



PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER • FALL 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2 6-8 PM FIRE PREVENTION DAY

The Port Sheldon Fire Department will be hosting Fire Prevention Night this year on Monday, October 2nd. 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 7 GENERAL ELECTION

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

NOVEMBER 22-24 OFFICES CLOSED THANKSGIVING

The offices will be closed Wednesday night through Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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 by 5pm on February 14, 2024.

DECEMBER 1 SHELDON DUNES WATER BILLS MAILED

DECEMBER 1 2024 TRASH BAGS ARE AVAILABLE

DECEMBER 1 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. There will also be a collection barrel in the Township offices available during office hours.

DECEMBER 22 AND 25 OFFICES CLOSED CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26 EXTENDED TREASURER HOURS

The treasurer will be in the office from 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 2023 collection date, your payment must be received in our office by noon on December 29th.

JANUARY 1, 2023 OFFICES CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY

NEWS TO USE

TRASH SERVICE

Reminder: Saturday trash hours are from 7:30-10:30 am. Please approach the trash area from the SOUTH on Holly Dr.

Trash bag allotments for 2024 are available beginning December 1st and may be picked up anytime throughout the year during normal business hours.

BLOOD DRIVE

Based on the success of our last drive, we will be hosting another blood drive at the township hall on October 25th, from 2:30-7:00pm! Please sign up via the link on the township website, or call the township office to reserve an appointment time. Versiti Blood Center of Michigan will be running this event for our community.

MORE NEWS TO USE

BUILDING PERMITS NEED INSPECTIONS

Please be sure to call the township office for inspections on all building permits! Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing permit inspections should be called in to the inspector directly (phone numbers are located on the permit). Thank you!

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.

ADDRESS SIGNS

Have you noticed the **easy to read** green address signs at the edge of the road? Order yours at the Township offices– available in horizontal or vertical and come with predrilled holes for affixture. They are \$25 and proceeds benefit the Port Sheldon Township Fire Department.

ABSENT VOTER APPLICATIONS AND BALLOTS

Absent Voter Applications were mailed in mid-September to voters who are on the Permanent Absent Voter List. A signed application must be returned for this election to receive a ballot by mail.

Absent Voter ballots are available beginning September 28.

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>

WEST OTTAWA AND GRAND HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS MILLAGE AND BOND PROPOSALS

West Ottawa Public Schools has a Two Hundred Thirty-Seven Million (\$237,000,000) dollar bond proposal on the ballot. For further information regarding this bond proposal go to westottawa.net/bond.

Grand Haven Public Schools has two separate bond proposals on the ballot. The first proposal is in the amount of One Hundred Eighteen Million Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand (\$118,315,000) dollars. The second bond proposal is for Twenty-Eight Million Six Hundred Sixty Thousand (\$28,660,000) dollars. For more information go to www.ghaps.org/pub/news/posts/1144

The bond proposals are the only items on the November 7 ballot for Port Sheldon Township voters.

CHANGES TO ELECTION LAW

Stay tuned for updates regarding the new changes to election law and procedures following the passage of Proposal 2022-2 last November. The State of Michigan, Bureau of Elections is working diligently to incorporate these changes. Some changes will be in effect for the 2024 Presidential Primary and other changes will be in effect beginning with the August, 2024 Primary Election

PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP
16201 PORT SHELDON ST.
WEST OLIVE, MI 49460
www.portsheldontwp.org



Supervisor, *Mike Sabatino*

Clerk, *Teresa De Graaf*

Treasurer, *Rachel Frantom*

Trustee, *Bill Monhollon*

Trustee, *Luke DeVries*

Administrative Assistant, *Tatjcha Lambers*

Building and Zoning Administrator, *Ryan Capson*

Building Administrative Assistant, *Diane Jansen*

Assessor, *Tyler Tacoma*

Fire Chief, *Brad Dirkse*

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT: Short-Term Rental Regulation – History, and Why Now?

It is no secret that short-term rentals are increasing in popularity in communities across the country, including Port Sheldon.

The History

Port Sheldon Township currently has close to 100 advertised short-term rentals (STRs) in existence across most residential zoning districts, operating largely without issue, for many years. Some of the cottages and houses have a rental history dating back to the 60's with no recorded complaints. The Township planning commission and board have considered short-term rental regulations at various times over the last few decades, however after much research, public comment, and deliberation, the concerns at that time didn't merit moving forward. Throughout that time, most neighborhoods have existed with short-term rentals, with little to no issues, which seemed to validate the officials of that time's decisions. Several Lakeshore HOA's have their own strict regulations, or rules regarding STRs which have probably contributed to the lack of issues and complaints.

Why Now?

Simply put, Port Sheldon Township does not presently have an ordinance that speaks to short-term rentals. Considering the recent prohibition of STRs in Park Township, and fairly strict regulation in Grand Haven to the north, we currently stand without the tools needed to manage existing and potential new STR's that might be attracted to Port Sheldon. Contrary to some of the media's reporting and some online reactions, the township is not intending to create an ordinance to allow for a barrage of short-term rentals. One of the key considerations for such an ordinance is to help ensure there's a balance between allowing STRs, while also keeping the interests of all property owners in mind.

Over the last several years, the planning commission and Township board have responded to resident concerns regarding the possible proliferation of STRs. They have engaged in appropriate research, listened to public comment, and have conferred with legal counsel to consider regulation that proactively addresses concerns with STRs before they become problematic.

The Concerns and the Proposed Ordinance

Most of the concerns revolve around the potential nuisance issues, such as parking, noise, and lack of respect for adjacent private property owners. The draft ordinance versions being considered by the planning commission address not only the valid concerns of potential nuisance issues, but also the health and safety concerns such as; illegal and overcrowded bedrooms that have no means of egress, lack of proper smoke, or carbon monoxide detectors, living quarters in accessory buildings, etc.

Final Thoughts

While no STR ordinance is perfect or a one-size-fits-all remedy, please recognize that the Township board and planning commission are doing their best to be proactive, responsive, and transparent in preparing for the potential challenges that come with living in the best township in West Michigan... possibly the world.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS AND CALL LOG

CALL LOG: During June, July and August, the Fire Department responded to 88 calls:

Medical—42, Cancelled Enroute—4, CO Alarm—2, Fire Alarm—6, Brush Fire—2, PI Accident—2, Good Intent—3, Water Rescue—2, Service Call—7, False Call—2, Wildfire—3, Smoke Investigation—1, Down Powerline—2, U-burn—1, Lightning Strike—1, Assist Police—3, Gas Leak—1, Residential Fire—2, Commercial Fire—1, Dumpster Fire—1

PORT SHELDON TOWNSHIP OFFICE

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

Website: www.portsheldontwp.org

Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Wednesday evenings 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Assessor available Friday mornings

Building/Zoning Administrator available M/W/F mornings

RECURRING CALENDAR EVENTS

Board of Appeals

Meets as needed

Board Meetings

5:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of each month

Planning Commission

6:00pm the 4th Wednesday of each month

Trash Service

7:30-10:30am

Saturdays