



## Blackman Township Summer Newsletter 2021

**Township Supervisor:** Summer is upon us which means road construction projects. Please be careful as there is more activity in the Township than usual, especially involving the bridge work on I-94. We have not received a schedule of the roads being worked on by the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT) this year, they have stated they plan on working on the roads west of US-127. Please make sure all culverts under driveways are kept clear and do not fill them or the ditches next to them because they are important to the health of the road. This also helps the rainwater flow where it should instead of backing up and causing issues. Mowing our lawns is another summer duty we either love or hate, please be kind and assist neighbors who may have difficulty keeping their lawns maintained. If there is a property in your area that needs attention and no one is attending it, please call public safety and they will have the Ordinance Officer follow up on the property. Have a safe and joyful summer!



Blackman Charter Township would like to give a big welcome to our new Assessor, Arnold Dolman. Arnold is from Charlotte, Michigan. He worked for Meijer in the Lansing area at the warehouse for 29 years before becoming an assessor. He has spent the past 7 years working for the City of Battle Creek in commercial and residential assessing. Arnold and his wife, Becky, have been married for over 36 years and have five children. They enjoy spending time with their family, three grandchildren, and friends.

**Public Safety:** Hopefully, you and your family have been healthy and safe, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your public safety department has had a challenging time, trying to provide public safety services, during this unprecedented period. The safety of our public safety officers has been of great concern, as we have over 25,000 citizen contacts in any given year. So far, 10 public safety officers have contracted COVID-19 and recovered, which is approximately 25% of our staff. Luckily, none of those officers required to be hospitalized. Between officers being off work with COVID-19 or for other reasons, staffing has been challenging at times. However, the officers worked together, and we have made it through the worst part of this pandemic. All staff who wished to receive a COVID-19 vaccination have been fully vaccinated, and since that time, we have had zero cases of COVID-19 in the department. We would like to thank the Board of Trustees for providing the officers with the necessary protective equipment, enhanced cleaning of Township building and vehicles and support during this time. We, like you, hope that the worst is behind us and we look forward to a return to something more normal in the coming months. Thanks, and stay safe and healthy.

Mike Jester

Director of Public Safety



**Clerk's Office:** Blackman Township will **NOT** be hosting an August Election in 2021. This is due to no items being submitted on the ballot from local school districts, the county, township, etc. We will still be available during normal business hours to register voters and make voter address changes as requested. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Boy Scout Pack 339, Sexton Rob Wells, and numerous other volunteers who helped us prepare Fifield Cemetery for Memorial Day on May 8. It is a major task taking care of the cemetery grounds, so their help is greatly appreciated! Lastly, a special thank you to The Little House Bakery for generously donating delicious donut holes for our volunteers as well. They were delicious!



**Property Taxes:** As the summer fun starts, don't forget that summer taxes are here as well. Many of you may not be aware of this, but you are able to make payments on your summer taxes until the final due date, **September 14, 2021**. If they are not paid by September 14, 2021, there will be penalties. Winter taxes will be sent out December 1, 2021 and will be due February 14, 2022. Summer and winter taxes will be turned over to the **Jackson County Treasurers Office on March 1, 2022** and cannot be paid at the Township Office. **Delinquent tax questions, please contact the Jackson County Treasurers Office at (517) 788-4418.**

Common mistakes to watch for when writing your check:

1. The dollar amount written does not match the dollar amount printed
2. Check to make sure it is dated and signed
3. Do not combine your tax and utility bill in one check. These payments must be separate due to going to two different banks



Your marketing efforts have certainly been effective! **Personal & Teller** calls is our newly introduced option for making payments with a live agent. We've also heard some feedback that previously provided templates could be more transparent by expressing the involved fees more clearly. We appreciate your input and request that you utilize the revised templates to avoid potential confusion. By reaching out to a **Personal Teller** at 877-495-2729 (2PAY), your customers can make live agent payments. A \$5.00 **Personal Teller** fee will be applied to the customer transaction, in addition to the normal credit card, debit card, or electronic check convenience fees.

**Parks & Recreation:** The Township is in the process of updating the 5-year Parks & Recreation Plan for 2022-2027. Several improvements have been made at Rod Mills Park in the past 5 years including: improved bathrooms, parking, road, security, brush removal, new grills, a fenced in dog run, and the walking trail. Coming this year, will be the expansion on the playground facilities using the Michigan Department of Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant along with the Township millage funds. In 2022, a canoe & kayak launch for access to the Grand River will be installed off Canary Lane in Blackman using funds from the DNR Trust Fund Grant and the Township Park millage. The DNR Grant is highly sought after and is a very lengthy process and we are grateful to have received it. A big shout out to Gerda employees who celebrated Earth Day by working at Rod Mills park, creating more trails thru some of our woods. We are happy to have over 300 members of the Little League Baseball back for the season after making some improvements to the fields, with more work for next year planned. Blackman Township is thrilled to see the pavilions are getting reserved regularly, with the great summer weather here. Enjoy the park at 3300 W Parnall Road.



**Utility Department:** Delinquent bills not paid by August 31<sup>st</sup> will be placed on the Winter Tax Statement. The cost for a single-family resident is \$45.00 per quarter or \$180.00 annually.

Due dates for paying sewer bills are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter – March 16, 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter – June 15, 2021
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter – September 15, 2021	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter – December 15, 2021

**Assessing Department:** The Board of Review will meet on July 20, 2021 for correction of clerical errors. Please remember that applications for Disabled Veteran's Exemptions must be filed each year. Hardship Exemptions previously granted for 2019 or 2020 will automatically receive a form to complete for 2022 and 2023. New applicants must file for current year. The Assessing Department is conducting field inspections of property in Blackman Township. These field inspections are required by the State of Michigan; however due to COVID-19, no personal contact will be made. All inspections will be done by roadside, curbside, or entry to driveway. Personnel will be driving a vehicle with the Township emblem on the side and will be taking photos. Letters will be sent to property owners of those parcels intended to be visited. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2021 is 1.4% or, expressed as a multiplier, is 1.014. This number is utilized to produce your 2021 taxable value. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Township at (517) 788-4345.