



Blackman Township Winter Newsletter 2023

Township Supervisor: The Township is in the process of purchasing two pieces of property located adjacent to the Township Offices, the old B & H machine shop and Marino's Pizza with the fields behind them. Marino's has been for sale for some time and the Township wanted to assure how the property would benefit the residents of the township for the future. This property expansion adjacent to the township offices creates many opportunities that are important to the residents of the township for the future.

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.



Public Safety: At the beginning of the year, our Director of Public Safety, Michael Jester, retired after 29 years of service and dedication to our department. Our department and the rest of the township would like to wish him the best of luck with all his future endeavors. Do you know of anyone between the ages of 14-20yrs old interested in law enforcement, fire, or EMS? Blackman-Leoni Department of Public Safety now has an Explorer Program. The Explorer Program allows individuals to gain hands-on experience from our Public Safety Officers. Please contact Sergeant Prus at jprus@blackmantwp.com for more information.



Clerk's Office: We will be having a May (2023) election this year for school millage renewals. If you have moved since the November 2022 election, please make sure your voter record is updated with your current information before May. Stay tuned for coming details of the May Election!



Food Truck Permits - A friendly reminder that if you own or operate a Food Truck, it is time to renew your permits to work in events in Blackman Township. The ordinance (Chapter 55, Part 5, Article VIII) was passed in 2021 for Food Trucks operating in Blackman Township. Effective 2022, Food Trucks must be registered with the Township and have the approved license posted at the point of operation. In addition, Food Trucks covered under this ordinance will be required to pay an annual fee of \$250 to operate within the township. Licenses, applications, and copies of this ordinance are available in the Clerk's office.

Property Taxes: Blackman Township will continue to collect delinquent **personal** property taxes after the due date of March 1, 2023. Tax Parcel numbers starting with #801 are property considered on leased land which includes decks, sheds and this includes trailer parks, airport hangers and signs etc. Parcel numbers starting with #900 personal property includes furniture fixtures, equipment and machinery used in the operation of a business. Jackson County will be collecting the delinquent **real** property taxes (tax # starting with 000).

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: The fields behind the township hall will allow us to ensure the R.U.S.H. soccer leagues can continue using this space to play. We look forward to having the open land in a great, centralized location for endless possibilities in the future.



Utility Department:

BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT

Effective April 1, 2023, the Township will be raising the sewer rates by \$7.00 per month. This will bring the quarterly cost to \$66.00 a quarter for residents and will be equivalent percentage for businesses.

The Township reviewed the five-year history of revenue and expenses for operation and maintenance of the sewer system. The last time Blackman Township raised sewer rates was in 2007, when the rate was raised from \$9.00 a month to \$15.00 a month to cover the actual cost of the operation and maintenance fees. Blackman has remained well below other municipalities in the county. Operation and maintenance fees have risen as we all have seen since 2007. Sewer system maintenance requires special equipment which has driven the costs further. The adjustment remains one of the lowest in the county and will continue to maintain the excellent performance and maintenance on the sewer system.

Blackman is also looking into changing our Credit Card provider from Magic Writer to Point and Pay. We use Point and Pay for our taxes which will reduce processing time and fees to our customers. For residents who pay their sewer online, you will need to make a new account once it is in effect. Switching to this program will give residents the option to pay with credit/debit card online or in person. We will keep you updated on this transition.

Delinquent bills not paid by August 31st will be placed on the Winter Tax Statement. The cost for a single-family resident is \$66.00 per quarter or \$264.00 annually.

Due dates for paying sewer bills are as follows:

1st Quarter – March 15, 2023

2nd Quarter – June 15, 2023

3rd Quarter – September 15, 2023

4th Quarter – December 15, 2023

Assessing Department: The 2023 Inflation Rate Multiplier (shown as a multiplier) is 1.05, which is a 5.0% increase in taxable value. If you would like to learn more about how the inflation rate multiplier was calculated, please refer to the Michigan Department of Treasury's bulletin 17 of 2022 dated November 15, 2022.

By statute, taxable value uncapping occurs the year following a transfer of ownership. The assessor is required to set the property's taxable value at 50% of the property's true cash value (i.e. the state equalized value). To see if your property was uncapped due to a transfer of ownership, look at the enclosed Notice of Assessment, line 5. If it says WAS, then there was a taxable value uncapping for 2023.

The amount your tax bill is expected to increase/decrease for this year based on the change in taxable value is noted on the enclosed Notice of Assessment in the box directly above line 1.

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 2023 March Board of Review are as follows:

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

Tuesday, March 14 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Appointments are preferred. Please call 517-788-4345

THINK SPRING!

