

TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Volume 31 Issue 1



TOWNSHIP OFFICE

3800 Lapeer Road
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 987-6600
Fax: 987-6712
Monday-Friday
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
Dawn Fulk
Pat Pringle
John Reno

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Hello, I hope everyone had a great summer, but with that, here comes fall. A couple of things to mention as the weather changes, there will always be leaves. Raking of leaves into ditches, and also burning them there, is not allowed. Please keep driveway culverts clear of leaves and debris, as one plugged culvert can affect many residents.

The Township received a Federal grant through Representative McClain's office in the amount of \$1,450,000 to reconstruct an aging sewer lift station. This project on Maywood Drive should be starting in the spring or summer next year.

By the time you are reading this, the pathway at Bakers Field should be completed. There is now another 5,000 feet of new pathway going out and around the perimeter of the property so people can now experience the natural area of the park. A special thanks to Commissioner Joi Torello for her help in allocating County ARPA funds for assistance with this project.

As always, I am proud to serve our great Township as Supervisor. I know that I can't make everyone happy with the decisions that I make, but I strive to make decisions that I believe the majority of residents would like.

Please reach out to me with any questions or ideas you may have. You can call the office, email me at rlwandowski@phtwpmi.gov, or stop in to have a conversation. It's always best to call first to ensure that I'm available.

As the cold weather rolls in, stay safe and warm.

Bob Lewandowski, Township Supervisor

BUILDING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Keeping up with home maintenance is important for the long-term health and safety of your home. Fall is a good time to check the vents in your bathroom and kitchen to ensure that they're clean and free of debris. You should also check the filter in your HVAC system, which should typically be replaced at least every three months. Also if you have one, clean and inspect your chimney. Don't forget to check on your sump pump periodically. Remember to get your inspections done for those summer projects.

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in the newsletter? Is there a process we could outline, or something you'd like to learn more about? Our newsletter is designed to give our residents department updates, educational items, and news on upcoming events. If you have questions or ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Penny at 9810-987-6600, ext. 20, or by email at psimpson@phtwpmi.gov.

TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Page 2

VOTING PRECINCT CONSOLIDATION

Watch for upcoming notices in regards to consolidating precincts. Recent changes in Michigan Law will allow us to consolidate our precincts, thereby saving costs incurred for all elections. We hope to make these changes prior to the 2026 Elections. Where you vote in person may change. You will receive a new voter registration card as well as several other notices when this change takes effect. Consolidating precincts can lead to notable cost savings and operational efficiencies as we are seeing trends of higher turnout by absentee and early in-person voting.

HERITAGE MUSEUM

Your Port Huron Township Heritage Museum is now open regular hours as follows:

1st Sunday of the month, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Appointments are also available by calling the Port Huron Township Office at 810-987-6600. Both the Museum (one room Malane Schoolhouse) and the caboose are located directly behind the Port Huron Township Hall, waiting to share the heritage of your local township and other areas of St. Clair County. For coming events, please follow Port Huron Township's website, Facebook, or by calling 810-531-0459 or email phtwpmuseum@gmail.com. We're looking for volunteers for the museum, the meetings are once a month and if you are interested in joining, please complete the volunteer form on the website and either email to rlwandowski@phtwpmi.gov or drop off at the Township office, 3800 Lapeer Road.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

We are proud to share that Wreaths Across America will once again be returning to Woodland Cemetery in December. This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be observed on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. On this day, communities across the nation will come together to honor and remember our nation's heroes by laying wreaths on the graves of Veterans.

Last December, every one of the 487 Veterans laid to rest at Woodland Cemetery was honored with a meaningful ceremony and the placement of a wreath. This moving tribute was made possible through the dedication of volunteers, the generosity of sponsors and the local non-profit Jeepers Anonymous of Michigan. Volunteer meetings are held monthly through December—please call for specific dates and times if you are interested in helping.

It is never too early to sponsor a Veteran's Wreath. Each sponsorship is only \$17 and every wreath helps ensure that no hero is forgotten. Stay tuned for additional updates on our website, Facebook page, and digital sign.

For more information, please contact: Veronica Caplinger, Site Coordinator 810-987-6600 ext. 10

SURVEYS

We receive a number of calls from property owners requesting a copy of their survey. The Township only has a survey on file if the property in question has gone through the lot change (combination or split) process or if an owner physically brings the survey into the Township and requests that we retain a copy. Very few property owners have ever requested that. We do have plat maps that show property dimensions, but they do not show the location of structures on the property.



TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Page 3

DPW NEWS

Hello residents, it has been a crazy fast summer and fall is already upon us. Just a little about what is going on in the DPW. We worked hard at the meter project this past summer and will still be moving on it in the winter ahead.

There were 6 watermain breaks over the summer along with one large service leak. We apologize if you were affected by any of these happenings, but the problem with them is they happen when you least expect them.

Flushing and winterizing hydrants will start at the beginning of October and should take a few weeks. Don't be too alarmed if you have low pressure for a bit or slightly cloudy water. If you are concerned, please feel free to call the main office to schedule a time for one of the staff to come check it out.

Once again, if you see crews on the road give them a brake. How about we make it a great fall/winter ahead. My email is dduman@phtwpmi.gov. Please contact me with anything concerning the DPW.

Dan Duman, DPW Superintendent

CHIEF PERSIG'S FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

As summer fades away and cooler weather approaches, the Port Huron Township Fire Department continues to provide the community with professional and dedicated emergency service.

Department News

Your Port Huron Township Firefighters have been hard at work conducting specialized training, commercial fire inspections, residential fire safety inspections, and of course responding to emergency incidents! If you would like the Fire Department to conduct a home fire safety inspection along with smoke/carbon monoxide detector installation, please contact the station (810) 982-3543 to schedule a visit. This is a free service provided to the residents of Port Huron Township. I would like to thank all of the residents and guests that attended the Fire Department/Museum open house. It was a great opportunity to meet everyone and give tours of our station, fire apparatus, and explain the daily operations of the fire department. As always, I would like to thank the community for your continued support!

CLERK'S OFFICE

Help Your Community – Become an Election Inspector!
We will have several elections in 2026, and we are looking for dependable individuals willing to serve as Election Inspectors.

What the role involves:

- Attending a few training sessions (provided)
- Working a full day on Election Day
- Helping voters and ensuring the election process runs smoothly

Qualifications:

- Attention to detail and reliability are essential
- Computer experience is helpful, but not required
- Must be committed to serving your community

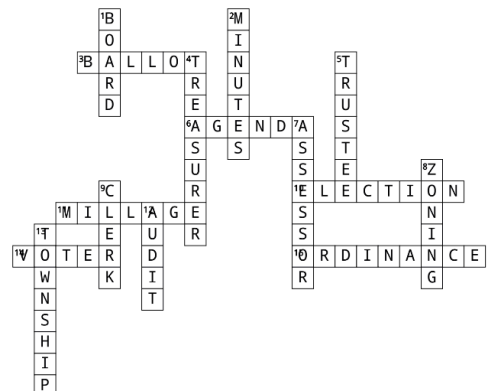
This is a great way to take part in democracy, meet people, and contribute to fair and accurate elections.

👉 If you're interested in learning more or signing up, please complete the application on our website under Elections Department or call Veronica 810 987-6600.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Nominate yourself or your neighbors! Call the Township, check out our website or Facebook page or stop in for your nomination form. Judging will be held on December 17th at 6:30 p.m. Lights need to be turned on by 6 pm. Prizes will be awarded to the top 4 winners. Sponsored by the Recreation Board.

ANSWER KEY



TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Page 4

TREASURER'S REPORT

As your Treasurer, I want to share a few important reminders as we enter winter tax season. Bank bill payments continue to be sent with the wrong account number. For tax payments, you must use the property number from your tax bill. Please do not use your utility account number when paying taxes, as this will misapply the funds to your utility account and leave your taxes unpaid. This occurrence cannot be reversed.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT. THANK YOU.	
This tax is due by: 02/14/2020	
After 02/14/2020 additional interest and fees apply	
2019 Winter	Tax for Prop #: 74-28-864-0007-000

LOWER RIGHT SIDE OF TAX BILL

We strongly suggest setting up separate bank payment accounts for utility bills and taxes to ensure proper account numbers are submitted with your payments. When paying by mail, please send a separate check for each bill and include the correct portion of the bill with your payment. We've experienced as much as a 3 week delay in receiving mailed payments, so please plan accordingly. In-person payments can be made by cash, check, or card; if you need a stamped receipt, bring the full bill with you. For added convenience, we offer secure drop boxes at the Township Hall, checked twice daily, as well as online, phone, and text payment options. Please note that convenience fees are applied to card payments, while bank account payments carry a low flat fee. These charges are set by the processing agency and cannot be absorbed by the Township. Payments made by cash in person, or check in person or by mail, have no associated fee. If you have any questions about your payment, please contact my office at 810-987-6600, extension 22 or 23. My Deputy Joan and I are here to help ensure your payments are processed smoothly.

Peter Shonka, Treasurer

TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID FROZEN WATER PIPES

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing. (may result in higher usage)
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. Maintaining consistent temperatures may incur a higher heating bill, but can prevent a costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

OUR LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to our community contributors!! You are quietly making a dramatic difference in the lives of others. Our local community pantry continues to be a valuable resource to those facing food insecurity. Please drop nonperishable food and hygiene items directly into the pantry. Cash donations are gratefully accepted inside the office. If you have fundraising experience, or would just like to be more involved in this community driven resource, please contact Penny at 810-987-6600.



TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

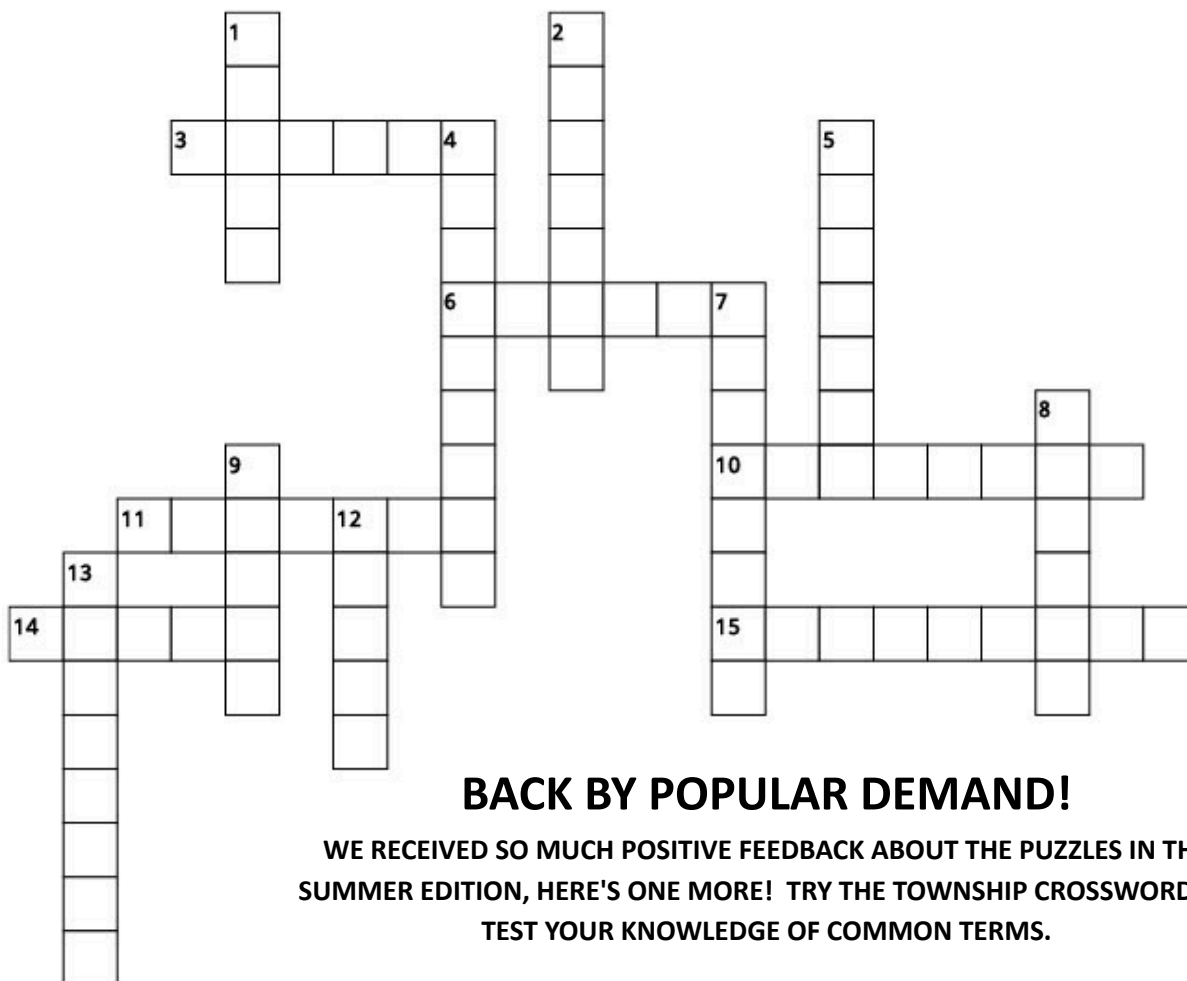
News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Page 5

Local Government Crossword



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

WE RECEIVED SO MUCH POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THE PUZZLES IN THE SUMMER EDITION, HERE'S ONE MORE! TRY THE TOWNSHIP CROSSWORD TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF COMMON TERMS.

Across

- 3. Used to cast a vote in elections
- 6. List of topics for a government meeting
- 10. Process of selecting officials by voting
- 11. Property tax rate used to fund services
- 14. A person who casts a ballot
- 15. A law passed by a local government

Down

- 1. Group of elected officials governing the township
- 2. Written record of what occurred at a meeting
- 4. Manages the funds and finances of the township
- x 5. Elected official on the township board
- 7. Official who determines property value for tax purposes
- 8. Regulations governing land use
- 9. Keeps official records and may run local elections
- 12. Review of financial records for accuracy
- 13. A part of a county with some self-government

TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Page 6

HAS THE DPW INSTALLED A NEW BADGER METER AT YOUR PROPERTY?

If so, the EyeOnWater® app may be right for you!

EyeOnWater® is a consumer engagement application designed to enhance the connection between water utilities and their customers. It is available exclusively through the AquaCUE® Flow Measurement Manager and allows customers to access and understand their water usage data in real-time. Here are some key features and benefits of EyeOnWater®:

- **Direct Access to Water Consumption Data:** Customers can view their water usage data, enabling them to manage their consumption effectively
- **Promotes Water Conservation:** The application encourages users to adopt water-saving behaviors by providing insights into their usage patterns
- **Real-Time Data and Alerts:** Users receive real-time notifications about their water usage and potential leaks, allowing them to act promptly in an effort to avoid high bills – Great for snowbirds!
- **User-Friendly Interface:** The EyeOnWater® mobile app is available for both iOS and Android devices, providing a convenient way for customers to monitor their water usage on the go
- **Data-Driven Insights:** The application allows users to analyze their water consumption through various metrics, including hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly data, with temperature and precipitation overlays

Overall, EyeOnWater® serves as a powerful tool for consumers, fostering better water management and conservation practices. If you have any specific questions or need further details about EyeOnWater® contact Ed Brennan at (810) 987-6600 Ext. 21.

WHAT IS “TAX DAY”, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

Tax Day is December 31st annually. The condition of your property on this date determines the property's assessed value for the following year. So, the condition of your property on December 31, 2025 determines the 2026 assessed value. What does this mean to you? More often than not, the December 31st date makes no difference to the value of your property. However, there are some specific instances when it can become very important. If, for example, you had a pole barn on your property on December 31, 2025 and then, sadly, it burned down on January 1, 2026, by law, your 2026 assessed value must reflect the value of the pole barn. Conversely, permitted structures that are still under construction Dec. 31st will not be assessed at full value in the following taxing year. If you have questions regarding Tax Day, please call the Assessor's Office.

POOL DE-WATERING: STORM WATER QUALITY TIPS

Water from swimming pools and hot tubs often contain high levels of chlorine. Discharging chlorinated pool or spa water into streams, irrigation canals or ponds, etc. is harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

As you start de-watering your swimming pool for the fall season, please remember these tips to help protect the Township's storm sewer system and the Black River:

Discharging Pool Water onto the Grass

1. Prior to adding any chemicals, you can empty some of the pool water onto the grass and allow the ground to soak up the water.
2. Never dump pool water into the storm sewer system or into a river or wetlands.

Discharging to the Sanitary Sewer System

Additional costs and consideration may need to be taken to discharge your de-chlorinated water to the sanitary sewer system. For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy at: (517) 284-6656.

TALK OF THE TOWNSHIP

News You Can Use from Port Huron Township

Fall/Winter 2025

www.PortHuronTownship.org

Page 7

BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATIONS & RENEWALS

Attention Business Owners & Managers:

By Township Ordinance, every business in Port Huron Township must have a valid business license that is renewed annually. Please review the following important information:

Application Fee: \$45 (flat fee, no proration—applies no matter when submitted).

Processing Time: New applications are subject to inspections and may take up to 14 business days to process.

Renewal Fee: \$45 if paid by December 31st; increases to \$90 starting January 1st

Expiration Date: All business licenses expire December 31st of the current year, regardless of issue date.

Failure to Renew: May result in tickets, fines, or a “red tag” being posted on your business.

Important Reminder: Renewal is the business owner’s responsibility—even if you do not receive an invoice in the mail.

Questions? Call 810-987-6600, ext. 10 and ask for Veronica.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR:

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 2026 value is based on the condition of your property on December 31, 2025.

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@phtwpmi.gov to confirm that we have the correct address in our records. This is especially important if you recently closed or obtained a post office box as forwarding information is not shared.



Port Huron Township
3800 Lapeer Road
Port Huron, Michigan 48060

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



PORT HURON TOWNSHIP CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

**DPW BUILDING
4134 WEST WATER
10am – 1pm**

This event is for Port Huron Township Residents ONLY

****Proof of Residency is required– ID/Tax Bill accepted****

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Paint of any kind
- Pesticides, herbicides or chemicals
- Oils, anti-freeze, or any other automotive fluids
- Automotive Batteries
- Appliances containing freon
- Tires
- Brick, block or concrete

WASTE MANAGEMENT

In August, WM (formerly known as Waste Management) announced a new dedicated website for Port Huron Township residents. This hub, located on our website at www.porthurontownship.org, is our community's one stop resource for everything related to waste and recycling, including guidelines, pickup schedules, (regular and holiday), and quick access to submit service requests and get in touch with WM.

The hub is available on the home page under latest news, just click on the picture to get started. You may also access the information via Departments, Utilities Department. The picture link is available just above Forms. For those without internet access, please continue to contact Ed Brennan in the Utilities Office for assistance with your refuse needs.