

# Portland Township News

Summer 2022

773 East Grand River

P.O. Box 314

Portland, MI 48875

[www.portlandtownship.org](http://www.portlandtownship.org)

## What's Happening in Portland Township?

### Updates on Township Hall

As this newsletter goes to print, decisions on the new Township Hall are still in process. Progressive AE was hired to provide a civil engineering analysis, which included a drone flyover on April 28. The drone flew about 200-300 feet above the ground and took 500 photos which will be digitally connected to provide topographical information needed to continue planning for the hall. This survey will help us decide where to locate the hall, the recycling area, and driveways. Watch the Township Facebook page for updates as they become available.



### Michigan Township Associations Conference



Left to right: Mark Simon, Shelly Schneider, Sue Vanlente, and Chris Jensen attended two full days of classes and educational seminars on April 25-26, 2022.

Four members of the Township Board attended the MTA Conference at the Lansing Center on April 26-27. Supervisor Chris Jensen, Treasurer Shelly Schneider, Trustee Mark Simon, and Trustee Sue Vanlente attended more than 25 educational sessions on topics such as roads, marijuana, broadband, social media, utility infrastructure, renewable energy, etc. Other sessions dealt with ethics, effective

leadership, proper communication, and the open meetings act. The goal of the MTA Conference is to help Township officials stay up-to-date on the latest laws and trends around the state.

Trustee Mark Simon was the winner of the lunchtime Jeopardy game that tested knowledge about Township governance. Mark was the best educated official in a room packed with attendees.



Portland Township Trustee Mark Simon shows off the gift basket that he won by being the best educated Township official.

### Paying Taxes Online

Treasurer Shelly Schneider reminds residents that you can easily and quickly pay your property taxes online using the link that is available on the Portland Township website or Facebook page. Since its inception last year, more than 50 residents have paid their bills online, and we expect many more to use the service this year.



### 2022 Election Information

• **DATES:** The primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022; the general election will be held on November 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 7:00 am-8:00 pm on both dates.

• **LOCATION:** Voting will take place in the gymnasium at Westwood Elementary School, 883 Cross Street, Portland, MI 48875.

• **INFORMATION:** Information about voter registration, absentee ballots, registration status, and polling locations can be found at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) and [www.michigan.gov/sos/elections](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections).

• **ABSENTEE VOTERS:** Absentee voter applications will be mailed a month prior to the elections to those on the Clerk's permanent absentee voter list. If you would like to be placed on the permanent list, contact Clerk Charlene Keilen.

• **ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED:** If you would like to become an election worker for future Portland Township Elections, please contact the Clerk.

• **CONTACT INFORMATION:** Clerk Charlene Keilen can be contacted at 517-647-6643 or email [portownship@att.net](mailto:portownship@att.net).

Don't forget! You can now pay your taxes online!

#### CREDIT CARD



➤ Convenience Fee  
3% (minimum fee \$2.00)

#### E-CHECK

➤ Convenience Fee  
\$3.00 Flat Fee

To pay online go to  
[www.portlandtownship.org](http://www.portlandtownship.org)  
and click on ONLINE PAYMENT

# Portland Township Resident Survey

The Portland Township Planning Commission is updating the Master Plan that will direct the future growth of the Township. Input from Township residents is an important part of this plan. Please return the survey with your taxes or mail to: Portland Township Survey, PO Box 314, Portland, MI 48875 before August 15, 2022. The survey is also available online.



From the following list, please select the two most important reasons you have chosen to live in Portland Township:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural setting      | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe area          | <input type="checkbox"/> Good schools       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban lifestyle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farming activity   | <input type="checkbox"/> Good neighborhood  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proximity to work  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____        |

In terms of the Township priorities, which of the following do you consider very important? Please choose no more than four:

- Improving roads
- Constructing sidewalks/paths along busier roads to make them safer for foot traffic
- Preserving farmlands
- Expanding commercial development
- Expanding industrial development
- Increasing housing opportunities for young families
- Increasing housing opportunities for seniors
- Expanding the mobile home park
- Improving emergency services
- Improving parks and recreation facilities within the Township
- Enforcing zoning rules
- Maintaining rural character
- Conserving open/natural areas
- Other priorities (Please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

In terms of the Township concerns, please indicate if you are very concerned about any of the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development in open lands/natural areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of zoning ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of recreation facilities           | <input type="checkbox"/> Too much commercial development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of new housing                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crowded neighborhoods                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of rural character |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other concerns (Please explain) _____   |  |

Thinking about the growth of the township, do you think that Portland Township is growing:

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too quickly | <input type="checkbox"/> Too slowly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About right | <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion |

Please answer the following questions with Y (Yes) , N (No) or O (No opinion):

- Do you feel the junk ordinance is working to clean up the township?
- Do you want the township to continue paying for improvements to problem areas on the township roads?
- Should the Township continue the monthly recycling program?

How long have you lived in the Township? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rent or own? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use the township website or Facebook page? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel that the Township Board members are easy to contact? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider serving on any of the Township boards or committees? If YES, please provide your name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Portland Township Board Meets 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

**Supervisor, Chris Jensen**  
portlandtscjensen@gmail.com  
(517) 647-2479

**Clerk, Charlene Keilen**  
portownship@att.net  
(517) 647-6643

**Treasurer, Shelly Schneider**  
ptowntreas@gmail.com  
(517) 647-2075

**Trustee, Sue Vanlente**  
suevanlente@gmail.com  
(517) 575-8000

**Trustee, Mark Simon**  
mgsimon@wowway.com  
(517) 647-4892

## Planning Commission Meets first Wednesday of March, June, September and December at 7:00 pm

Chair, Cindy Selden  
Vice Chair, Ross Schneider  
Secretary, Sue Vanlente (Township liaison)  
Andrew Huhn  
Tony Dixon  
Marcy Lay  
Evelyn Walkington-Jensen

## Zoning Board of Appeals Annual Organizational Meeting second Wednesday of each January at 6:00 pm, then as needed.

Chair, Kris Bond  
Vice Chair, Tom Klein  
Secretary, Evelyn Walkington-Jensen  
Mark Simon (Township liaison)  
Nic Schneider  
Alternate, Theresa Iskra

## Board of Review Meets in December, March, and July

Chris Jensen  
Cindy Selden  
Nick Sandborn  
Matt Robertson  
Alternate, Keith Baker  
Alternate, Vacancy

**Zoning Administrator**  
Jeanne Vandersloot  
(616) 897-4242  
zoningadmin@msn.com

**Assessor**  
Jason Kohagen  
(989) 383-0306  
jkohagen@bsasoftware.com

**PAMA Board Representatives**  
John Baker & Marcy Lay

**PAFA Board Representatives**  
Chris Jensen & Bill Stegenga

**Library Board Representatives**  
Kathy Cook & Robert Weller



@Portland Township MI