

BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

Supervisor: First, Thank You to everyone for supporting our current Board and the Public Safety Department. Winter is coming and with that in mind, we would like to remind everyone that your sidewalks need to be kept clear of snow and ice. It is important to follow the Township Ordinance, also known as “Sidewalk Cleaning Ordinance”. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare for the residents of Blackman Township. If a neighbor is in need, please lend a hand. There is a 24-hour time frame to comply with the Ordinance after a snow or ice event. Please have a safe Holiday Season and remember those who are less fortunate not only now but all year round.

Public Safety: A&E Design Solutions has been selected as the consultant for the design, architectural work and oversight of the new Public Safety building project at the former Marino’s building. We expect to have site work begin in 2025 with anticipated completion in 2026. The current Public Safety building (West of the Township Office) was constructed when Blackman Public Safety had 17 officers. Blackman Leoni Public Safety now has 45 staff and is out of room for current staffing and equipment. The current Public Safety building will be retained for different options in the future, including maintenance on vehicles, a voting site, public meeting site or special events. ***We are planning this project without a millage increase or borrowing.*** Lastly, thank you to the public for passing our Public Safety Millage in the November Election.

Treasurer/Property Taxes: As many of you may know, the streetlight assessment rate will increase. In the past, when Consumers Energy raised their rates, we were able to realize savings by replacing old lights with LED’s and credits to help us pay the costs of operating and maintaining our streetlights without raising fees. Consumers Energy had rate increases in 2024, and there will be more in 2025. The 2025 increases are only to break even. As of March 1, 2025, Blackman Township will continue to collect delinquent *personal property* taxes, and Jackson County will be collecting the delinquent *real property* taxes. With many scams circulating, a friendly reminder not to give personal information over the phone, and when in doubt, please call Blackman Township with questions. Also remember that we **do** accept partial payments of \$5.00 or more, as many times as it takes to pay your taxes until the due date. Property taxes are due on February 14, 2025 and must have a post-mark of February 14, 2025 to be accepted without penalties. Please note that we **DO NOT ACCEPT OVER-PAYMENTS**. Please make sure that you have the correct amount written on your check. ***Do NOT combine your sewer payment with your tax payment on one check***, or it will be sent back to you to correct. If you need assistance with your taxes, please visit The Michigan Assistance Program at www.michigan.gov/mihaf or contact the Community Action Agency at (517) 784-4800.

PLEASE WATCH FOR THESE COMMON MISTAKES WHEN WRITING YOUR CHECKS:

- 1. The dollar amount written is not the same as the dollar amount printed on your tax bill.**
- 2. Check to make sure you have signed and dated.**
- 3. Do not combine sewer and tax payments on one check. These payments go to different banks and must be written separate.**
- 4. Make sure your check is made out to Blackman Township.**
- 5. When in doubt, please call the office.**

Parks & Recreation: The parks are an ongoing work in progress. Cameras were installed at Rod Mills Park recently, and we are nearing completion of the video monitoring project. At the Parnall Complex, the “southern loop” of the walking trail (3,000 foot) is complete; a vault toilet will be installed in the Spring; and we will be accepting bids for pickleball courts and pavilion for installation in the Spring of 2025. The second phase of the walking trail (northern loop) will begin once funds become available. We have applied for grants to assist us with our parks over the next 2 to 3 years, and we look forward to hearing the results in early 2025. This work is paid for by the Parks Millage, approved by voters, and donations and grants we are seeking.

Utility Department: Blackman Township, along with other municipalities, are in negotiations with the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the City of Jackson for sewer services. It is expected that city water rates will increase, causing all Townships to increase their rates based on the city increase. After the last increase in April 2023, we still have one of the lowest sewer rates in the County. Blackman Township utilizes the Engineering

services of Ripstra & Schelppelman to assure our sewer system is kept in good working order. Delinquent Sewer bills not paid by September 30th will result in them being placed on the Winter Tax Statement. The cost for a single-family home is \$66.00 per quarter or \$264.00 per year. (Subject to being changed)

If you have not gone online to update your automatic payment to \$66.00, you need to do so. We are unable to do anything with the account you created online.

Due dates for paying Sewer bills are as follows:

1st Quarter	March 14, 2025	2nd Quarter	June 16, 2025
3rd Quarter	September 15, 2025	4th Quarter	December 15, 2025

Assessing Department:

Important dates to remember:

December 5, 2024	Deadline to file Application for Hardship Exemption
December 10, 2024	Board of Review meets for correction of clerical errors
February 20, 2025	Deadline to file Personal Property Statement (L-4175) or Small Business Property Tax Exemption (5076)
March 10 & 11, 2025	Board of Review meets (call for appointment)
June 1, 2025	Deadline to file Principal Residence Exemption for the Summer Tax Levy

Clerk's Office: Your Clerk's Office has had a busy year, especially with elections. We held the elections in February, May, August and November. 9-day early voting was available in three of the elections. In the recent November General election, we had 9,403 residents vote, 3,503 on election day, 3,681 by absentee ballot, and 2,219 voted during the 9-day early voting. The success of our election was because of the team effort, from the election day inspectors working the polls, to the office staff all pitching in, to the Deputy Clerk, former Clerk (Shelly) and many others.

Fall cemetery cleanup was again a success, thanks to Cub Scouts Pack 339. We greatly appreciate their hard work in helping with Fifield Cemetery every year. Our thanks as well to the "Little House Bakery" for providing donuts for the clean-up crew.



We thank outgoing Township Trustee Brandon Williams for his many years of service to Blackman Charter Township, as his term ends On November 20th. Simultaneously, we welcome newly elected Trustee Michelle Boulter to her first term in an elected office.