



Paradise Township
Looking Towards the Future

2300 E M-113
Kingsley, MI 49649
231-263-5251
Fax 231-263-7437
Office Hours
CLOSED MONDAY
Tue-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm
www.paradisetwp.org

From the Supervisor

Our first year of running a full time Emergency Services department has been a successful one. The crew was far busier than we anticipated - handling over 500 calls in our first 12 months, all the while providing a less than 7-minute response time to your doorstep anywhere in our township. With the Blair management team leading the way, Paradise Emergency Services also achieved an ISO rating of a 3 if you live within the Village limits, and a 6 if you live within 5 miles of the station. ISO is an insurance company rating for how well your community is protected where 1 is the best and 10 being the worst. Please contact your homeowners insurance company and let them know of this change; it may help lower your premium.

The office has received an increased number of complaints about blight and junk accumulating around the township. In response to this, our Zoning Administrator has been sending certified letters, following up with polite phone calls in a persistent effort to help bring residents into compliance with our junk ordinance. The township works hard to respect a landowner's rights to do what they choose with their land, while also looking out for the neighbor's property values. The last resort will be to issue civil infractions and let our court system take over. This will be our policy going forward.

We have some good news about the annual township cleanup day- **Kingsley High School** has made their main parking lot available to the township on Saturday, September 14th from 8am-12pm. The extra elbow room will allow for faster unloading, more garbage trucks, and a smoother process. It should also allow plenty of time for multiple trips back home to help clean up our township! Please see the township website for a complete listing of what will and won't be accepted.

TOWNSHIP STAFF

- Supervisor**
Rob Lajko
- Clerk's Office**
Lisa K. Gulliver, Clerk
Stephanie Lathrop, Deputy
- Treasurer's Office**
Margaret Lajko-Lee, Treasurer
William J. King, Deputy
- Trustees**
Carol Stocking, Trustee
Jeff Joppich, Trustee
- Assessor**
Dawn Kuhns
- Zoning Administrator**
Roger Williams, AICP
- Office Assistant**
Patricia Kitchin
- Evergreen Cemetery Sexton**
Patricia Kitchin

From the Clerk



Changes to the election process since Proposal 3 passed in 2018.

With the passing of Proposal 3 in 2018 many changes have come to the election process.

One of the biggest changes is the ability to receive an Absent Voter Ballot without a reason. This means you can request an Absent Voter Ballot for any election and you can also request to be on the **Permanent Absent Voter list**, which means you will receive an application for a ballot for every election. Simply return the signed application and you will be sent a ballot for that election.

Another big change is the fact that you will automatically be registered when applying for, updating or renewing a driver's license or state issued personal identification card, unless you decline. The 30 day deadline to register has also been removed, you can now register to vote up to and including election day. We would like you to not wait until Election Day as the process of voting will run more smoothly if you are already registered, but if you forget to register before election day you will just need to register with the Township Clerk before going to the Polls.

For more information on upcoming elections see the clerk's page on our website at www.paradisetwp.org.

If you are interested in being an election inspector for the upcoming elections in 2020, please contact the clerk to be scheduled for inspector training.

- Community Police Officer**
Deputy Jeff Wallace
Non-Emergency Phone:
(231) 649-1233
- Paradise Emergency Services**
2266 E M-113
Kingsley, MI 49649
Non-Emergency Phone:
(During business hours only)
231-263-4002
Fax 231-263-0146

Community Information

- Township Cleanup Day**
NEW LOCATION!
 September 14, 2019,
8:00am-12:00pm. At
Kingsley High School,
 7475 Kingsley Rd. **NO**
 hazardous materials will
 be accepted.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

 APPOINTMENTS ARE
 REQUIRED.
 231-941-5555 or
www.recyclesmart.info

From the Treasurer

Tax bills are generally sent out the first week of July for the Summer billing cycle. If you do not receive a bill by July 15th, or if your name or address needs to be changed please contact our office so we may update our records. **Summer bills are due by September 17, 2019.** Winter bills are generally sent out the first week of December. You should receive your bill by December 15th. If you do not get one, please call us. **Winter bills are due by February 14, 2020.** The Treasurer's page on our website has a FAQ link with more information on property taxes. Please be sure you have your current mailing address on record.

***** Failure to receive a bill does not relieve you from the liability of payment *****

You can pay your bill using any of the following methods: In person at our office, in our secure drop box after hours, by mail, by phone or on our website. (phone and website are subject to service fees). See the back of your bill for instructions. We accept cash, checks, credit/debit cards (3% service fee) and also e-checks (\$3.00 service fee). If you would like a receipt sent to you, please include a **self-addressed stamped envelope**. We cannot mail a receipt without one. You can also call our office to request an email receipt. Read the back of your bill for more information.

Kingsley Heritage Days August 24 & 25
 2019. For more information visit their website at:
www.kingsleyheritagedays.com

Kingsley Market
 Every Wednesday starting
 June 12 through September 25 from 2:00-7:00pm
 Like our Facebook page!

Paradise Township offers a Notary Public on staff at no charge as a service for our residents.



Paradise Emergency Services



PES is now over 1 year of service to our area. We are getting to know the folks in the township. Beyond our regular duties, we have been very active in the community, appearing at Kingsley District Library activities, Kingsley School events, Mayfield Pond Park Cleanup Day and others. We enjoy getting out and meeting everyone!

We may still have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms available at the station. It is important that every home has working alarms for your safety. If you need one, please call us and if possible we will come and install it for you.

We received an ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating of 3 in the Village of Kingsley and a 6 within 5 miles of the station. This is a very good rating. There are 43,000 Fire Departments in the United States and only 12% get a rating of 3. You can reach out to your insurance company about a possible lower rate. Please see the Paradise Township website on the Departments/Paradise Emergency Services page for more information on this rating, and a link to a letter you can print for your insurance company.

The Pancake Breakfast was a great event. We enjoyed seeing everyone, and had some delicious food. Thank you to all our sponsors who helped to make this successful. We appreciate your support!

From the Assessor

Principal Residence Exemption: Although the Principal Residence Exemption does not affect the summer tax, please review the status on your bill. If you own and occupy your home, or vacant and contiguous property, you are entitled to the exemption. This exempts you from the 18 mills of school operating tax on the winter tax bill. If your tax bill shows a 0% exemption for the Homestead (PRE/MBT) and you believe you are entitled to the exemption, contact Dawn Kuhns, Assessor at 231-409-1827 or call the Township office.

Veteran's Exemption: If The Veterans Administration has determined a veteran to be totally and permanently disabled or unemployable, then they are eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes on their Principal Residence. A letter of proof of such determination from the Veteran's Administration along with the State Tax Commission Disabled Veterans Exemption Affidavit are required for approval.

Business Owners: Please be aware that Form 5076 (Affidavit to Claim Small Business Tax Exemption) MUST be filed by February 10th of EACH year. For businesses that have less than \$80,000 of personal property and complete Form 5076 there will be no personal property tax for that business for that year.

However, the State Tax Commission is not granting any forgiveness on the submittal date. If the business either does not qualify or does not return the form then there is a personal property tax assessed for that year.

2019 Community Survey Results

If you participated in the Community Survey that was mailed out over the winter of 2018, thank you for your input. The Planning Commission is pleased to have some current feedback for future planning. Below is a summary of some of the questions and responses. Results will continue to be analyzed and reviewed at future visioning/study sessions starting in the fall. Please plan to join us for these important sessions.



441 Surveys were completed and returned.

31% of respondents live in Southeast Paradise Township (quadrant e)

64% of respondents have lived in Paradise Township for 11 years or more

80% of respondents have no children living at home

Residents like most about living in Paradise Township:

- Proximity to Traverse City (73%)
- Rural Character (71%)
- Quality of Schools (49%)

Residents most dislike about living in Paradise Township:

- Lack of Restaurants (65%)
- Lack of Retail Stores (31%)
- Lack of Jobs (29%)

Residents would like to see more of in Paradise Township:

- Restaurants (66%)
- Preservation of Rural Character (48%)
- Recreation Trails/Parks (35%)
- Employment Opportunities (manufacturing/industrial) (29%)

67% would **NOT** support the reduction of the 2.5 acre requirement in agricultural zoned areas.

Respondents believe commercial development should be concentrated in:

- Village of Kingsley (61%)
- Northwest Paradise Township (quadrant b) (24%)

Most mentioned additional comments:

- Please keep Kingsley/Paradise Township small and rural
- Lack of natural gas
- Lack of high speed internet providers
- Lack of trash ordinance enforcement/ junk in yards
- Property taxes are too high
- Thank you for sending out the survey



On our Website

Our website, www.paradisetwp.org, is full of useful information and resources that you may need such as:

- ~ Hours of operation, contact information and e-mail links for Township Board members and staff
- ~ Meeting schedules, minutes and audio for the Township Board, Planning Commission and ZBA
- ~ Mayfield Pond Park rental application and a current pavilion reservation availability calendar
- ~ Township Zoning Ordinance and zoning maps, links to print zoning forms and applications
- ~ Information for Evergreen Cemetery including the Cemetery Ordinance and a map of plots.
- ~ Election information, Tax information, pay your tax bill, employment and bid opportunities
- ~ Links to other municipalities, Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Emergency information.

MAYFIELD POND PARK

On our website, paradisetwp.org, you can view the most up-to-date calendar showing the pavilion rental availability and to print a reservation application. You can also stop in to pick one up. The fee is \$25.00 to reserve the pavilion with a \$25.00 deposit that is returned after an inspection. (\$50.00 total)

Clean-up Day, May 12, was a productive and fun event. Our group of volunteers

braved the chilly morning and helped clear the overlook trail and paint benches and picnic tables. Pizza from the **Mayfield Country Store** was served to all who lent a hand. Thank you to **Kingsley High School's Environmental Science class** along with the **Kingsley Sportsman's Club** for sending out volunteers to give their time. The park is now spruced up and ready for visitors during the summer season.



Please assist us in keeping the area as beautiful as possible by picking up and disposing of any trash properly.



We also ask that you please remember to pick up after your pet.

This park is truly a treasure that we can all take pride in and help keep it in the best condition possible. Your help is necessary to ensure that we may all enjoy the area and all it has to offer. Please call the township if you notice anything of concern. Thank you!



MEETING SCHEDULES

Township Board: Regular Board Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission: Regular meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Scheduled as needed.

Board of Review: Scheduled in March to appeal evaluations and classifications. Scheduled in July for clerical errors and mutual mistake of fact. Scheduled in December for clerical errors and mutual mistake of fact. Check the website or call the office for dates/times.

****ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE.**

SPECIAL MEETINGS (OTHER THAN DATES & TIMES LISTED) ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AND ON THE DOOR 18 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING, PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.