

Treasury Department

Pamela Esterline Beck, Treasurer
 Brenda Paul, Deputy Treasurer
 Hours: Monday *and* Thursday
 9am-5pm

The 2016 Summer Tax Due Date is Wednesday, September 14th. The Treasury Office will be open that day. Payments must reach the office by 5:00 pm to avoid applied interest. Postmarks are not accepted as payment date. Receipts mailed only with written request.

Tax Notices will be mailed to the last known address on record. Taxpayers must keep the township updated on name/address changes and/or corrections. Failure to receive a notice does not negate the responsibility for payment. For additional Treasury information, visit www.somerset township.org.

Thank you...

It has been an honor to serve the residents of Somerset Township as your Elected Treasurer for the past 12 years. I enjoy the duties of the Treasurer's position and have taken the responsibilities of the office seriously. I have a passion for public service. Loving America and community has always been a natural instinct that was encouraged. To use one's accumulated education, experience, and skills to improve something for others is a worthwhile profession.

Somerset Township has received clean, accurate audits every year. Our accounts are reconciled monthly and a report is presented as a public record to account for all funds - revenues, expenditures, tax collections, and fund balances. Investments are managed within a conservative, diversified portfolio to produce a healthy return. Collection of delinquent personal property taxes is conducted with due diligence.

I am stepping forward as a candidate for Hillsdale County Treasurer because I believe I can make a difference. I want to be able to provide that same quality of service to all residents of Hillsdale County.

Fire & Rescue

Scott A. Friess
 Fire Chief/EMT

Fred Newton Jr.
 Asst. Chief/EMT

A little note with the Fourth of July coming up just to remind everyone that since fireworks are now legal, remember to be safe in the use of fireworks. I also want to remind everyone in case you haven't heard as of December 1, 2015 our ISO rating has dropped to an 8B so make sure you contact your insurance companies. With the elections coming up please look into each candidate to make your decision so that we can continue to provide you with the service we do. We would like to thank everyone that has donated to our fundraisers that we put on, every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

Assessing Office

James Bradley, Somerset Township Assessor
Hours: Monday 9 to 12 and 1 to 5
Tuesday & Wednesday 9 to 12 noon

On the Assessors web page there is a great tool that gives you an idea ahead of time and will estimate your property taxes. Just click on the [Property Tax Estimator](#) link at the very bottom of the Assessing Department web page and follow the steps. Forms for Homeowners Principal Residence Exemptions and Property Transfer Affidavits are also available through links on the bottom of that page.

The Assessing Department will be conducting an inspection of properties throughout the township during the 2016 year as part of the standard Assessing Administration process mandated by the State of Michigan. These visits will not necessarily increase your tax bill unless new structures or additions are discovered; usually caused by not obtaining proper permits. Some improvements may not require permits, however may still add value to your property, therefore requiring this update process for the township to remain in compliance with State Tax Commission guidelines.

If you are in need of dividing or combining properties, contact Assessor Jim Bradley at (517) 688-9223 ext. 216.

Library

Barb Nemeth

Summer's That time of year to relax & unplug with a good book. New arrivals are listed on our webpage @ somerset township.org. Go to %**Services**+then click on "**Library**".

Mark your calendars! The Annual Book Sale will be September 21st & 22nd (9-12 and 1-5) and September 23rd (9-12). Be sure to stop in and browse our great selection of books for sale at hard to pass up prices. Used book donations (2006 +) and audio books on CDs in good/clean condition are accepted. Due to limited space availability I cannot accept Encyclopedias or Text Books. Donations may be dropped off at the library. Hours are: 9:00 . 12:00 and 1:00 . 5:00 Monday through Thursday, Friday 9:00 . 12:00.

Please continue to update your address and phone number when you borrow library materials. I greatly appreciate when you place books in a plastic bag when they are returned in the outside blue book box. Thank you for including any late fees due.

We welcome Connie Wetherby back this summer. She will read stories for children ages 4-8 at the library during the summer break. Parents must remain with their child during this time. Dates and time will be confirmed in the near future. Enjoy a Fun and Safe summer. ☺Barb

Police Department

Chief

Eric Stolberg

STPD would like to take this opportunity to help you have a safe and fun summer. As we know, summertime brings warmer weather and longer daylight hours. This also means more time outside with friends and family. Please be aware of kids and adults riding bicycles, walking and playing outdoors. We all know that sometimes kids and dogs chase after loose balls so please follow the speed limit and avoid use of your phone when possible. Definitely no texting and driving! With that said, keep in mind that passing on the right, even though an intersection is illegal and dangerous. STPD does issue citations for this and can be a 3 point violation.

Other important reminders include being mindful of your neighbors. While we like to relax and celebrate, not all neighbors are on the same schedule so we ask that you keep the noise to a respectable level. This includes the use of fireworks. Fireworks cannot be used in parks or other public party. Make sure to stand away after lighting them and please do not try to relight them if they do not go off. Spray it down with a hose before retrieving them and discard them in a water bucket.

Our goal is to keep you safe 24/7. Help us by not offering temptations for others to commit unlawful activities such as larcenies. Please keep your home, garages, sheds and vehicles locked. Also do not leave any valuable items in plain view in your car or on your boats. If you see anything or anyone suspicious please call 911.

Remember to have your life jackets when out on the water. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact STPD. We can be reached at (517) 688-9223 or by email at STPD@somerset township.org. We look forward to the summer and helping you enjoy this time.

Hope to see many of you at the fireworks scheduled for July 3rd.

Clerk's Corner:

Deborah Spicer, Clerk

Janet Binder, Deputy Clerk

2016 has been and will continue to be a very busy election year. We made it through the March 8th Presidential Primary and are now gearing up for the August 2nd Primary Election and the November 8th General Presidential Election where not only will the Presidential race be decided but also county and local offices will be elected for a 4 year term. I can't stress how important it is to cast your vote in both the August 2nd and November 8th Elections. We have 2 candidates running for Supervisor, Tim Shufflin and Scott Burns as well as 2 candidates running for Treasurer, Kathy Farnsworth and Michelle Gramm. There are 3 candidates running for the Clerk's office which include Michael Bohnet, Bert Lawrence and James (Dave) Gould. There are 4

candidates for 2 Trustee positions: Aaron VanWyck, Steve Meckley, Robert Conn and Tim Shaw. So as you can see, depending on who gets elected, there could be a whole new Somerset Township Board of Trustees. All board members positions will be decided at the August 2nd election except the Clerk's position as every candidate is running on the Republican ticket except James (Dave) Gould who is running for the Clerk's position on the Democratic ticket.

And as usual, Somerset Township is always looking for new faces and helping hands with many different areas within the township including elections. I am always looking for new election inspectors and if you are interested, please contact my office. The county will be offering training for certification for new and seasoned inspectors during the month of July. So if you are interested, please contact my office and we will be happy to get you set up.

As you may have heard and can see by who is running for office, I have decided, after 20 years as serving as your Clerk, to retire. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve you these past 20 years and I will greatly miss being your representative not only locally but in Lansing also. Thank you all for allowing me to serve you as Clerk for Somerset Township.

Parks and Recreation Committee

The Disc Golf course has been a popular addition to McCourtie Park and in mid-May was expanded to 18 holes. This makes the Lady In Blue Disc Golf course the only 18 hole course in Hillsdale county at this time. A group of golfers, the Under 54 Disc Golf Club raised funds to purchase one of the baskets. They volunteered many man hours in clearing the ground for the new holes.

Excavation has started for the volleyball court next to the tennis courts. This will be a sand court and should be completed by July 1st. We will be adding new lines to the center tennis court for Pickle Ball.

Brush has been cleared in the wooded area north of the tennis courts and some wood chips have been laid for an expanded walking path into the woods. The trail starts behind the Sports Complex sign and exits at the back of the woods and joins the previous trail.

Youth ball teams have been on the diamonds at both McCourtie Park and Barnett Field this spring season.

The Parks and Rec committee has received positive feedback about the two aerators that have been installed in the ponds.

Music in the Park returns this summer with three dates scheduled: June 17th, July 3rd and August 19th, 6:00 PM . 9:00 PM.

The Parks and Recreation Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month, in the community room at 7:00PM. The public is always invited.