

ALGANSEE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

July 2008

www.alganseetownship.com

Issue # 11

SUMMER TAX COLLECTION

WHERE DO I PAY THE SUMMER TAXES?

The township is recommending that summer taxes be **mailed** to the Township Treasurer, Ann Strong at **904 Lester Road, Reading, MI 49274**. Receipts will be mailed out. If you would like to pay them in person, appointments may be scheduled by calling Ann at 517-639-4931.

WHEN IS IT DUE?

Summer tax bills are sent out by July 1 and the bill must be paid by September 14 in order to avoid interest or penalty. **If you defer payment, a second tax bill will not be sent out in December, as a reminder.**

CAN I DEFER PAYMENT?

Under MCL 211.51 property taxpayers may defer payment until February 14, without penalty or interest, if their household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$35,000 and they are:

- a: 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death;
- b: A paraplegic or quadriplegic;
- c: An eligible service person, eligible veteran, or their eligible widow or widower;
- d: A blind person; or
- e: A totally and permanently disabled person

AGRICULTURE DEFERMENT

Property classified or used as agricultural property may qualify if the gross receipts of the farming operation are not less than the household income of the owner.

HOW DO I DEFER PAYMENT?

A deferment form for each parcel must be completed each year in order to have taxes deferred without penalty in any given year. If you qualify please complete the enclosed form and return to Treasurer Ann Strong or you can access the form on the township website at www.alganseetownship.com. Look under the heading of forms, and then click on Defer Summer Tax Application. The township treasurer will also have copies of the form that can be completed. This form must be filed with the Township Treasurer by **September 14**.

WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

The wireless internet tower officially went on line the end of April and DMCI Broadband is currently hooking up customers as they call in for the service. There have been 101 requests as of May 30, with 71 of these having successful site surveys. So far 33 customers have hooked up and are now accessing the township tower.

If you are interested in obtaining the service at your residence/business then please contact DMCI Broadband direct at 1-877-936-2422.

Township Board Members

Erica Ewers, Supervisor 517-639-9074
Suzanne Preston, Clerk 517-639-4182
Ann Strong, Treasurer 517-639-4931
John Shilling, Trustee 517-639-4194
Billie Avra, Trustee 517-639-4244

Township Planning Members

Rodney Carpenter, Chair 517-639-5150
Pricilla Dodd, Vice- Chair 517-639-4718
Glenn Preston, Secretary 517-639-4182
Tom Morgan, Member 419-356-3676
John Shilling, Township Representative

Township Zoning Board of Appeals Members

Pricilla Dodd, Chair 517-639-4718
Linda Belcher, Secretary 517-238-2403
Billie Avra, Twp Representative

Township Assessor

Erica Ewers 517-639-9074

Township Zoning Administrator

Russell Jennings 517-639-3728

Township Sexton

George Baker 517-278-8418

ZONING UPDATE COMPLETED

The Algansee Township board has approved the planning commission recommendations for changes to the Algansee Township Zoning Ordinance. While this process has taken longer than anticipated, we are happy to present you with the updated copy.

Copies can be obtained from either the township website, under the heading of ordinances, or from the Zoning Administrator, Russ Jennings.

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ALGANSEE LIBRARY OFFERS FREE WIRELESS ACCESS

The Algansee Branch, of the Branch District Library, now offers free wireless internet access along with the other 4 branches of the library system.

The Algansee Branch has 2 computers dedicated for youngsters to access the internet. These computers have all the necessary filters to ensure your child is only accessing safe sites.

There is one full access computer and two laptops available for adults to access the internet within the guidelines as established by the library. Anyone with a wireless laptop may also access the internet from the library site during library hours.

The Algansee Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1 to 6 pm and Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to noon.

TOWNSHIP HALL GETS MAKEOVER

The addition to the township hall will be complete in time for the August Primary and as such there are some changes that you will need to be aware of. The main entrance to the township hall will now be the north side of the building and can only be accessed by going up the ramp.

This will allow more voters to wait inside of the building rather than having to stand outside in the elements during the elections.

The township is also seeing the addition of office space and an indoor restroom.



PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR ELECTIONS

The State of Michigan has changed the election laws to state that any member that votes during any election is required to show photo identification prior to being given a ballot. This is not a township requirement but rather a State Law.

Photo ID will be required for the August Primary on August 5 and for the Presidential Election on November 4.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST APPLICATION IS NOW ON TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Absentee Ballot request forms are available by contacting the Township Clerk Suzanne Preston or by printing the form off the township website, www.alganseetownship.com. The application is located under the heading of forms. Complete this application and return it to Suzanne Preston at 1097 E Central Road, Quincy, MI 49082. Suzanne will then mail out the ballot and required materials for you to complete and send back in.

CONDITIONAL RECISSION APPLICATION

Public Act 96, was signed by the Governor, and amends the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) legislation to allow an exemption on certain vacant homes.

Under the Act, a person who moves out of a home that has a PRE and moves into another home in this state and establishes that home as their principal residence may file a form to maintain the principal residence status on the home that they vacated as well. The prescribed form must be submitted to the local assessing officer in the community where the vacated home is located by May 1. The May 1 date matches the date when principal residence status is determined under current state law.

There are certain limitations on maintaining the PRE status on the vacated home. The property must remain unoccupied, it can not be used for a commercial or business use, it can't be leased, and it must be offered for sale. If the property is leased in the middle of the year then the PRE is immediately rescinded and the property owner is required to pay the extra 18 mill school tax on that year's taxes. The extended PRE may remain in place for up to three years.

In order to maintain the PRE in years two and three, the property owner must verify with the local assessor that the property continues to qualify for the exemption by December 31 of each year.

The exemption is not available to someone who has moved to another state or who has moved out of their home and into an apartment.

This new form is available on the township website under forms.

Information for this article was obtained from the Michigan Township Association Capital Currents Newsletter.