



TOWNSHIP NEWS ~ DECEMBER 2023

ROSS TOWNSHIP OFFICES HAVE NEW FACES!
PLEASE WELCOME:

TOWNSHIP CLERK: MARY STAGE
DEPUTY CLERK: HANNAH LAKE-SNOW
DEPUTY TREASURER: AMANDA WIERSMA

Where were you September 10, 1985?

On this regular Ross Township Board meeting date, Supervisor Slightly retired, and Treasurer Noteboom resigned and was appointed Supervisor. The Treasurer role was vacated. "Motion by Adams, second by Bowman, to appoint Miss Cynthia Genung as Treasurer to fill vacancy until next regular election. All ayes. Two abstained." (Ross Township Board Minute Binder, 1976-1991)

Treasurer Syndee Genung has announced she will be looking forward to enjoying retirement. The office of the Treasurer will change for Syndee to transition her Deputy Treasurer, Amanda Wiersma, into a full time Treasurer role at the end of this year.

Syndee is the longest active Treasurer in Kalamazoo County, starting her service to Ross before our reliance on desktop computers and smart phones! Syndee leaves a legacy of vocal and loyal support for fire and police departments, and she is always the friendly face at the office window accepting your tax payments and distributing dog licenses to Ross Township residents.

Stay tuned for retirement appreciation events!

ELECTION UPDATE:

The Secretary of State has identified the following candidates (*listed alphabetically*) as potential presidential candidates in 2024:

<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>
Joe Biden	Doug Burgum
Dean Phillips	Chris Christie
Marianne Williamson	Ron DeSantis
	Nikki Haley
	Asa Hutchinson
	Vivek Ramaswamy
	Donald Trump

A candidate identified on either the Secretary of State's list or the party chairperson's candidate listing who wishes either to designate a different political party or to withdraw as a candidate has until 4 p.m. on December 8 to notify the Michigan Bureau of Elections of that decision.

The Michigan presidential primary will be February 27, 2024. Along with the candidates listed on the ballot, voters also may choose "uncommitted" as an option. **The deadline for primary election ballots to be sent to military and overseas voters is January 13, 2024, and absent voter ballots must be printed by January 18, 2024.**

More information on 2024 elections is available on Kalamazoo County Clerk's website at: www.kalcounty.com/clerk/elections_voting and on the Michigan Department of State website at: www.Michigan.gov/elections

*******PRECINCT LOCATION CHANGE!*******

Precinct 2 is changing its location to: Ross Township Hall, 12089 M-89, Richland, MI 49083. **This will start with the Presidential Primary Election in February of 2024.**

*"Every life is capable of greatness."
~ Condoleezza Rice*

Are you staying up to date on Township events? Anyone can sign up at www.rosstownshipmi.gov "sign up for emails!" to get real time email updates from our Township on community topics, health and safety alerts, legislative updates and Township meetings, wherever you are. Get too much email? The Ross Township website has a dedicated page "*Important Community Updates!*" for anyone to view, at a more convenient time.

The Ross Township Board held a PFAS/PFOA Town Hall October 3rd in the Fire Barn, where we had over 100 residents attend. The topic was the North 34th Street Production Plated Plastics Site, and their contribution to pollution via PFAS/PFOA in the Delmar, Littlefield, Merrimac neighborhood. Also present were County and State officials who discussed their recommendations for safe, municipal drinking water. Ross Township authorized City of Kalamazoo to apply for available grants with the State of Michigan to cover the very expensive infrastructure and construction costs to PFAS/PFOA affected homes. If the City of Kalamazoo is unable to obtain grant funding for PFAS/PFOA contaminated wells, the Ross Township Board has concluded there will not be any advancement of municipal water to this affected neighborhood. All PFAS/PFOA materials, slideshows and meeting minutes are available on our website, including information shared at the State of Michigan's MPART Public Meeting which was held October 30th at Kellogg Biological Station.

It is important to remember that these discussions DO NOT mean municipal water is being planned around Gull Lake. **The only entity that can decide if municipal water is developed inside Ross Township is your Ross Township Board of Directors, via ordinances and legislative determinations all held in open meetings.** The City of Kalamazoo and/or Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority cannot EVER advance water and/or sewer without your elected Township Board first granting them permission.

DID YOU KNOW?

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE EIGHT BUSINESS DAYS AFTER A MEETING, JUST CALL US TO REQUEST A COPY: 269-731-4888. MINUTES MUST BE APPROVED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE BOARD IN OPEN SESSION IN ORDER TO BE DEEMED FINAL/APPROVED MINUTES. THIS IS WHY FINAL MINUTES CAN TAKE UP TO 2 MONTHS TO APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE. ONLY FINAL/APPROVED MINUTES ARE PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE. THE PUBLISHED MINUTES INCLUDE BOTH DRAFT AND FINAL APPROVED LANGUAGE (ALL EDITS).

Observed Office Holidays (office is closed):

Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after * December 24th & 25th * New Years Eve
If a holiday falls on a Friday or weekend, Monday will be observed.
The Township may close at noon prior to any holiday to give time for staff to cook!

Sign up for Ross Township email updates: www.rosstownshipmi.gov