

TRASH DROP OFF

Charleston Township Residents



1499 South 38th Street
269-665-7805

Residents must show ID.

Rules:

- Small, loose items must be bagged or boxed or will be rejected
- Mattresses & carpet accepted.
- No tires or dead animals.
- No hazardous waste (see Household Hazardous Waste information)
- No yard waste, blocks, bricks, rocks or concrete.
- Refrigerant emitting appliances must have service tech's tag attached showing unit has been discharged.
- No shingles.

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 2023
TIME: 8:00 a.m. – Noon
Where: Township Hall
COST: Carload- \$10 per car
Truck or small trailer load-\$25;
Double-axle trailer-\$35 each.

Household Hazardous Waste

1301 LAMONT AVE.

Township pays for this program – free to Charleston Township residents. Materials accepted include: batteries, computers, cleaners, gasoline, mercury, oil-based paints, garden chemicals, used motor oil, TV's.

Not accepted: Latex paint.
Call 269-373-5211 or www.kalcounty.com/hhw.

METAL CONTAINER FOR RECYCLING WILL BE AVAILABLE.

From the Desk of the FIRE CHIEF

Last year the fire department responded to 470 calls for service. Currently we are approximately 35 calls over where we were this time last year. At this time the fire department needs paid on-call firefighters. We have 14 members currently, but our roster is 24 positions. If you would like to serve your community in the capacity of a firefighter, we would love to talk to you. All training and protective equipment is supplied by the fire department. You can get an application by stopping by the township or city offices, contacting me, or it can be found on our new website at galesburgcharlestonfiredepartment.org. It can be turned in at either office. There is a national firefighter shortage and recruitment is an issue. If you have friends or family members who live in other cities or states that might be interested in firefighting

as a career or as a volunteer, encourage them to apply. It is a rewarding job.

This year the department applied for a FEMA Firefighters Assistance Grant for a gear dryer and air bottle cascade filling station. On July 19th , I received a call from Senator Peters' office congratulating us on our grant being awarded. A couple days later the official notification email from FEMA arrived. We are in the process of ordering the equipment in accordance with the guidelines established by FEMA.

Just a reminder that notification to the Fire Chief is required for any open burning. I can be reached at (269)720-2118. As always, the Galesburg Charleston Firefighters and I would like to thank the citizens and board members for your continued support.

Kevin Roomsburg, Fire Chief

Charleston Township

1499 S. 38th Street
P.O. Box 336
Galesburg, MI 49053

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Land Use Master Plan Mtg September 5 at 7 p.m.

Trash Drop Off September 16 8 a.m.– 12 p.m.

The Charleston Township LAND USE MASTER PLAN is getting an UPDATE!

The Land Use Master Plan is a 10-year look into our Township's future. It is NOT a change to the current Zoning Map.

Join us Tuesday, September 5, 7 pm at the Charleston Township Hall for a public hearing regarding the updated Land Use Master Plan.

Prior to the meeting, we invite you to review the proposed Land Use Master Plan online at www.charlestantownship.org or visit the Township Hall during regular business hours.

A Land Use Plan serves as an important guide to decision-making for the Township's Planning Commission. The Plan strives to create compatible land arrangements which can promote investment, preserve property values, advance economic development, and guide capital improvement expenditures in the future.



Charleston TOWNSHIP

From the Desk of Supervisor,
Jerry Vander Roest

Roads - Where does money come from? Public Act 51 provides road funding to the State Trunkline, counties, cities, and villages, but not township governments. Along with money from our General Fund, the Township gets participation funds (par funds). The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County gives townships money based on a formula and the townships are required to match that funding.

Charleston Township has 28 miles of roads that we are responsible to take care of. We have fought to keep Miller Dr. and S. 38th St (1/2 mile-south of MN Ave) as primary roads but was unable to convince the Road Commission. Both roads were recently paved before becoming our responsibility. The following is what we have taken out of the General Fund to maintain a good road system.

Year	Costs	Roads Chip Sealed
2021	\$ 94,363 Twp \$ 43,935 County	North and South 40th St, Ft. Custer Dr., Pinehill, Sandwood, Streamside, Climax Dr.
2022	\$ 54,751 Twp \$ 47,190 County	S. 44th St., (from MN Ave to E. Michigan), and ML Ave
2023	\$ 40,286 Twp \$ 40,287 County	North and South 36th St.
Total	\$320,812	

Intergovernmental Joint Fire Agreement

The Township and the City of Galesburg started to revise this agreement and are now close to completion.

Sewer System

The Township has taken over the sewer system for the past two years and has raised funds for long-term replacement/repairs. We still have one of the lowest sewer rates in the County.

County-Wide Broadband Committee

I am serving on this committee to find ways to service all residents and at the same time make it affordable. There will be a survey sent out soon to those residents who are in a dead area. Please respond to better help us identify problems.

Oil Companies

There are two oil Companies drilling in the Township: Savoy Energy and Wolverine.

Board and Commission Members

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Jerry Vander Roest, *Supervisor*
Linda Kramer, *Clerk*
Kim Balkema, *Treasurer*
Brian Moravek, *Trustee*
Chris Balkema, *Trustee*

PLANNING COMMISSION

Tim Vosburg, *Chairman*
Don Kramer
Sue Balkema
Joan Orman
Brian Moravek
Walter Kohnke
– one vacancy –

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mark Appelgren, *Chairman*
Linda Locey
Don Kramer
– two vacancies –

ATTORNEY

Craig Rolfe

BOARD OF REVIEW

Linda Behnke
Jackie Holtz
Bill Wisser

STAFF

Mary Phillips, *Deputy Clerk*
Chad Razmus, *Assessor*
Sue Balkema, *Deputy Treasurer*
Bert Gale, *Building/Zoning Administrator*

TOWNSHIP BUILDING Remodel/Addition

COVID Recovery Grant funds were used for a 1,300 sq. ft. addition plus some remodeling: electrical, heating, cooling, and well were upgraded to code. New conference room, partial basement for storage and utilities, increased security and additional office space were added.

From The Assessor

Thank you for the warm welcome in being the new assessor for Charleston Township officially as of April 1, 2023. My name is Chad Razmus and have a designation referred to as MAAO, which stands for Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer. I have 20 years' experience in commercial real estate and currently I am still a licensed broker.

The March Board of Review is the only meeting that can affect your valuation from an appraising point of view.

The July and December Board of Review handles any clerical errors in the form of incorrect measurements or calculation errors.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (616) 202-6509 or email me at chad.apgllc@gmail.com with your township, address, and your specific question. Emailing works best as I have a chance to research your question and provide an answer in writing.

Chad Razmus, Assessor

CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP AGENCY SERVICES

We wanted to take this opportunity to make sure you are aware of governmental services available to our residents. It is important that we use your tax dollars to maintain a good quality of life, look out for your welfare and ensure your safety.

Charleston Township Zoning Ordinance Inquiries

All identification of different zoning district uses, permitted uses, size, setbacks and requirements, accessory buildings etc. should be directed to the Zoning Director at the Township Office at (269) 665-7805.

All zoning ordinance complaints should be given to the Township Office.

All applications for ZBA variance and Interpretation, special exception, rezoning, land division, site plan review etc. will be processed with both the Zoning Director and Zoning Ordinance Administrator.

Metro County Connect

This is a shared ride (origin to destination) transit service and open to all county residents. This is equivalent to our out-County bus system. Discount fares are available to those with disabilities or seniors. Scheduling can be obtained by calling (269) 350-2970.

Veterans Service

Office Located at 3299 Gull Rd., Kalamazoo, this office helps veterans in all areas of needs. (269) 373-5361.

From the Clerk's Corner

The next election will be held on November 7. Kalamazoo County will have a veterans' millage proposal on this ballot. At this time, nothing else is scheduled. For those who opted to be on the Permanent Absent Voter Ballot List, you will automatically be sent a ballot. For those who want to be on the Permanent Ballot List, contact me by mail charclerk@charlestantownship.org), by phone (269) 665-7805 or here at the Hall.

The Bureau of Elections is working to get nine-day early voting in place for the Presidential Primary in February 2024. At this time, it looks like all early voting will be at one or more locations in the county, not at your traditional precinct. More information will be forthcoming as local clerks work through the logistics. We will post information on the website, www.charlestantownship.org, as it becomes available. The State of Michigan will also provide a link to information.

After almost 25 years, I am going to retire from my position as Clerk. Anyone who would like to apply for this position should contact the Township Office. This is a part-time position. Those who have skills with Word and Excel, an interest in elections, and/or just enjoy learning would like this elected office! We look forward to hearing from you!

Linda Kramer, Clerk

Household Hazardous Waste Center

Great way to get rid of dangerous items that can cause damage to our environment. Center is located at 1301 Lamont Ave. (next to Sheriff Dept) (269-373-5211 and (269) 383-8742.

Environment Health-Drinking Water Testing

This water sampling is available for a small fee. (269) 373-5200.

Kal. Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Service

also known as Integrated Services of Kal. Office is at 440 W. Kalamazoo Ave (269) 373-6000.

Kal. Co. Area Agency on Aging Office is located at 3299 Gull Rd. Target age group is those 60 years or older. The emphasis is on assisting Seniors with economic and social needs. (269) 373-5173.

From Treasurer's Desk:

Greetings! My name is Kim Balkema, and I became Treasurer of the Township on April 1, 2023, after serving as the Deputy Treasurer for almost six months. I was born and raised in Kalamazoo County, and a resident of Charleston Township since 2000. I enjoy spending time with my family, gardening and reading. Please be patient with me as I have a lot to learn! I can now answer many of your questions, but I have some big shoes to fill. Thank you for all your years of service, Brenda, and enjoy your retirement!

We are approaching the due date for summer tax bills which is Thursday, September 14. Beginning on September 15, interest begins to accrue on unpaid bills at a rate of 1% per month. Payments can be made by mail, at the township drop box, or in person at the Township. Cash, money orders, or checks are the methods of payment that are accepted by the Township.

Before sending your payment, please make sure both lines of your check are filled out correctly and that you have signed your check! Making your payment early can also help ensure the correction of errors before interest starts to be added to your bill.

Please call the office if you have any questions! I look forward to serving you!

Kim Balkema, Treasurer

Community Action Agency

Will help low income eligible individuals with home repair/lead abatement, financial assistance, utility assistance, weatherization program and rental payment help. Call (877) 422-2726.

Environmental Health Kits are for sale of EPA approved radon monitoring devices (269) 373-5210.

Recreation/Parks

There are two parks in the Township:
(1) Coldbrook – off MN Ave. and
(2) Ft. Custer State Park – off M-96/Dickman Rd.

Kal. Road Commission

If you have any road problems like trees down, pot holes, signs down, etc. (269) 381-3171.

Our website contains a wide variety of information for your use and reference: meeting schedules, approved minutes for the Township Board and Planning Commission, public notices, township zoning ordinances, fee schedules, building permit information and tax information. Our goal is to provide usable information, so if there something you need and you can't find it, let us know. We will make every effort to incorporate it into the website.

charlestantownship.org

Building Permits

Contact AGS (Associated Government Services, Inc.) for all building permits. They are located at 8721 Gull Road, Suite B, Richland, MI. 269-629-0600

Cemeteries

Ben Holtz is the Sexton for the (4) four Township cemeteries: Roof, Lawler, Riverside and Toad Hollow.

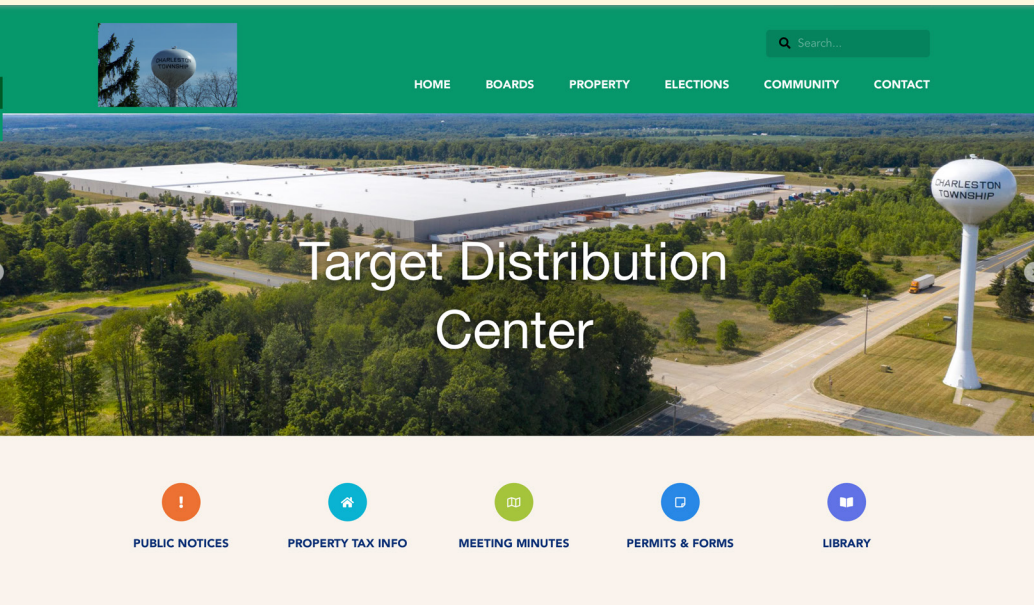
New lots are available in Roof and Lawler (located on Fort Custer grounds).

CEMETERY LOT PRICES:

Township Resident
Single Lot - \$250,
Non-Resident Single Lot - \$550.

Contact Linda Kramer, Clerk, to purchase a lot.

Per burial site, there shall only be:
1) One coffin burial, 2) one coffin and one cremation burial 3) four cremation burials. For continual maintenance questions, monument foundations, or other concerns, please contact Ben at 207-7407. Thank you for remembering to keep our cemeteries neat by removing spent decorations.



Township Board

Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

Planning Commission

Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Burning Permits

A permit is required for burning brush, old wood, lumber, etc. and should be obtained from the Fire Chief Kevin Roomsburg, by calling 720-2118. Securing these permits avoids unnecessary false alarms or dispatching, assisting in cost savings for fire protection.

Red/Med Box

Free Disposal – Residential Medication – Fast- Free-Secure. Sheriff's Office, 1500 Lamont Ave./ Kalamazoo 269-383-8821 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Miss Dig

As we have a complex underground of cables, pipelines and wires, before you dig, call 811 from any phone.

Township Drop Box

is located on the south end of the building.

