



Nelson Township News

Summer 2018

From Supervisor Robyn Britton's Office:

In the last year here are some of our accomplishments:

The New Handicap accessible picnic area, bathroom and drinking fountain were installed at Gordon Park—with no cost to the residents, this was paid for with Kent County Community Block Grant money.

The Recycling Tire Grant Program—In conjunction with Kent County, our residents will be able to take up to 10 tires per resident to Long Lake or Courtland Township for recycling.

The Boomer Park Trail—Nelson Township and with a Grant from the Grand Valley Metro Council, are working on a trail from Cedar Springs to Boomer Park.

Road resurfacing on Myers Lake between 19 Mile Road and Grosvenor.

Did you know that Kent County Road Commission has its own website, where you can get daily updates on road construction and also update the Road Commission about any problems.

The Township Spring Clean up was very successful. We filled 7 dumpsters. The Fall Clean up will be held on September 13, 2018, from 8:00am to 12:00pm.



Nelson Township's Free Tire Event

Not only is there an economic impact to recycling tires, but a social and environmental one too! Nelson Township is hosting a one day event for north-west Kent County area residents to recycle up to 10 tires for FREE. Residents can bring 10 tires per vehicle. All tires must be off the rims and in "clean" condition. We will be accepting passenger tires only (Car, SUV, or Pickup Truck). Semi, Tractor, or Loader tires are not accepted. The event is being held at Long Lake Park for residents in Nelson Township. The Tire Event will be on October 13, 2018, from 8:00am to 12:00pm. ID is required. Tires from businesses or non-profits will not be accepted.

Elections for 2018

Primary Election on August 7, 2018
General Election on November 6, 2018
Polls are open from 7:00am to 8:00pm
Precinct 1: Nelson Township/Sand Lake Library Community Room., 88 8th-Street, Sand Lake, MI 49343
Precinct 2: Nelson Township/Sand Lake Municipal Hall, 2 Maple Street, Sand Lake, MI 49343

Nelson Township and
Village of Sand Lake
Municipal Building
2 E. Maple Street
Sand Lake, MI 49343

Nelson Township Board Members
Office Telephone: (616) 636-5332

Supervisor: Robyn Britton
Clerk: Laura Hoffman
Treasurer: Katy Austin
Trustees: Glen Armstrong
Maureen Mahoney

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Village of Sand Lake
Council Members
Office Telephone: (616) 636-8854

President: Tom Norton
Village Clerk:
Village Treasurer: Brenda Arnold
Trustees: Nyha French, Dave Dewey,
Janice Dewey, Danielle Hardenburg,
Tonia Parkhurst, Gregory Wheeler

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The Township and Village would like to thank Nyha French, Susan VanEnk, and the Nelson Township Senior Center for planting the flowers around the Village.

You can order the green reflective house number signs from your local KDL Library. The signs are \$15.00 each.

Village News

The road construction will start this fall (2018) on Main Street. The project will not be fully completed until Spring of 2019. If you would like to look at proposed changes, stop by the Village Offices.

From Clerk Laura Hoffman's Office:

Beginning October 1, 2020, Michigan residents will need to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or state ID card to fly within the United States and enter certain federal facilities under federal law. The higher-security documents are optional and people can still obtain standard licenses and ID cards which will be marked with "Not for federal identification purposes."

To obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or ID, residents will need to bring in a valid U.S. passport or certified birth certificate with a raised seal or stamp to any Secretary of State office. If your name is different from what's on your birth certificate, you will need to bring in a certified name-change document, such as your marriage license or court order.

A Standard driver's license is not REAL ID-compliant per the Secretary of State's Office.

"To help people avoid the headache and cost of getting another approved ID document just to fly for business or to visit loved ones, we (Secretary of State) now offer Michigan residents a REAL ID-compliant license and ID card," said Ruth Johnson, Secretary of State.

Compliant cards are marked with a star inside a gold circle on the upper right. There is no extra fee for a REAL ID-compliant card unless people apply for one outside of their normal renewal cycle. The cards do not contain Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.

Having a noncompliant card does not affect a Michigan resident's ability to vote, drive, purchase firearms, buy age-restricted items or apply for federal benefits.

From Treasurer Katy Austin's Office:

Summer taxes are due September 14, 2018. Winter taxes will be sent out on December 1, 2018, with a due date of February 14, 2019.

Meet your Assessor

My name is **Amanda Toomey** and I am the Nelson Township Assessor. Along with obtaining a B.A. from Ferris State University, I have been working in the assessing field for the last 5 years. My goal as a Township Assessor is to promote fair and equal property assessments and provide tax payers with an approachable resource that is comfortable for them. A big part of the assessment process involves annual property inspections, including properties that have recently sold, have new construction, or are randomly chosen on an annual rotational basis, as recommended by the State Tax Commission. Nelson Township Assessing Office hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am to 3pm. However appointments are recommended as I am frequently out in the field performing property inspections. For more information regarding the assessment process, or to contact me, please visit www.nelsontownship.org or contact me by email at: townshipassessing.amanda@gmail.com

Zoning Department Jerry Gross

Just a reminder that if you are considering construction or a project of any kind, please check with the Zoning Department to see if any permits are required. All structures require zoning approval. Filing complaints: While preparing to file a complaint with my office please consider speaking with the person or persons that have caused your concerns. Frequently I have found that the problem has not been discussed with the other party before I am called. It is possible a situation can be corrected just by talking. If this does not work then by all means contact our office to voice your concerns. If you are leaving a voice mail for me, provide your name, telephone number, and type of complaint.

Nelson Township SENIOR CENTER

Welcome to the Senior Center. The Senior Center is funded by Nelson Township and is free for those 55 and older. We meet in the Community Room at the Kent District Library in Sand Lake. We meet during the months of September thru March every Friday Afternoon, from 1pm to 3pm. We do a variety of activities from crafts, card games, board games, bingo, to special music. All designed for seniors. The best part of the afternoon is the conversations we are able to have with other seniors. So if you are tired of sitting home talking to yourself, or if your Spouse is driving you crazy, come and join us. The coffee is always on. If you have any questions please stop by or call the Township Office. If you would like to showcase your talent or have a presentation for the Seniors, please call Susan VanEnk at the Township Office.

Board Meetings

Attend your local Board meetings

Nelson Township: Second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

Village of Sand Lake: Third Monday of the month at 7 pm.

Four Townships Partner to Secure Funding for 16 Mile Road Gravel-to-Pavement Construction

The Kent County Road Commission's multi-year, three-mile-long, gravel-to-pavement construction project on 16 mile road, from Pine Lake Avenue to Harvard Avenue, readies for completion this summer, thanks in large part to the collaborative effort among the townships of Courtland, Oakfield, Nelson and Spencer. The funding needed to transform the three miles of gravel road to pavement required a united effort from these neighboring communities because, as a "borderline" road, 16 Mile Road falls within each of the townships, which sit to its north and south.

Generally, the financing of a borderline road improvement project can be tricky to secure because of the road's physical divide among townships. Agreements made by townships prior to January 1931 sought to alleviate this type of confusion by assigning construction - and therefore, financial - responsibilities to one of the adjoining townships. As per the agreement, the identified township would be responsible for 100% of the local share of a borderline road project despite two townships sharing the border. Assuming full responsibility for the township share of a project, for which only half of the road resides in the township's own jurisdiction, can be a tough sell. Given budgetary constraints, why finance a borderline road project when another improvement project resides fully within the township's limits? Conversely, why would a township that is not assigned construction responsibility feel compelled to support a borderline road project financially?

In the case of 16 Mile Road, the road's high-volume use helped to sway the four townships to partner in financing the three miles of work, despite the recorded assignment of construction responsibility. Ultimately, each township decided that the project was in their residents' best interest because it provided a new, and in-demand, pavement-to-pavement connection.

"The traffic counts showed everyone how important 16 Mile was to the residents who live in this area. Once it was considered a "win" for everyone, it became a matter of the townships discussing how to collaborate financially in order to complete the project."

The funding of local road projects like 16 Mile Road is cost shared between the township and KCRC. For gravel-to-pavement construction, this equates to 45% of the funding coming from the road commission, 55% from the township. Although construction started on the first mile of the 16 Mile Road project in 2015, the conversation about the project began between KCRC and township officials in 2011. After these initial discussions, representatives from KCRC hosted multiple informational meetings for township residents, during which questions could be raised and issues discussed. Public Hearings held by KCRC's Board then followed, preceding each mile of construction. Year after year, an overwhelming number of residents demonstrated their support by attending the hearings or writing to the Board in advance of the vote, to urge the commissioners' approval.

In 2015, the first mile of the project began between Pine Lake Avenue and Tisdell Avenue, and the second mile, between Tisdell Avenue and Keller Avenue, followed in 2016. The local share of the two-mile stretch was funded by its bordering townships, Courtland and Nelson. In 2018, construction began on the final mile of the project, between Keller Avenue and Harvard Avenue, with the local share funded by the bordering townships of Oakfield and Spencer.

Resident support remains high, exemplified by the community-wide street parties thrown after each mile is completed. For KCRC, this project exemplifies what can be accomplished when the road commission and townships partner and collaborate for the benefit of their communities and residents.

Instructions for Absent Voter Ballot Applicants:

Step 1: After completely filling out the application, sign and date the application in the place designated, Your signature must appear on the application or you will not receive an absent voter ballot.

Step 2: Deliver the application by one of the following methods:

A. Place the application in an envelope addressed to the appropriate clerk and deposit it in the United States mail or with another public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or common carrier. Proper postage required.

B. Deliver the application personally to the clerk's office, to the clerk, or to the clerk's authorized assistant.

C. In either (A) or (B), a member of the immediate family of the voter including a father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild of a person residing in the voter's household may mail or deliver the application to the clerk for the applicant.

D. If an applicant cannot return the application in any of the above methods, the applicant may select any registered elector to return the application. The person returning the application must sign and return the certificate at the bottom of the application.

MI Absent Voter Ballot Application—Aug. 7 Primary and/or Nov. 6 General

I am a United States citizen and a qualified and registered elector of the County and jurisdiction in the State of Michigan listed below, and I apply for an official ballot, to be voted by me at the above indicated election.

Applicant Registration Information:

1
Complete

First Name	M.I.	Last Name	County
			<input type="checkbox"/> City
			<input type="checkbox"/> Township
Street Address			Jurisdiction
			Precinct #
MI			
City	Zip	Year of Birth (Optional)	

2
Check

Select election(s) (required):

- August 7, 2018 State Primary
 November 6, 2018 General Election

3
Check

The reason for my request is (you must provide a reason for each election selected above):

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| August 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | am 60 years of age or older. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. |

4
Sign

I certify that I am a United States citizen and that the statements in this absent voter ballot application are true.

X _____ / /
 Signature Date

WARNING: You must be a United States citizen to vote. If you are not a United States citizen, you will not be issued an absent voter ballot. A person making a false statement in this absent voter ballot application is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is a violation of Michigan election law for a person other than those listed in the instructions to return, offer to return, agree to return, or solicit to return your absent voter ballot application to the clerk. An assistant authorized by the clerk who receives absent voter ballot applications at a location other than the clerk's office must have credentials signed by the clerk. Ask to see his or her credentials before entrusting your application with a person claiming to have the clerk's authorization to return your application.

Return this application to your local clerk. Find your clerk at mi.gov/vote.

Additional Information:

Complete only if you want your ballot sent to a temporary address:

Date leaving for temporary address:			
/ /	Temporary Address		
Date of return:			
/ /	City	State	Zip

Contact Info for Questions

Email Address
Phone #

NOTE: Absentee ballots will not be forwarded by USPS.

5
Other

Complete only if assisting a voter with return of the application	Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Returning Absent Voter Ballot Application:
	I certify that my name is _____, date of birth is _____; _____ and my address is _____;
	that I am delivering the absent voter ballot application of _____ at his or her request; that I did not solicit or request to return the application; that I have not made any markings on the application; that I have not altered the application in any way; that I have not influenced the application; and that I am aware that a false statement in this certificate is a violation of Michigan election law.
	X _____ / / Signature of person assisting the voter Date

Clerk's Use Only

Wd/Pct	Mailed	/ /	Returned	/ /
Filed	/ /	Ballot No.	Clerk	

SEE PAGE 2 FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS