



12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
269-731-4888
www.ross-township.us

The Clerk's Corner

Remember to vote on May 2nd, 2017

To be eligible to vote you must be all of the following:

- A U. S. Citizen
- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- A resident of the Township for at least 30 days



You can request an Absent Voter Ballot Application at the Township Office or by printing a copy from our website www.ross-township.us under the Election tab. The Township maintains a permanent Absent Voter list which allows voters who are 60 years of age or older, or unable to vote without assistance, to receive an Absent Voter Application for each election. If you wish to be placed on the list, please contact the Township Clerk (269)731-4888. You may also verify your voter registration at www.michigan.gov/sos. Voter Registration Applications are available by contacting the Ross Township Office.

Lastly, I would like to welcome a new member to the Ross Township Team, Norm Kellogg joined the staff as Deputy Clerk in the Fall of 2016 and has stepped right into helping with the Clerk duties and other items around the Township.

Monica Markillie, Clerk

From the Treasurer's Desk

This past October I became gravely ill and was out of work for over a month. Gene McKay, a longtime Ross Township Resident, was hired as the Temporary Treasurer to fulfill the required duties in my absence. Gene was able to handle the position with help and guidance from the Richland Township Treasurer, Marsha Drouin. When I returned to work, everything was under control and the Township did not miss a beat. Gene will stay on with the Township as the Deputy Treasurer. I would like to recognize Gene McKay and thank him for helping the Township and myself through a difficult time.

THANKS, Gene. Job well done!!

Syndee Genung,
Treasurer



Summer Taxes Mailed - July 1st, 2017
Summer Taxes Due – September 14th, 2017

12086 M-89
RICHLAND, MI 49083

ROSS TOWNSHIP



From The Supervisor's Desk The Roads of Ross Township

As the weather changes the condition of our roads in Ross Township become a topic of conversation and decision making for your Township Board. Ross Township has approximately fifty miles of local roads which the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is limited in funding road construction projects.

- Ross Township receives approximately \$65,000 from RCKC to put towards our local road construction projects annually.
- The Township can only receive this money if it provides a dollar for dollar match from our General Fund.
- The Township has approximately \$130,000 per year for local road construction projects.
- Presently, over twenty miles of these "local" roads in Ross Township are what the RCKC would consider in "poor" condition.
- The cost to reconstruct a mile of "poor" or "failed" road is approximately \$200,000 per mile.

So where does the money come from and what is the answer to fixing our local roads in Ross Township? Unfortunately, there is no answer other than the Residents of our Township. Across the State of Michigan this effort to rebuild and sustain the local road infrastructure has come from residents of Townships as a long term investment. This investment may come from special assessments, local millage, private sources or how we have in the past, from the Township General Fund. Roughly \$4 million is needed today for these "poor" local roads, which does not include the repairs of the other thirty miles of local roads in "good" and "fair" condition. Additional information on the condition of all roads in Ross Township can be found at the RCKC website Road Data page.

In the Summer of 2016, the Township formed a citizen's Road Committee to look at options for funding the repair of local roads. In December of 2016, the Road Committee recommended to the Township Board to establish a Township wide Special Assessment on each individual parcel owned in Ross Township to raise the money necessary to bring all the local roads in our Township back to "good" condition. This recommendation is currently under consideration by the Township Board and is being supported by the Ross-Augusta Fire Department, Gull Lake Community Schools, and LifeCare Ambulance. This funding approach is similar to what other surrounding Townships (Bedford (Calhoun County) Kalamazoo, Alamo, and Texas) have undertaken to invest in local road improvements in their Townships.

The Township Board will continue to discuss, solicit input from Residents, and "crunch" the numbers in order to determine a plan to improve the local road network. The Township is open to feedback and will communicate the status of the roads initiative as much as reasonably possible. We will be scheduling some Town Hall Meetings in the near future to present our findings and plan for the future of our roads. Please check our website www.ross-township.us, follow us on Facebook, or sign up for the Township email to keep up to date on the latest.

Paul Dykstra - Supervisor

Jonathan King - Eagle Scout Project

Hello, I'm Jonathan King from Boy Scout Troop 239 Augusta, MI. I am 14 years old and a Freshman at Gull Lake High School. My Eagle Project consists of creating a Veterans Memorial to commemorate all of the past, present, and future veterans of Ross Township at the new Township Office and Fire Station.

The plan is to install five flag poles, one for each branch of the military, a couple of benches, and a plaque. This is important to me because there was a man, Captain Daniel Wilson, from Yorkville who fought in the Revolutionary War. He was buried at Yorkville cemetery, and he was commemorated during the Summer of 2016 but hardly anybody knew about it. This is why I want to make this Veterans Memorial to honor and recognize all veterans from our Township. Ross Township has never had one and there are many veterans and Residents who will appreciate it.

If you would like to contribute funds to help me complete this project please drop them off at the Ross Township Office or mail them to Ross Township, 12086 M-89, Richland, MI 49083 marked with Eagle Project, they will be greatly appreciated.



Racing in Ross Township

The Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center is again hosting two amateur athletic events for members and the general public this year. On Sunday, May 21, the Y is hosting the Kids ROAR (rogue obstacle adventure race). There are short and long courses for younger and older participants. There are a variety of obstacles and mud pits for them to navigate along the way. Full information is at www.kidsroarymca.org.

Then on Saturday, August 5th, the Y hosts the 15th anniversary Shermanator Triathlon. The event is widely recognized as one of the best sprint distance multisport events in the region. Distances are 500 yard swim, 10 mile bike, 5K run. The event also offers a triathlon relay division, duathlon (run-bike-run), and aquabike (swim-run).

It attracts a full range of brand new triathletes, to many of the fastest triathletes in the Midwest. **Full details and registration are at www.shermanatortri.org**

On Saturday, June 24, Spirit Racing LLC is again hosting the annual Gull Lake Triathlon at the Township's Ross Township Park. This year the event will focus on sprint distance only. Like the Shermanator, the Gull Lake Triathlon has a long history of attracting a wide range of multisport athletes. The sprint course involves a 500 yard swim, 10 mile bike, and a 5 K run. The Gull Lake event also offers alternate distance divisions like the Shermanator. This event was revived after a period of inactivity. The original event was among the first in the state. **Registration and complete details are at www.gulllaketriathlon.com**

Ross Township Park Opening Saturday April 29th 2017!

Spring is right around the corner and Ross Township Park will be opening on Saturday April 29th 2017. The Park will be open from 9:00am until dusk each day through Sunday October 1st. The public restrooms will be open from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. **Please note there will be changes to the admission fees beginning this Spring with the opening of the Park.** The Township has not increased the admission fees the past ten years and it has become necessary due to increase costs for maintenance, employees, etc.

Park Admission

- Annual Sticker - \$20 for Ross Township Resident (\$40 for non-Township Resident)
- All Day Pass (w in/out privileges) - \$5 Ross Township Resident (\$10 for non-Township Resident)

Annual Stickers may be purchased prior to the Park opening or anytime throughout the season by visiting the Ross Township Office or by mailing a check with a request for an Annual Pass 2017 to: Ross Township, 12086 M-89, Richland, MI 49083 attn: Park Annual Sticker. You must have an Annual Sticker, Daily Pass, or a Park Pay Envelope stub displayed in/on your vehicle to enter the Park.

Please remember when visiting Ross Township Park:

- No lifeguard on duty – swim at your own risk
- No pets
- No alcohol
- No boat trailers, tents, or house trailers
- No open fires (Park grill use only)

Please Clean Up After Yourself

Meeting Dates



TOWNSHIP BOARD

7pm

- April 11th
- May 9th
- June 13th
- July 11th
- August 8th
- September 12th
- October 10th

PLANNING COMMISSION

7pm

- April 24th
- May 22nd
- June 26th
- July 24th
- August 21st
- September 25th
- October 23rd

ZBA

5:30pm

Meets as necessary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 29 Park Opens
- May 2 Election
- May 21 Kids ROAR Race (YMCA)
- June 24 Gull Lake Triathlon at Ross Township Park
- July 1 Summer Taxes Mailed
- Aug. 5 Shermanator Triathlon (YMCA)
- Aug. 19 Car Show (Downtown Augusta Village)
- Sept. 14 Summer Taxes Due
- Sept. 30 Park Closes
- Oct. 28 Haunted House (Ross Township Fire Station)
- Dec. 1 2017 Winter Taxes Mailed

LIBRARY HOURS:

- Monday & Tuesday 9am-5pm
- Wednesday 10am-7pm
- Thursday & Friday 10am-5pm
- Saturday 10am-2pm
- Closed Sunday
- (269) 731-4000

Seasonal Employment Opportunities at Ross Township Park

Now Hiring Park Attendants for 2017

Have you ever wanted to hang-out at the lake all day and get paid? Ross Township is looking for fun and energetic individuals to work as Park Attendants this Summer. Park Attendants will begin working Memorial Day Weekend and work through Labor Day Weekend. Park Attendants will have part-time flexible schedules, collect entrance fees, monitor guests at the park, and provide general clean-up and light maintenance activities.

QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS:

- Must be at least sixteen (16) years of age. Fifteen (15) with a work permit is acceptable.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Must be Friendly, Outgoing, Organized, and Energetic.

Ross Township is located on beautiful Gull Lake (3800 East Gull Lake Drive). If you or someone you know is interested in applying please stop by the Ross Township Office (12086 M-89, Richland, MI 49083) to fill out an application. You may also print a copy of the application from the Township website (www.ross-township.us/employment), complete and email to paul@rosstown.comcastbiz.net

Augusta McKay-Dole Library Your Library In Ross Township

A little history ...

In 1876, a group of twenty four women in Augusta, Michigan, got together and decided to share their love of reading with their community. From its humble beginnings in a house on Canal Street, Augusta's public library has grown from a mere 140 books into a collection of over 128,000 items. Its current building, which sits in the village park, was the generous gift of Mr. George C. McKay in honor of his wife, Mrs. Ella Dole-McKay, in 1967.

The library's collection includes fiction and non-fiction for all ages, audio books, large print materials, magazines, CDs, movies and ebooks available for download. The library also houses a local genealogical collection and has four public computer terminals. Check out our services page for all we can do for you. We are a small library, but we have a lot to offer!

If you reside in the Village of Augusta, Ross Township or in the Gull Lake School District within Bedford Township, the McKay-Dole Library is your home library! Membership is free and only requires that you show a driver's license and proof of residence. Come visit soon... a trip to the library is exercise for the body, medicine for the mind, and food for the soul!

Check out the web site for a calendar of events: www.mckaylibrary.org

Ross-Augusta Fire Dept.

On Call 24 hrs. / day

EMERGENCY -911

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept.

269-383-8821

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Register of Deeds:
269-383-8970

Treasurer:
269-384-8124

Road Commission:
269-381-3170

Household Hazardous Waste: 269-373-5211

Associated Government Services

8721 Gull Rd. Suite B,
Richland MI 49083

269-629-0600

Monday - Friday

8:00am - Noon

1:30pm - 4:30pm



Gull Lake Sewer & Water:
269-731-4595