

Blackman Charter Township News February, 2020

BLACKMAN-LEONI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – Michael L. Jester, Director of Public Safety

The Blackman Township Board of Trustees has placed a public safety millage renewal on the May 5, 2020 ballot. The public safety millage was originally approved in May of 1995 by the voters of Blackman Township. The original millage and all subsequent millage renewals have been 2.0 mills for operations and equipment for the public safety department. The 2020 ballot question is once again a renewal of the 2.0 mills, which was originally approved in May of 1995.

Your public safety department responded to 1,732 traffic crashes and 4,001 medical emergencies in 2019 and handled a total of 25,961 incidents, which is an average of 71 incidents per day. For further information on your public safety department, please view our 2019 Annual Report, which can be found on our website at www.blackmantwp.com.

Please exercise your right to vote on May 5, 2020.

Assessing Department – Evelyn Markowski and Stephanie Hinkle

March Board of Review is where taxpayers may appeal taxable, assessed or state equalized value; property classification or transfer of ownership as shown on the enclosed annual Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification.

Dates and times for the 2020 March Board of Review are as follows:

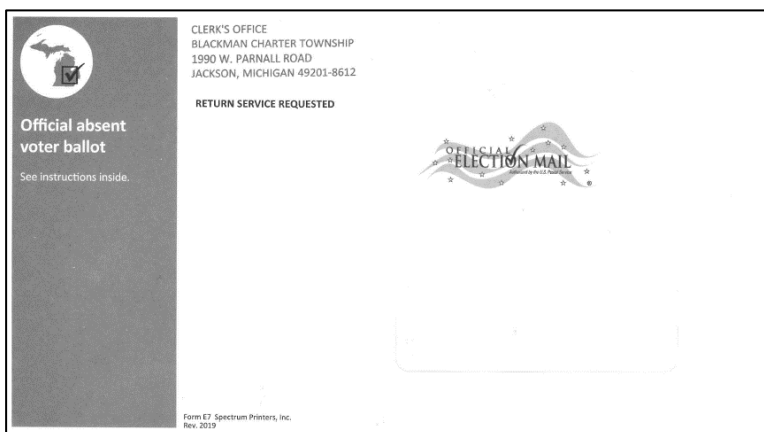
Wednesday, March 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, March 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appointments are preferred. Please call 517-788-4345 extension 8223 or 8232

Clerk's Department – Shelly Sercombe

The Clerk's Office is seeking election workers for the 2020 elections. Without poll workers, elections could **not** be held! To qualify as a poll worker, you must be a registered voter in Jackson County and attend election worker training classes. You will get paid for training and working elections! Remember, voting is the most fundamental right there is in our democracy and we need **YOU** to help make that happen! If you are interested or need more information, give us a call at 517-990-8224 or 517-990-8228.



The State of Michigan changed the absentee ballot applications, mailing envelopes and return envelopes. We want our township residents to be on the lookout for this envelope. It will contain your absentee ballot! (NOTE: the stripe on the left side is blue)

April 1, 2020 is Census Day – the due date for Americans to take part in the decennial headcount. The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and is used to draw the lines for legislative districts, determine how to distribute funds to state and local governments and more. Being counted means we have our fair share of representation in congress.

Jackson Property Tax Foreclosure Prevention Project is presenting a “Farm 2 Table Brunch Fundraiser” on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. at St. John’s United Center, 801 S. Mechanic Street, Jackson. For more information, contact the Community Action Agency.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

We are pleased to announce Blackman Township has been awarded a Grant from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund for park improvements in 2020-21. This will be for ADA walkways and additions to the playground facilities at Rod Mills park. With the improved restrooms, a dog run added this winter, and entry road improvement for access into the park, things are looking better all the time.

This year the Township acquired property on Canary Lane bordering on the Grand River. We will be teaming with G. R. E. A. T. (Grand River Environmental Action Team [see below]) to apply for another grant to develop access to the river which is on the Grand River Water Trail. Long term plans for Blackman Parks & Recreation, and the Master Plan for G. R. E. A. T. both have the goal to develop river access for our residents. With a shared vision for River Access, I encourage residents to check out G. R. E. A. T. and the outdoor activities they offer.



Grand River Environmental Action Team, aka G.R.E.A.T., has been promoting and protecting the Grand River in Jackson County since 1990. Through environmental outreach and activities, G.R.E.A.T. helps teach the public how beautiful and what a great resource the Grand River is. G.R.E.A.T. organizes public paddling events on area rivers – including the Grand, Kalamazoo, Raisin, and St Joseph Rivers – and makes it easy to participate at any skill level. You can bring your personal canoe or kayak, or borrow one of G.R.E.A.T.’s at no charge. Shuttle service is provided, and volunteers assist paddlers as needed.

G.R.E.A.T. also organizes an annual Grand River Clean-Up the second Saturday of every September. Hundreds of pounds of trash are removed from the river every year with the help of many volunteers.

Check out the G.R.E.A.T website at <https://great-mi.org> for a calendar of upcoming events or to donate to G.R.E.A.T.; or give us a call at 517-416-4234 for more information. Together we can make a difference in our environment!

**Grand River Environmental Action Team
- Active in your community since 1990!**