

Chikaming Township News

Winter 2011-2012

Greetings Township Residents and Taxpayers!

YES, it is that time of the year once again; time to **pay Winter Tax bills**, time to **prepare** for the upcoming Winter Wonderland that we experience here in Harbor Country and time to **catch up** on Township news.

We would like to start out by congratulating all of our Township Residents and guests! The Summer of 2011 was one of the safest we have experienced in a few years as **no lives** were lost on Chikaming Township beaches!! Please continue to educate yourself on the dangers of **RIP Currents**. And **REMEMBER**, the ice that forms on Lake Michigan is not as safe and solid as it seems! **Please** put safety first and be aware that Lake Michigan can be as dangerous in the Winter months as it can be in the Summer months. The same rules and common sense that apply in warm weather still apply during cold weather.

We would like to report that our Township Supervisor Jeanne Dudeck has announced that she will be retiring at the end of her term, November 20th, 2012. Jeanne has been involved with the Township since 1978. She served as Township Clerk from 1978 to 2006 and in 2006 she was appointed to complete the term of Ivan Zimmerman, who died. In 2008 she was elected to the current term of Supervisor.

Clerk Betsy Bohac has also announced that she will retire at the end of her term, November 20th, 2012. Betsy joined the Township staff in April, 1996 as an administrative assistant. She was appointed Deputy Clerk in February, 1997 and then appointed as Clerk in 2006. In 2008 she was elected to the current term as Clerk. Betsy also served as Zoning Administrator since 1999 and she will be resigning from this position also.

The Supervisor and Clerk positions are elected partisan positions. Each have a four year term which runs from November 20th. The General Primary Election will be held on August 7th, 2012. Petitions to be placed on the Primary Ballot must be filed by May 15th, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. If you are interested, please stop in the Township Office for more information.

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR Jeanne Dudeck: PLEASE be a GOOD neighbor! Just a reminder to use best practices for exterior lighting:

1. Evaluate your exterior lighting to determine if there is glare from the fixtures.
2. Determine if your lights shine upward into the night sky.
3. Determine if your lights trespass—glare and spill light caused by exterior lighting that shines onto neighboring property.
4. Install modification shields to eliminate glare and sky glow.

FROM THE DESK OF POLICE CHIEF Jim Stormont: In December of 1972, I was hired as a part-time Police Officer for Chikaming Township. Over the many years I have held the positions of patrolman, Sergeant & Lieutenant. In 1989, I was appointed Chief of Police as the only full time officer. Over the years we have added to our Department and are now at a staff level of five full time and five part time officers. I have watched the profession make rapid changes to provide better service to the public and have enjoyed learning to use those tools. I have had many good years working for Chikaming Township and have worked with some great people. With all that being said, I am at a point that I am going to slow down and enjoy other things and will retire in the Summer of 2012.

FROM THE DESK OF TREASURER Liz Rettig: THANK YOU all for your efforts in paying your Summer 2011 taxes on time! To date, we have collected about 93% of the summer taxes. As your new Township Treasurer I am finding my job challenging—but rewarding! If you need help or have a question, I am in the office all day Tuesdays and Thursdays. When I am not in, you can always speak with my Deputy Treasurer, Elaine Rettig, who is here 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. And don't forget! You can pay your delinquent 2011 Summer Taxes as well as the 2011 Winter Taxes here at the Township Center until March 1st, 2012. After that they must be paid to the Berrien County Treasurer in Saint Joseph.

FROM THE DESK OF FIRE CHIEF Mike Davidson: The heating season is upon us! PLEASE make sure your heating units have been serviced and are ready for the season.

1. Do NOT burn wrapping paper in your fireplace or woodstove.
2. When using an extension cord, use equal or larger gauge than the unit you plan to connect to.
3. NEVER cover an extension cord with any type of material. This will build up excessive heat and may cause a fire.
4. Replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

FROM THE DESK OF CLERK Betsy Bohac: Chikaming Township Voters will all be in ONE PRECINCT for the August 7th, 2012 Primary Election and November 6th, 2012 General Election. Because we have less than 2,999 registered voters in the Township, we are consolidating you all into one precinct. You will all vote in the Fire Station at the Township Center at 13535 Red Arrow Hwy. in Harbert just like you have in the past, but there will be no confusion in determining what precinct you belong in! Also starting with the February 28th, 2012 Presidential Primary Election we will be using a laptop computer to process you. Your Michigan Drivers License will be "swiped" and automatically bring you up on the Poll List where you will be assigned your ballot number.

Did you know that Harbor Country has a "Help for Southwest Michigan Advocacy Center"? If you or someone you know is in need of assistance of some kind, please stop in our Township Center for a Resource Directory or log on at info@help4swmi.org to find the help you need.

REMEMBER your outdoor pets this winter! Please provide fresh water daily, make sure they are able to get out of the cold weather and provide them with blankets or straw.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM US ALL!

FROM THE DESK OF UTILITY CO-ORDINATOR Julie Schroeder: We are fast approaching the time of year when inevitably the phone call has to be made to a homeowner who has left the water on in their second home to tell them that they have had a leak and they will have a HUGE water bill. More importantly than that, they may have considerable water damage to their home! There is an easy fix to this situation! **PLEASE** just call the Water Department at the Township Center and have your water turned off at the meter for the winter. There is a nominal fee of \$15.00 to turn it off and \$15.00 to turn it back on again in the Spring. You will continue to have a "ready to serve" charge each month but that is a small price to pay for the peace of mind that your home is safe and secure. Turning your water off will save you, the homeowner, as well as the Township a lot of unnecessary grief!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Township Center **269-469-1676**
Police Department **269-469-3245**
Fire Department **269-469-6362**
Sheriff's Department:
General Dispatch **269-756-1111**
Emergencies **911**