax:** 616-399-7173

**Website:** [www.portsheldontwp.org](http://www.portsheldontwp.org)

**Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Wednesday evenings 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Assessor available Friday mornings  
Building/Zoning Administrator available during  
Mon/Wed/Fri mornings

**RECURRING CALENDAR EVENTS**

**Board of Appeals**

4:30 p.m. 1st Wednesday— as needed

**Board Meetings**

5:30 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month

**Planning Commission**

6:00 p.m. the 4th Wednesday of each month

**Trash Service**

8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Saturdays, weekly