

# TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

## News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2024

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

Volume 29 Issue 1



### TOWNSHIP OFFICE

3800 Lapeer Road  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810) 987-6600

Fax: 987-6712

Monday-Thursday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Public Welcome

#### Township Board

1st & 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.

#### Park Commission

1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

#### Planning Commission

2nd Thursday 7:00 p.m.

### TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

**Robert G. Lewandowski, Jr.**  
Supervisor

**Benita E. Davis**  
Clerk

**Peter Shonka**  
Treasurer

**Trustees**  
Donald Dudas  
William E. Livingston  
John Reno  
Steve Riehl

## SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed their Summer. Let's take a moment to talk about Bakers Field Park, a true gem in our community. The pathway extension of almost a mile will start and be completed next year. This path will be paved and wrap around the perimeter of that property. In addition to that project, the tennis and pickleball courts will be resurfaced in the Spring as soon as the weather permits. You may have noticed a new addition to the park this Fall and that is the fitness court, this project was accomplished in partnership with Priority Health. I would urge all residents to check out and utilize this wonderful addition to our community.

The next topic I'd like to cover is streetlights. If you see a streetlight out, please report that outage to the township offices at 810-987-6600, extension 10. When reporting the outage, it helps expedite the process if you take note of the numbers and letters on the light pole located on a yellow tag. DTE Energy also asks that your report include whether the pole is metal or wood. Please keep in mind that DTE addresses repair requests in the order that they are received. The volume of calls determines the length of time before the repair is completed.

A couple of larger projects in the coming year include a new sewer lift station on Maywood and reconstruction of Moak Street between 32nd & 28th Streets. Of course, with roads there will always be additional minor repair and preservation projects. We ask that when you see construction projects, please observe and obey posted speed limits and traffic signs in the township. One of the biggest regular complaints that I receive is the failure of motorists to do this. In addition, we ask that you please ensure that the culvert at the end of your driveway is cleared of debris, lets keep things flowing appropriately.

As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve as your Township Supervisor. If you need to contact me, feel free to reach out by calling the Township Offices at 810-987-6600 ext. 18, via email at [rlwandowski@porthurontownship.org](mailto:rlwandowski@porthurontownship.org), or you can stop by the offices located at 3800 Lapeer Rd. In addition to this, please consider joining us at any of the various meetings held at the township offices. Those schedules can be found on our Township website [www.porthurontownship.org](http://www.porthurontownship.org). Stay safe and warm this winter.

**Bob Lewandowski, Township Supervisor**

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### CLERK'S CORNER

By the time you read this we will have wrapped up a very long year of elections. The four elections this year kept our office staff, as well as our dedicated group of Election Inspectors, very busy.

I would like to thank those Election Inspectors that worked this year. Not only were there the four elections, but also three of those required us to staff the 9 days of early voting. Election Inspectors are required to be certified every two years and of course this was the year for that renewal. Our Election Inspectors get paid minimally and this year probably put in 6-8 hours of training in addition to the 15-hour long election days. We are lucky to have a great group of dedicated and caring men and women that believe in the process and work hard to ensure that every vote counts.

We were able to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Institute for Responsive Government to enable us to buy another newer model tabulator. We will also put some of the money toward updating our precinct laptops.

Watch for more information in 2025 with changes to our voting precincts. One of the many changes that Proposal 2 of 2022 brought is the ability to increase the size of our precincts. We will be studying the information from the 2024 elections and determining if we can consolidate some of our precincts. You will be informed if anything changes, by receiving new voter I.D. cards, more newsletter articles, messages on our office sign, Township website, and social media postings.

### BUSINESS LICENSES

Business License renewals will be mailed out very soon. Please be sure to check with us if you do not receive a renewal by mail. Most businesses require a license to operate which includes their fire inspection and cross connection inspection.

### FALL IS IN THE AIR!

Keep in mind that yard waste pick up runs through the end of November. There will be no yard waste pick up after November 29th of 2024 and it will not start again until April 7th of 2025, please plan accordingly.

### DPW NEWS

If you had a new meter installed, you can download the EyeOnWater app for Badger Meters to your phone. This app is a great tool that allows you to track your usage and monitor for leaks and other water related issues. If you have questions about the DPW, feel free to contact Ed in the Water Office at 810-987-6600, ext. 21

Dan Duman, DPW Superintendent

### FROM THE UTILITIES DESK. . .

We have so many options when it comes to paying your utility bills. We know you're busy and your time is valuable, so we look for ways to make payments easy and convenient to fit your lifestyle.

Online Payments: Pay online at [porthurontownship.org](http://porthurontownship.org), on the main page, in the lower left corner you will see "Pay Bills Online" next to a blue icon that includes a dollar sign. Click that link to make your choice of payment.

Call to Pay: Call 1-855-786-4106 to make a payment

Pay by Text: Get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay through text message with your default payment method. You can sign up for this service when making an online payment or use the option within your account.

Drop Box Payments: Three drop box options are available to receive payments. The drive-up option is conveniently located in the parking lot entrance. A new lobby drop is now available during office hours as well. After hours, the slot drop box on the glass entrance area is available, along with the drive-up option. All drop box payments should include the payment stub or invoice along with your check.

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

With winter's arrival on the way, it's time to wrap up those construction projects and get your inspections completed. Also remember if you get a new furnace, air conditioning, or water heater to get a permit and get them inspected. This is a good time to make sure your property is "winter ready". Check your roof, clean out those gutters, mend that fence, and change your furnace filter.

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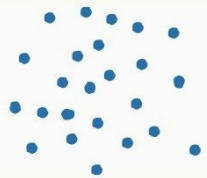
[www.PortHuronTownship.org](http://www.PortHuronTownship.org)

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### SAVE OUR GREAT LAKES FROM MICROPLASTICS!

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

More than half of our waste in the U.S. contains plastic materials. About 10,000 metric tons of plastic enter the Great Lakes every year, and another 8 million goes into the ocean. Over time, larger plastic items break down into much smaller microplastics, such as remnants of water bottles. Soap, toothpaste, paint, and even fibers from clothing generate microplastics. Because of their tiny size, they can easily enter water and food systems.



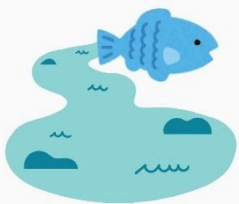
#### WHAT ARE MICROPLASTICS?

Microplastics are small plastic pieces (fragments, fibers, beads) less than 5mm in size.

#### WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

**Primary microplastics:** manufactured to be of microscopic size. These can be found in products such as: cosmetics, glitter, paint, coatings, inks, and abrasives.

**Secondary microplastics:** degraded from larger pieces of plastic, such as bottles, bags, and straws; torn off during wear and tear



#### WHERE ARE THEY FOUND? EVERYWHERE!

- oceans
- fresh water lakes, rivers, and groundwater
- drinking water
- food and drinks
- inside of animals, such as fish

#### HOW CAN WE REDUCE MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION?

- Avoid using plastic disposables and single-use plastics.
- Use reusable bags, bottles, and containers
- Recycle!
- Clean up: don't leave waste in the environment.
- Wash clothes less frequently

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: WEB: [HTTPS://MICROPLASTICS.WAYNE.EDU](https://microplastics.wayne.edu)

#### CHIEF PERSIG'S FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Your Port Huron Township Firefighters have been working hard to provide a professional and dedicated response to our residents and guests of Port Huron Charter Township.

Over the past 10 months, our crews have completed daily trainings focusing on honing their specialty rescue skills. These trainings refine our responses to high-risk low-frequency events, such as confined space rescues, high/low angle rescue, Hazardous Material response, and water rescue, to name a few.

On top of that, the duty crews have still maintained training on fire operations and practical medical response! The continued trainings help keep the firefighters' skills sharp in the event they are called to assist in a time of need.

My winter safety tip is use caution with space heaters - Never use a space heater unless you have working smoke alarms - Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters - Never use extension cords to power electric space heaters - Make sure your space heater has a tip-over safety switch.

#### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Reminder: Wreaths Across America is coming to Woodland Cemetery for the first time on National Wreath Day, December 14, 2024, with the ceremony beginning at 1:00 pm.

Please consider joining Port Huron Township and the Location Sponsor, Jeepers Anonymous Michigan (local Non-profit Jeep Club), at that time to honor our fallen Veterans. Immediately following the ceremony, wreaths will be placed at each Veteran gravesite.

**We Need You!** Bring your family, groups (Scouts, 4-H, NHS) and clubs (car or otherwise) to volunteer in the wreath placement. For safety reasons, NO traffic will be allowed in the cemetery from Noon until 2:00 p.m. on that day. Please park at the Sam's Club gas station lot (1237 32nd St). Preferred Charters will be providing shuttle service to and from Woodland Cemetery.

Only permitted handicapped parking will be available in the cemetery on the west side of the chapel. Volunteers will be on site at both locations to assist. We encourage our residents to take part in this humbling and honorable experience. Please note this event is outdoors and takes place rain, snow or shine. Please dress accordingly. If you have questions, please call Site Coordinator Veronica Caplinger at 810-987-6600 ext. 10.

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### MAKING UTILITY AND TAX PAYMENTS

Check Out Our New Red Drop Boxes! We've made some exciting updates to make your payment drop-offs even easier!

#### Newly Re-Wrapped Red Outside Drop Box:

Now more eye-catching than ever! Our outside drop box has a bold new red look, making it easy to find and just as secure for your payments. Drop box is checked twice daily.




#### New Inside Red Drop Box:

Located conveniently next to the front payment window, our new red drop box is perfect for in-person payment drop-offs. Drop box is checked twice daily.



**Fast, easy, and secure!  
Take advantage of our new  
drop boxes today!**

 **Bonus for Inside Drop Box Users: Paperclips are provided on top of the box to securely attach your payment.**

In addition to our online payments, we have improved bank bill payments for utilities only at this time.

### Introducing Our New E-Lockbox for Utility Bill Payments!

We're excited to offer a faster, more convenient way for residents to pay their utility bills! With our new E-Lockbox, payments made through your bank's Bill Pay system will now be received electronically instead of through the mail.

#### ● Important Details:

This E-Lockbox is only for utility bills at this time. When setting up your bank bill pay to make a utility payment, be sure to use your entire 12-digit account number, similar to: ACCT.NO including all zeros, to ensure it's processed correctly. Processing time is usually 1-2 business days.

000700309500

💡 Note: Utility Bills and Tax Bills Have Different Account Numbers:

#### ✓ For Tax Payments:

- Bank Bill Pay Tax payments will still be sent by mail and processed as we receive them. Our experience with the mail this summer is that it may take 7 to 21 days or longer for us to receive them. We will be moving this to an E-Lockbox like the utility bills sometime in late 2025.
- Be sure to enter the **entire 14-digit parcel number** similar like this below (starting with 74-28) in the account number section when setting up your tax bill payments through Bill Pay. Using dashes (-) are acceptable. Summer and Winter Tax bills will use the same parcel number. Summer Tax for Prop #: 74-28-864-0007-000
- If your payment arrives by the due date, it will be posted on time. However, payments received after the due date will be considered late and subject to late fees and penalties. We do not accept a postmark for payment.
- Do not use your utility bill account number when paying taxes, the payment will be credited to your utility bill and cannot be returned or moved. You will still owe the full amount on your tax bill.

Take advantage of the speed and convenience of our new E-Lockbox for your utility bills, and be sure to follow these easy steps for your utility and tax payments to avoid any issues!

Peter Shonka, Treasurer

### LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

**"Take what you need, leave what you can"**

The Township's little food pantry, located at the south-east corner of the Township Office parking lot, is in need of your support. This community driven resource provides options for those facing food insecurity. 2024 was a very difficult year and many times our cupboard was bare. Our pantry operates because of neighbors helping neighbors. If you wish to donate, you may drop off non-perishable food items and unopened hygiene items directly to the pantry. If you would like further information regarding our Food Pantry operations, please contact Penny at 810-987-6600, extension 20.



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### MUSEUM NEWS

We have some exciting news! Your Port Huron Township Heritage Museum will be opening in the Spring of 2025! If you are not familiar with the Museum, it is located directly behind the Port Huron Township Hall in the Malane Schoolhouse, which was originally located at the corner of Michigan and Ravenswood.

Inside this little gem you will be amazed to find exhibits showcasing local memorabilia. You might recognize your family name or perhaps jog a memory that has been long tucked away, or even learn something new about your local history.

We look forward to sharing with you as we continue to preserve the heritage of Port Huron Charter Township and the surrounding St. Clair County area. Further details to come.

If you are interested in joining the volunteer museum group, please complete the volunteer form at the link below or in this newsletter and email it to [rlewandowski@porthurontownship.org](mailto:rlewandowski@porthurontownship.org) or drop it off at the Port Huron Township Office. [Port-Huron-Township-Heritage-Museum-volunteer-questions-1-page.pdf](#)

Another way to help your local museum is to donate, we are currently looking for the following items: 2 full size mannequins, local or St. Clair County post cards, Grand Trunk Western Railroad memorabilia, baker's cabinet late 1800 early 1900, pictures or student records of the Malane School-house, Edison Cylinder Phonograph, homestead stove dated between the late 1800 and early 1900 and two black metal magazine rotary stands. Please call Kim at 810-531-0459 or email [khorse1022@gmail.com](mailto:khorse1022@gmail.com) for further details on how to donate these items.

We look forward to your involvement in this very heartfelt endeavor.

Sincerely,

Robert Lewandowski Jr., Township Supervisor and the Volunteers of the Port Huron Township Heritage Museum

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### WHY DOES MY DRINKING WATER LOOK CLOUDY?

There are two very common, non-harmful causes of cloudy water. In most cases, real fine air bubbles or very fine particles of matter, such as dirt or organic matter get mixed in your drinking water.

Air bubbles can form naturally in well water or can be created during pumping of municipal water. Cloudy water (white water) can be created by real fine air bubbles in the water.

It usually happens when it is very cold outside because the solubility of air in water increases as water pressure increases and/or water temperature decreases. Cold water holds more air than warm water. In the winter, water travels from the reservoir which is very cold and warms up during its travel to your tap. Some of the air that is present is no longer soluble, and comes out of solution.

Also, water pressure has something to do with it. The water in the pipes is pressurized to a degree (which helps to get the water all the way from the water tower to your home). Water under pressure holds more air than water that is not pressurized. Once the water comes out of your tap, the water is no longer under pressure and the air comes out of solution as bubbles (similar to a carbonated soft drink). It is completely harmless.

The best thing to do is let it sit in an open container until the bubbles naturally disappear.

Tiny particles from rocks and stone in earth, as well as sand and dirt can get suspended in your water supply. Again, these are generally harmless and more aesthetically displeasing. You may also see grit in the bottom of your sinks and tubs if particles are present.

You can usually differentiate particle from air bubbles by filling a clear glass and letting it sit for a few minutes. If the cloudiness is due to air, the bubbles will rise to the surface and disappear; if the water does not clear, it generally indicates particles are in the source of water.

Generally, treating with a sediment filter will remove the particles.

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### PORT HURON TOWNSHIP LITTLE LEAGUE 2025 SIGN-UP DAYS

Are you ready for another exciting season of Little League baseball and softball? Port Huron Township Little League is thrilled to announce the upcoming Sign-Up Days!

Early bird registration fee \$75 for ALL players from 11/01/2024 to 12/31/2024 (registration online).

- Online: [www.porthurontownshiplittleleague.com](http://www.porthurontownshiplittleleague.com)
- Starting 01/01/2025 registration fee will change.

All in-person registrations will be held at the Port Huron Township Meeting Room, located at 3800 Lapeer Road. Please use the east entrance on the side back door.

Sign-Up Dates:

- Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- January 4, 11, 18, 25
- February 1, 8, 15, 22
- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



This season, we're excited to welcome new and returning players of all skill levels to join in on the fun, develop their skills, and make lifelong memories on the field! Registration is open to boys and girls, with divisions available for different age groups.

What to Bring:

- Completed registration forms (available on-site or online at our website)
- Copy of birth certificate (for age verification) and proof of residency documents. (Available on-site or online at our website)
- Payment for registration fees (Credit Card, Check, or Cash)

Interested in Coaching or Assisting? Let us know, we have several opportunities available with Coach discounts!

Don't miss your chance to be part of the 2025 season! Come on down to meet coaches, ask questions, and learn more about what to expect this year. See you at sign-ups! Follow us on Facebook @porthurontwplittleleague

### PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNUSED AND EXPIRED PRESCRIPTIONS

Turn in your unused, unwanted or expired medication for safe disposal

**St. Clair County Sheriff Department**  
1170 Michigan Road

Monday thru Thursday  
8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

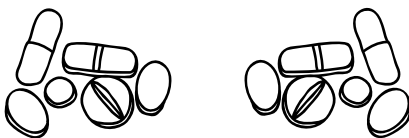
Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pills Only

**Port Huron Police Department**  
100 McMorrان Boulevard

Monday thru Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pills Only



**Marysville Fire Department**  
1355 Delaware Avenue

Monday thru Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Pills
- Liquids
- Syringes in puncture proof container



Port Huron Township Heritage Museum is looking for volunteers. If you're interested, please complete the following and email [rlewandowski@porthurontownship.org](mailto:rlewandowski@porthurontownship.org) or drop off at the Township Office.

Tell us about you...

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Availability: Evenings  Weekends  Daytime

Your interest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any knowledge of your local history? Y/N please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Most recent volunteer experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Why would you like to volunteer for the Port Huron Township Heritage Museum? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any special skills or experience you have that would benefit Port Huron Township

Heritage Museum: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you experienced any challenges as a volunteer? Y/N. If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

What has been your favorite part of being a volunteer and how rewarding has your volunteer work

been? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you like to interact with others? Y/N

What makes you want to visit a museum? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a membership at a museum? Y/N if yes what museum: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your worst experience at a museum? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have experience from volunteering at another museum? Y/N if yes what museum: \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments or suggestions you would like to add? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Port Huron Township**  
**3800 Lapeer Road**  
**Port Huron, Michigan 48060**

PRSR FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
Permit No. 747

## **ASSESSMENT CHANGE NOTICES**

Property owners will soon be receiving the annual Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification, otherwise known as the “Assessment Change Notice”.

The Notice indicates what the Assessor is proposing the value of your property to be for the upcoming taxing year. By law, values are based on the condition of the property on December 31st of the previous year – i.e., the 2025 value is based on the condition of your property on December 31, 2024.

If you disagree with the proposed value of your property, you must appeal to the Board of Review, which consists of 3 Township residents. The Board of Review hears appeals by either appointment or letter. The meeting dates and times are listed on the Change Notice. You can schedule an appointment by contacting the Assessor’s Office. If you must appeal by letter, it must be received in the office by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on the final meeting date.

When you arrive for your appointment, you will be given a petition form to complete. Most successful appellants present documentation to support their claim that the property is over-assessed. The highest and best documentation to provide is an independent appraisal, however, this is not mandatory. Board of Review appointments are scheduled for 10 minutes for each property being appealed.

The Notices are mailed annually at the end of February. If your mailing address has changed, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 810-987-6600, ext 20 or email [psimpson@porthurontownship.org](mailto:psimpson@porthurontownship.org) to confirm that we have the correct address in our records.

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## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

With the onset of winter, please be aware that Township ordinances require recreational vehicles to be stored in the rear yard. The term recreational vehicle includes boats, recreational trailers, motorhomes, snowmobiles (and the trailers). Storage of this equipment in the front yard constitutes an ordinance violation.



**HOLIDAY CONTEST**  
Nominate yourself or neighbors! Call us or stop in for a nomination form. Judging on December 9th – Lights need to be turned on by 6pm. Prizes awarded to the top 4 winners.