



Blackman Township Winter Newsletter 2020

Township Supervisor: As the cold weather and holidays approach we would like to remind everyone to make sure that your sidewalks are kept clean of snow and ice. It is important to follow the Township Ordinance also known as "Sidewalk Cleaning Ordinance" the purpose of this ordinance is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare for the residents of Blackman Charter Township by keeping sidewalks clean from ice and snow. There is a 24-hour time frame to comply with this Ordinance.



Blackman Township would like to give a warm welcome to our new Administrative Assistant, Kathy Wiggins. Kathy has been married for over 20 years to Mike Wiggins, they have four children and one grandson. Kathy graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and comes to us from Consumers Energy where she worked in the ASP department. Kathy is delighted to be joining the Blackman Twp. team.



Blackman Township also would like to give a warm welcome to Katie Arntz as the new Deputy Clerk. Katie graduated from Northwest High School in 2016 and is a recent graduate from Western Michigan University. She has been working with Blackman Township as an election worker since 2016. Since June 2020, she has been working in the Clerk's Office as our Election's Coordinator for the August and November elections. Katie looks forward to helping more Blackman residents have their votes count in future elections.

Public Safety: Blackman Township is happy to announce that they have received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant will be used to replace the firefighting self-contained breathing apparatuses. The current units we have are over 20 years old and parts for these units are really a problem to find. The grant will replace 43 of the old units at a cost of \$7,500 per unit with a total price of \$322,500. Per grant requirements, Blackman Township will be paying 10% of the costs, so we will receive \$322,500 in equipment for \$32,250. We are happy to provide our public safety officers with the most up to date equipment. This will make their jobs safer and save the community a significant amount of tax dollars.

Michael L. Jester
Director of Public Safety



Device worn to provide breathable air in an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life or health.

Clerk's Office: We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our election workers and office staff for their help with the November General Election. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated, and we could not have done it without you. We would also like to acknowledge James and Judith Schneider, who have been working elections with us for 21 years. Thank you for contributing your time and efforts over the past years.

A special thank you to Bethel Church and Rivertree Community Church for being wonderful hosts for our polling locations and their gracious hospitality. Thank you to Marino's Pizza for providing our workers with delicious dinners as well.

Lastly, we want to thank our Blackman-Leoni Public Safety Officers Alexander Norris, Britanee Owen, and Rachel Doxtader for monitoring the polling locations and keeping our residents and workers safe on Election Day.

If you are interested in becoming a poll worker in upcoming future elections, please contact Clerk Shelly Sercombe at ssercombe@blackmantwp.com for an application.

Volunteers: Volunteering in your community is a self-rewarding experience. Blackman Township would like to give a big thank you to the Boy/Cub Scouts Pack 339, Sexton Rob Wells and all others that took their time cleaning and trimming trees at the Fifield Cemetery. Blackman Township would also like to give a big Thank You to Beck's Flowers for taking a van full of pine branches to be made into swags, wreaths, and garland.



Property Taxes: As the winter season slowly creeps in, so do the winter taxes. Many of you may not be aware of this, but you are able to make payments on your taxes until the final due date, **February 16, 2021**. If they are paid by **February 16, 2021**, there will be no penalties attached to the amount owed. Summer and winter taxes will be turned over to the **Jackson County Treasurers Office on March 2, 2021** 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

Parks & Recreation: Rod Mills Park. Due to COVID-19 we had a slow start to the season but have had a strong finish. The DNR Trust Fund Grant is on schedule to install 4 additional pieces of equipment at the playground area, *and* extend ADA walkways to connect between all pavilions, the playground area, and the bathrooms. Installation is targeted for summer of 2021 with the total costs of about \$100,000, split 50/50 with the DNR.

Two Additional Grants have been applied for, one for trail improvements at the park and the other for Canary Lane access to the Grand River are in the works. We will learn the status of these grant applications by the end of the year. Each of these grants is a 50/50 match with the DNR, and each has a total cost of under \$100,000. Blackman's contribution comes from the .25 millage passed by the residents in 2017. **If you walk your pet in the park, or in neighborhoods, please have them on a leash and pick up after them.** A large dog run is now available at Rod Mills Park for your best friends use. Enjoy the park.

Utility Department: Delinquent bills not paid by August 31st 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 st Quarter - March 16, 2021	2 nd Quarter - June 15, 2021
3 rd Quarter - September 14, 2021	4 th Quarter - December 14, 2021

Assessing Department: Important dates to remember:

December 15, 2020	Board of Review meets for correction of clerical errors
December 31, 2020	Deadline to file Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption
	Deadline to file application for Hardship Exemption
February 22, 2021	Deadline to file Personal Property Statement (L-4175) or Small Business Property Tax Exemption (5076)
March 8 & 9, 2021	Board of Review meets (call for appointment)
June 1, 2021	Deadline to file Principal Residence Exemption

Holiday Closings:

- Christmas Eve, December 24th
- Christmas Day, December 25th
- New Year's Day, January 1st

Due to COVID-19, the township lobby is closed. The drive-thru window on the east side will remain open for business.

Have A Wonderful Holiday Season!