

BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP WINTER 2025

Supervisor: As we move into winter weather with snow and ice, just a couple of road and sidewalk reminders regarding sidewalk maintenance and depositing snow in the street.

Pursuant to Michigan Law **MCL 257.677a(4)**, it is a 90-day/\$100 misdemeanor to “deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway”. By definition, a highway or street is “the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for the purposes of vehicular travel” and includes the roadway, shoulders, ditch slopes, and sidewalks.

Pursuant to Blackman Charter Township “Sidewalk Cleaning Ordinance” **ARTICLE IX Sidewalk Cleaning; Snow and Ice Removal, Section 55-61 A**. The occupant of every lot or premises adjoining any street, or the owner of such lot or premises, if the same is not occupied, shall clear accumulations of ice and snow constituting a threat to the public safety from sidewalks adjoining such lot or premises.

Failure to clear this threat to public safety within 24 hours may cause the Township or its representative to clear it forthwith and assess it as a special assessment against the premises provided by law.

Be safe as you travel and have a blessed holiday season.

Public Safety: The conversion of Marinos to the new Public Safety Building is well into the planning process with bid packages available by the following Supervisor@blackmantwp.com or byronschroeder@gmail.com from AE Design Solutions. Bid packages will be opened on December 8th, 2025. We expect a move in date sometime in 2027.

Treasurer: Property taxes are due on **February 17, 2026**, to be accepted without a 3% penalty. Please note that we **DO NOT ACCEPT OVER-PAYMENTS**. Taxes that begin with the number #801 can still be paid at Blackman Township. Taxes that begin with #000 can be paid down at the Jackson County Treasurer’s Office after **March 2, 2026**.

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 separately.**
- 4. Make sure your check is made out to Blackman Township.**

“Many families and individuals residing throughout Jackson County, including those who call Blackman Township home, are struggling to make ends meet. Food insecurity is real for many of our neighbors. Compassionate Ministries of Jackson County (CMJC) collaborates with businesses, organizations, churches, schools, and individuals to end hunger throughout our community.

CMJC’s community mobile pantry sites provide food to fifteen different churches throughout Jackson County. In turn, these churches help feed hungry Jackson County families on a regular basis. Additionally, CMJC provides support for five additional sites in the county, by providing fresh produce boxes (FFD) each month. Also, CMJC’s After School Backpack program partners with 28 different schools throughout Jackson County, including each of the Northwest Community School buildings. Each of CMJC’s school partners identify students who may be at risk of going home hungry over the weekend. CMJC provides these students with a bag of food to take home with them for the weekend. Currently, there are just over 700 school-aged children and youth receiving weekend food each week from Compassionate Ministries of Jackson County.

If you or someone you know is in need, we encourage you to visit CMJC’s website, www.cmjackson.org/food-pantries for a complete listing of their community mobile pantry sites as well as their fresh produce distributions throughout the county. If you would like to give financially to support CMJC’s effort in feeding hungry Jackson County Residents, you can visit their website www.cmjackson.org.

Parks & Recreation: We are happy to announce that ground has been broken for the pavilion and four pickleball courts as of 11/03/25. These will be installed by the end of December 2025. The final surface for the pickleball courts will be completed in the spring, weather permitting. We will be adding picnic tables and a drinking fountain in the Spring. The pavilion will have power and lights. **Blackman Township would like to give a big Thank You to American 1 Credit Union and Consumers Energy Foundation for the contributions to allow us to keep moving ahead on these plans this year.** American 1 has procured naming rights for the pavilion in agreement with the Township.

With the pavilion and the pickleball courts under construction, we are in need of picnic tables. Tables with durable tops and seats are approximately \$1,000 each. We have old tables at Rod Mills Park. For anyone willing to sponsor a table, we will look into having a recognition put on the table(s). Contact the Parks and Recreation Committee at Treasurer@Blackmantwp.com for more information.

Should we consider a name change for the new Parnall Park Complex? If any company or foundation is interested in naming rights for the park behind the complex, the Parks and Recreation Committee would consider an agreement that could recognize the donor for years to come. If we do not receive a donor, we invite the public to suggest names for consideration. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Committee at Treasurer@Blackmantwp.com for more information.



Utility Department: Blackman Township utilizes the Engineering services of Ripstra & Schellpeman to assure our sewer system is kept in good working order. Delinquent Sewer and Special Assessments 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) Negotiations on Sewer Services between Townships and the City are still in process. There will be an increase to sewer rates in the near future due to the rising costs to process wastewater.

Due dates for paying Sewer bills are as follows:

1 st Quarter	Jan - March 16, 2026	2 nd Quarter	April - June 15, 2026
3 rd Quarter	July - September 15, 2026	4 th Quarter	October - December 15, 2026

If you have not gone online to update your automatic payment to \$66.00, please do so. We are unable to make transaction changes to the account you created online. Here are the instructions to submit your on-line payment through our website from the Home Screen page: www.blackmantwp.com

1. Go to Quick Links, Online Property Information, **Search** Utility Billing “**By Address**” enter your information.
2. Click the search button at the end of the line.
3. Click on the address line in **(Blue)**.
4. The amount due and pay now icon is on the right-hand side in **(Pink)**.

Assessing Department:

Dates and times to remember:

December 4, 2025
December 9, 2025
February 20, 2026

March 9th & 10, 2026
June 1, 2026

Deadline to file Application for Poverty Exemption
Board of Review meets for correction of clerical errors
Deadline to file Personal Property Statement (L-4175) or Small Business Property Tax Exemption (5076)
Board of Review meets (call for appointment)
Deadline to file Principal Residence Exemption for Summer Tax Levy

Clerk's Office:

Cemetery Clean-Up dates: Spring Clean Up Day is the first Saturday in May and the Fall Clean Up is the first Saturday in October (dates are subject to change due to inclement weather)

All aged items on gravesites will be removed on clean-up day to prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and for the holiday season. If you have items you wish to retrieve, please do so before the clean-up dates.

Blackman Charter Township wishes to thank those who assist us in keeping our cemetery looking beautiful throughout the year; Cub Scout Pack 339 for your service to the community by assisting with clean-up day, The Little House Bakery for their donation of donuts for our volunteers, and Jake's Property Management for the fine job of lawn mowing, tree trimming, and snow removal services.

Our Poor Farm Cemetery on County Farm Road is nearing completion of long-awaited improvements. This location was the site of the County Poor Farm (and Cemetery). There were 2 fires that destroyed the buildings many years ago, and the Cemetery remains. It had been neglected for a very long time but is now back to looking respectable. There are two Historical Markers there, one from the State of Michigan, and one from the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society. Please stop by and read the brief story if you are in the area. There are no ground burials that will be allowed there, although an above-ground columbarium is being discussed for interment of cremated remains.



Election News



The Constitutional Amendment from 2022 regarding elections mandates 9 days of early voting for all Statewide and Federal elections. For the prior 2 years, our County Clerk ran 9 days of early voting for all but a couple of local municipalities in our County. For the next 2 years, the County will NOT be running early voting, leaving each municipality to either run their own, or join with other Townships in the County. In the interest of consistency and saving taxpayer dollars, we have entered into an agreement with the townships of Henrietta, Waterloo, Rives, Tompkins and Springport. Blackman Township will host the one site (1990 W. Parnall) for the early voting that will take place next nearby. We approximate the wages alone will be approximately \$5,500.00 for that 9 days here at Blackman. If each municipality were to run their own, each would pay approximately the same amount. Feel free to call the Clerk's Office should you have any questions.

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting>

<https://www.vote411.org>

