



Charleston Newsletter

Spring 2018 – 269-665-7805
1499 South 38th Street

Trash Drop-Off Day

Sat. April 28, 2018

\$10 per load – 8 a.m. to Noon

Charleston Township Hall



The Township Board is again offering residents the opportunity to rid their property of trash. Whether it's around your yard or the roadside adjacent to your property, pick it up and bring it over.

Rules are: small, loose items must be bagged or boxed. Hazardous waste, such as batteries, tires, paint computers, TV's, etc. cannot be accepted. Refrigerators must have service technician's tag attached showing unit has been discharged.

Metal container will also be available.

Help keep Charleston Township beautiful!

Volunteers are welcome to help move the trash from vehicles to the receptacles. Call the Township, if you can help out.

Tire Recycling - Coming this Fall



Charleston Township Hall

This event will be free for Township residents, but no commercial businesses will be allowed. Date and time to be announced.

Household Hazardous Waste – 1301 Lamont Ave, Kal.

A FREE service to Charleston Township residents to rid your home of household chemicals and electronics.

Materials accepted: batteries, cell phones, computers,

cleaners, gasoline, mercury, oil-based paints, garden chemicals, used motor oil, and televisions.

NOT ACCEPTED – Latex paint

Business waste by appointment and for a fee.

Info hotline: 269-373-5211 or website for details:

www.kalcounty.com/hhw



Time change – All Township Board meetings will start at 4 p.m. effective with May meeting.

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERVISOR -- JERRY VANDER ROEST

State of Charleston Township From May through December 2017

Roads

1. Road Commission is now in charge of applying dust control applications three or four times a year on 4.29 miles of Township gravel roads and will also cover the cost.
2. Michigan Dept. of Transportation applied a chip-seal coat to M-96 but will need repair.
3. Township paid for a chip-seal maintenance project and stones peeled off on L Ave. between 38th and 40th Streets. Road Commission will fix it.
4. Applied third coat of tar and stone to East ML Avenue.
5. Road Commission to make both Miller Dr. & S. 38th St. south of MN Ave. secondary local roads and Township will need to find funds for future repairs.
6. East Michigan Avenue Bridge deck over Kalamazoo River was replaced.

Township's Well System

1. Monitoring the 20% decrease below the design rate of pumping in one of the wells.
2. Purchased cathodic protection corrosion equipment for the water tower.

Township Sewer System

1. Will be extending sewer along E. Michigan Ave. from McCollum Ave. to Kalamazoo River.
2. Township will be having Gull Lake Water/Wastewater Authority maintain sewer distribution line in the future.
3. Township sewer will be more available to customers having a force main in front of house with a grinder pump system.

Drains

1. Half million dollar storm drain project from North of High School to Kalamazoo River is finished.
2. Worked with Drain Commission on drainage issues under S. 38th St., south of Twp. Hall.

Cemeteries

1. Will be reviewing cemetery regulations for possible revision.
2. Township received full ownership by the Court for Toad Hollow Cemetery.

3. Cut dead trees inside Territorial (Lawler) Cemetery.
4. Roof Cemetery sustained damage on Dec. 23 from auto accident -- sign will need to be replaced along with fixing damaged monuments and turf repair.

Fire Department

1. Fire Department received grant for a CPR machine.
2. Township expressed its feeling that Haz-mat funding should consider historical usage.
3. Signed an Ambulance Provider Agreement with Pridecare Ambulance.

New Businesses

1. Houtkooper Marine finished building storage pole barn.

Recreation

1. Kalamazoo River Trail portion to be completed in 2018 will run along McCollum Ave. then cross M-96 and end at High School for now.
2. 3 ½ feet bike and walkway along McCollum Ave.
3. Meeting held at Township Hall to discuss Lake issues. Discussed invasive species, water quality, wildlife and beach monitoring.

Township Hall

1. Motherboard in one furnace had to be replaced.

Services

1. Township received \$1,800 grant for a Tire Drop-off day in the fall of 2018 – day and time TBD.
2. Township provided two different Trash Drop-off days and had record amount of trash in 2017.
3. Township provided tire drop-off day in spring of 2017.

Planning Commission

1. Applied for Kalamazoo County Brownfield Re-development site for the KVG Landfill property on S. 40th St.

5 New Residential Homes in 2017

Township Business

1. Finished 5 year State Grant for the purpose of protecting Township's two water wells and established an emergency plan.
2. All Charleston Twp. Board Meetings will be at 4 p.m. of every month.
3. Township purchased new voting machines.
4. Road Commission worked on re-ditching drainage problem along S. 48th St.

Future Issues:

1. Kal. Valley River Trailway through Township. Public hearing on section between High School and Village of Augusta was held..
2. Looking for Economic Development at the area of S. 40th St. and East L Ave.
3. Studies prepared by Supervisor.
 - a) Insufficient County Sheriff patrol.
 - b) Increase in local road funding
4. Increase in water rates.

From the Desk of the Clerk -- Linda Kramer

New Voting Equipment

As part of a state-wide program, Charleston has received a new voting tabulator. The voting process is the same, but the tabulator will look a little different. It should be easier to use from the standpoint that if you make an error filling out your ballot, the machine will tell you specifically which office needs to be corrected. If you wish to correct the error, an election inspector will help you through the process.

We also have a new machine for the disabled called the Express Vote which is much easier to use. The Express Vote is also available for anyone to use.

2018 Elections -- Charleston will have two elections this year – the August Primary on August 7th, and the November General Election on November 6th.

Note: Residents of the Gull Lake and Climax School Districts have a May 8th election, but will be voting in Ross Township for Gull Lake and Climax Township for Climax School voters for this election only. Charleston will not be the precinct for these elections. Everyone who lives in those school districts should receive a notice telling them where to vote. All absentee ballots should be returned to either Ross Township Offices for Gull Lake Community Schools or Climax Township Offices for the Climax School District.

Cemeteries

Lots are available in Roof and Lawler (located in Ft. Custer). Cemetery lot prices are \$250 for Township residents and \$550 for non-residents. For each burial site, the Township allows either 1 coffin burial, a combination of one coffin and one cremation burial or four cremation burials. Please call me to purchase a lot.

Ben Holtz is the Sexton for all Township cemeteries: Roof, Lawler (Territorial), Riverside and Toad Hollow. He is responsible for all burials, continual maintenance, monument foundations, or other concerns.

Contact Ben at 207-7407.

Thank you for remembering to keep our cemeteries neat by removing spent decorations.



BUILDING PERMITS – Associated Government Services handles all building permits. Their number is 1-800-627-2801. Their office is located at 8717 Gull Road, Suite B, Richland, MI 49083.

PRIDECARE Ambulance Service is the designated 911 ambulance service provider for Charleston Township. However, township resident may call any ambulance they wish. If you call 911, PRIDECARE will automatically be dispatched.

MISS DIG – Before you dig, call Miss Dig as we have an underground complex of cables, pipelines and wire. Call 811 from any phone.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS -- has an immediate vacancy. The ZBA meets only when needed and is authorized to grant dimension variances from the zoning ordinance and upon request, may interpret questionable provisions of the zoning ordinance.

PLANNING COMMISSION – will have openings at the end of year. This Board meets once a month to discuss re-zoning and land use changes, reviews zoning ordinances and make recommendations to the Twp. Board.

Positions on these boards are filled by appointment by the Supervisor with approval of the Township Board. Applications are available at the Town office for anyone

who might be interested in serving on a board. The township welcomes your participation. It's your community!

TOWNSHIP NOTICES – are all published in the Climax Crescent. If you wish to receive all the township's official notices, a mail subscription is \$25 per year. Phone number: (269) 746-4331.

WEB – please visit our website at charlestantownship.org. Information is posted for your use and reference. Public notices, Board and Planning Commission minutes, agendas, waste reduction and township zoning ordinances, fee schedules, building permit forms, cemetery and property tax information is available.

The Township Construction Board of Appeals also has an open position.

From the Desk of the Fire Chief – Kevin Roomsburg



Last year -- the Fire Department responded to 388 calls for service. 261 of these were calls for medical assistance. The remaining 127 were for fires, accidents, and other emergencies.

Our busiest call times were between 6pm and 7pm with 27 responses. Our busiest call day was Saturdays with 70 responses. The busiest call month was December with 40 responses. These responses totaled 3885-man hours.

This year the department has applied for 3 FEMA Firefighters Assistance Grants. They are for new protective clothing, self-contained breathing apparatus, and radios.

If we are awarded these grants we will be able to purchase approx. \$250,000 worth of equipment for \$25,000.

These grants were applied for as a regional grant which improves our chances of success due to it will benefit multiple departments and communities in

the county. Without these grants it will be difficult to afford the needed equipment.

This past month the Firefighters association purchased a new rescue boat, motor, and trailer for the department. This was purchased with monies raised from our fund raisers and a donation from Target Distribution Center.

The Firefighters and myself would like to thank the citizens and board members for your continued support of the Fire Department.



BURNING -- Just a reminder, if you plan to conduct any open burning of brush or yard debris, **you must call and notify the Fire Chief prior to burning.** When you call and if I don't answer, leave your name, address and a contact number. If there are any reasons why you cannot burn, I will call you back. If you don't hear from me within a half hour, you are OK to burn. **My number is 269-720-2118.**

From Township Assessor-- Ben Brousseau

As a reminder, as part of updating township assessment records, Sections 7, 8, 9, 17 and 18 will be visited this summer. Call me at 269-655-1144 or email me at ben.apgllc@gmail.com, should you have questions.

If no one is home at the time of our visit, a mailer card will be left notifying you of our visit.

News from Galesburg-Charleston Memorial District Library -- Director Helena Hayes

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Library staff, thank you for your continued support of the Galesburg-Charleston Memorial District Library. I look forward to welcoming you as you visit our library to enjoy the materials, services and programs that we provide for our community.

Spring activities

On Saturday, April 21, local resident Kathy Crow brings everything participants need to create stunning and unique handmade greeting cards as part of a multi-library "Library Hop." Materials will be available from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. For more information about the Library Hop, visit their web page at www.libraryhop.org.

Local journalist **Mark Wedel** pedals to the Library on Saturday, April 28 at 1:00 pm with his new book, "Mule Skinner Blues;" a hilarious chronicle of his experience biking from Pittsburgh to Washington D.C. **Maris Soule's** latest title, "Echoes of Terror," recently won first place in the mystery/suspense division of the FWA Royal Palm Literary Contest. Join Ms. Soule on Tuesday, May 22 at 7:00 as she shares her experiences as an award-winning author.

Summer Events

We will be rocking this summer with programs for children and families, starting during Greater Galesburg Days, June 15 – 16. The fun begins with a Friday night movie, "**Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle**." On Saturday after the parade, join a **NERF** battle in the park! Don't forget our **BOOK SALE** on Saturday (we'll accept donations beginning in May).

Register for summer reading at our **Kickoff Party** on Thursday, June 21 from 2:00 – 3:00. In addition to reading for prizes, students will also be encouraged to participate in our new math program.

Our Wednesday craft series begins June 27 with **Tie-Dye**; other activities throughout the summer include bubble art, recycled instruments, painted rocks and even "**Tubby the Tuba!**"

We are hosting special events, too! On Thursday, June 28, **PaleoJoe** introduces us to prehistoric animals and plants in the afternoon, and then returns for "**Dinosaur CSI**" that evening. We will make beautiful "Good Vibrations" music with the **Kalamazoo Air Zoo** on July 12; and jam out with **Caribbean Steel Drums** on July 19. On July 26, we wrap up our Thursday programs with a visit from **Binder Park Zoo**.

Summer at the Library would not be complete without a community potluck picnic, featuring the music of Bob & Sandy Duke's "**Smallmouth Band**," on Sunday, August 12 in the pavilion behind the library.

For more information about any of our programs or services, call 269-665-7839, email – director@gcmdl.org or find us on the web at www.galesburgcharlestonlibrary.org.