

Treasury Department

Michelle Gramm, Treasurer
 Brenda Paul, Deputy Treasurer

Hours: Monday *and* Thursday
 9am-5pm (Closed from 12noon-1pm)

The 2018 Winter Tax Due Date is Thursday, February 14, 2019. The Treasury Office will be open that day. Payments must reach my office by 5:00pm; after which additional interest charges may apply. Postmarks are not accepted as payment date.

To accommodate our taxpayers the Treasury Department will be open one Saturday a month from 9am – 12noon during winter tax collection.

Those Saturdays are as follows:

December 29, 2018; January 12, 2019;
 February 9, 2019.

A drop slot is also available during regular Township office hours. The drop slot is located inside the Township building under the Treasurer's window. Payments must be in a sealed envelope with your name and date of drop off noted. Receipts are mailed only when a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

Tax Notices are 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.somersettownship.org.

Library

Barb Nemeth

Thank You Connie Wetherby for a fun summer Story-Time! Dawn's Daycare enjoyed their introduction into the library experience along with other community members. I am grateful Connie could be here once again to read stories and provide crafts for our young readers. Story-time couldn't happen without you, and your helper Allie. Visit the Library webpage @ somersettownship.org for current information.

Somerset Township Library is still accepting book donations. Our clientele prefers Murder Mysteries, Love Stories, Action Adventure, Historical (fiction and non-fiction) Science and Children's Books. However, due to space availability I can only accept books that are 5 years old or younger. I do not accept college books, technical manuals or encyclopedias. Magazines that are 1-2 years old and books on CD's are also appreciated. If you have any questions please call 517-688-9223 or visit our web site at somersettownship.org.

Enjoy your time with family, friends and a book this Holiday season; I look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Fire & Rescue

Scott A. Friess
 Fire Chief/EMT

Edward P. Zysk
 Asst. Chief/EMT

Since our last newsletter the fire department has received two Federal grants, one was for \$64,000 for an exhaust system to remove all harmful carcinogens from starting up the vehicles. The second grant was for \$132,000 for 15 new SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and 30 new bottles that allow us to enter burning structure or vehicle fire.

Any new or current residence if you are transported to the hospital you should not receive a bill from us if you do please contact the fire department to have that taken care of. As bad weather is arriving please remember to give yourself some extra time when going out and about. Please let us know how we may be of assistance to you and thank you again, for your continued support and allowing us to serve this community.

Assessing Office

Assessor - Max Griffin/ MAAO-PPE

**Hours: Monday 10 to 12 and 1 to 4
 Thursday 10 to 12 and 1 to 4**

In July, Somerset Township hired Assessment Administration Services LLC (AAS) to control and maintain their assessing department. Max Griffin has been placed in Somerset Township as assessor of record and will be responsible to maintain the quality of Somerset Township's assessing department. Mr. Griffin and AAS are also contracted with multiple communities around the Somerset Township area and look forward to providing a transparent and fair assessing practice to its residence. The Somerset Township website is a very good resource for information and forms for the resident. If you have any questions please feel to meet Mr. Griffin at the above office hours, by email at assessor@somersettownship.org or by phone at 517-688-9223.

Police Department

Chief

Eric Stolberg

The Police Department has been busy over the summer months with increased criminal and civil complaints compared to past years. We would like to remind residents to be neighborly when celebrating the holidays and to be safe. Also being observant about you neighbors and report anything suspicious or believed to be criminal. We would like to remind you that in Hillsdale County you can and are encouraged to call 911 for non-emergency complaints. The STPD is not a 24/7 police department and if you call the office we may not receive the information as fast as if 911 was called.

With a rise in Identity Fraud and phone scams we would like to give a few reminders. If you

receive a phone call from someone that acts like they are know you, government official, company you do business with, a charity, or a family member that is hard to understand. Do not send money or give personal information to. Don't just believe the caller is who they say they are; technology makes it very easy for scammers to use local phone numbers and numbers you may know. Do not wire money or deposit checks into accounts that promise large amounts of money for a small processing fee.

Phone scammers will offer free money or prizes, they will want you to commit to something right away without reviewing things, they will threaten jail or harm unless money is transferred to pay a fake debt. Please be cautious when anyone asks for money and or personal information. If you happen to fall victim to fraud call your financial institution's fraud department and make a report, contact your local police department, and call one or all three of the credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax).

Clerk's Corner:

Mike Bohnet, Clerk
Janet Binder, Deputy Clerk

The November 6, 2018 General Election votes tabulated in Precincts 1 & 2 of Somerset Township were 2,210, which is 60% of the 3,693 voters registered. Included in these votes were 670 Absentee ballot votes. All three ballot proposals, Marijuana, District Boundaries Commission and No-reason absentee voting passed both locally and state wide.

The Deputy Clerk and Election Inspectors did a great job of managing this large election turnout. The new Hart tabulator equipment enabled Somerset Township to have a fair and accurate election. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

The 2019 Schedule of Somerset Township meeting dates will be posted on the web site and on the Township bulletin board after approval by the Board of Trustees at the December 20th Board Meeting. There are openings on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission and if you are interested in either one of these positions please contact Supervisor Burns. (517-688-9223).

Parks and Recreation Committee

Greetings from the Parks and Recreation Committee. Please like our Facebook page. Look for updates regarding Music in the Park for 2019, we are planning 5 events. The Committee has been working on the 5 Year Plan to ensure that the future of our parks is preserved. We are planning to build new stairs at the east end of Mc Courtie Park in the spring

in order to provide easier and safer access to the park. The Committee is out for bids to refurbish the foundations of several bridges. Disc Golf continues to be a popular sports event and our highly ranked course sees action year-around. The US 12 garage sale was a success and sold out within days. The Berm House was recently vandalized and if anyone has any knowledge regarding this matter please contact Chief Stolberg. The ponds have been winterized. Looking forward to seeing you in the Spring of 2019. Have a safe and warm winter.

Supervisor's Report – Scott Burns

It has been a busy summer with many successes and surprises.

Our biggest goal completed was the resurfacing of just over 5 miles of local township roads in all parts of the township. Additionally, the Shannon Dr complete road reconstruction was completed as well. Moving forward I will be working with the board to completely reconstruct Calhoun road, and are actively working to put together a comprehensive plan to address all of the remaining 90 miles of township roads.

We were able to secure a digital sign for the township offices at a deep discount in the hopes of providing better information and more frequent updates of township events.

With significant legislation pending about how and who can perform the assessments of properties within our local communities, the township has taken a proactive approach and hired Assessment Administration Services. Our new assessor of record is Max Griffin - MAAO, PPE. This change resulted in a reduction in assessment costs to the township and expanded significantly the resources that are available to the township.

The planning commission is nearing the completion of the Master Plan review process and will begin revisiting all of our current ordinances. The commission will firstly be determining if each ordinance is needed. Secondly if it is determined that they a specific ordinance is needed that they are properly drafted, and enforceable.

We have completed a LED conversion at the township offices. This was completed by receiving revenues from Consumer Energy and a grant from The Michigan Department of Energy. This conversion will result in significant savings in Utility bills for Township offices.

The Board also approved the installation of a onsite diesel tank for Emergency services that results in lower per gallon Diesel fuel purchases and a more efficient method to refuel or emergency vehicles.