

South Branch Township News – Winter 2023

Office Hours

Supervisor Anna Sylvester

The treasurer and clerk's offices are open Monday, Wednesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Tuesday from 9 a.m.-Noon. The zoning administrator and supervisor are here Monday – Thursday during the office hours. The assessor is here Wednesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-Noon.

The winter holidays are upon us and the township office will be closed Dec. 25, 26, & Jan. 1, 2 & 15; and Feb. 19.

You are invited to attend the Township Board meetings, the 2nd Tuesday of the month, with the exception of March which is an annual meeting and is the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Fire Department

Chief Mike Umphrey

Asst Chief Phil Lewis

If you would like to be part of our volunteer fire and/or EMS crew, please stop by for an application. Remember:

*Make sure your address is visible from the road by use of the 911 signs.

*Change your smoke detector batteries! Your life is important!

*If you need a smoke detector or 911 road sign, check with the fire department.

*Have plenty of clearance in your driveways-both width (12+ feet) and height (15+ feet)-and have sufficient area to turn around.

*Turning off your seasonal light decorations and other electrical when leaving your home can reduce your chance for a fire.

*Burn safely outside. Permits can be obtained by calling the DNR at 866-533-2876.

New Fire/EMS Equipment Brush Truck for Wildfires



Treasurer's Office

Treasurer Kate Barkley

Deputy Treas. Brooke Miller

Winter tax season is upon us once again. Taxes can be paid in person with cash, check, money order or visa/debit card. Please note that an additional fee 3% will be incurred if using your card. A drop box is located at the entrance of the township hall for your payment. Please do not put cash in the drop box. If you are unable to pay your taxes in full, we will gladly accept your partial payment. Please remember that if you are mailing your tax payment, postmarks are not accepted as date received. February 14, 2024 is the last day to pay your winter taxes without a 3% interest fee applied. Our office will be open on Dec. 29, 2023 until 4:00 p.m. if you want to make your payment before the end of the year.

February 29, 2024 is the last day our office can accept your tax payment. As of March 1, 2024 all taxes that have not been paid will be turned over to Crawford County as delinquent. After this date, you will need to contact them to make payment arrangements at: 989-344-3204.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are now available until February 28, 2024. The fee is \$8.00 for spayed/neutered dogs or \$15.00 for unaltered dogs. Please stop by the township office with a copy of your dog's current rabies vaccination to obtain your dog license.



News From the Clerk's Office

Clerk Brenda Nelson

Deputy Clerk Robin Wayco

New election news for 2024:

- February 27, 2024- Presidential primary
- August 6, 2024-General primary
- November 5, 2024-General election
- Early voting will be held at the Crawford County Building. The County Clerk's Office will post the days and times for early voting.
- Voting on the specific election days will be at the Township Office.

To register to vote you can register online at the Secretary of State, <https://www.michigan.gov/sos>, or when you renew your drivers' license. You can also register at the clerk's office and you will need proof of residency with you. Please call the Clerk's office for more information.

Any voter that has requested to be on the permanent absentee voters' list will receive an application for a ballot for the primary and general elections. Please remember to

South Branch Township, Crawford County, MI

5245 N. M-18, P.O. Box 606, Roscommon, MI 48653

P: 989-275-8232 F: 989-275-4860

Hours: M, W-F, 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.; Tues 9:00 a.m.-Noon

www.southbranchtownship.com

South Branch Township News – Winter 2023

update your application or the clerk's office with any address changes and where you want the ballot sent as the ballots cannot be forwarded, only the applications.

Zoning Administrator Shelly Pringle

My first year as zoning administrator has been very busy. I have enjoyed getting to know so many residents of South Branch Township and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Please remember that South Branch Township does not allow storing of campers on a property without a dwelling. Before you set up your campers next Spring, please contact me for temporary or annual camping permits.

If you are within the stream corridor along the South, North or main branches of the AuSable River, no motor vehicles or campers are allowed within 75 feet of the river. A dock shall not be more than 48 square feet in area, with not more than 4 feet of the dock extending over the edge of the river. A dock shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to blend with the natural surroundings. The use of natural, native material is encouraged,

If you are planning any construction, including new structures, alterations to the land, or additional, including full or partial demolition of any existing structure, you may require a zoning permit. Please contact me for any questions or concerns you may have.

Assessing News

Christie Verlac

As a reminder, the assessor periodically inspects properties within the township for value reassessment after a qualifying event, such as a sale, transfer of ownership, or property improvements. Please contact the Assessor's office with updates to your Principal Residence Exemption status or address changes. Contact Christie on Wed-Fri from 9am-noon.

Refuse Station Updates

Pioneer attendants: Don Pennell & Linda Schade

McMasters attendants: Greg Stansbury & Kay Baker

Have you used the new bright green cardboard only bins at the refuse stations? Place your flat and clean cardboard in these bins. Dirty, soiled or oily cardboard should go into the compactor.

If there is a residence on your property, your trash and recycling costs are included within your taxes. Residential trash and recycling are normal and customary everyday refuse. It is not for commercial services or a total clean-out of a house after renters or before selling.

Please use these services you pay for and regularly take your refuse and recycling to the refuse stations—one is on Pioneer Road, the other on McMaster Rd. If you have scrap metal, consider placing it in the scrap metal locations at the refuse sites. The funds collected help our fire association and support the fire fighters in South Branch. Remember: take your trash to the stations regularly and help keep our township beautiful.

Refuse hours are Sat, Sun, Mon & Wed from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Commercial properties, including those used for short-term rentals are not eligible for the residential refuse and recycling service.

We had a situation this summer when someone placed flammables into the dumpster at McMaster. Spray paint cans, oil-based paints, fuels and other combustible materials are not allowed in the dumpster. This action created a dumpster fire and the need for our fire department to put out the fire. It also extended onto the DNR property next to the site. Please do not dispose hazardous products or chemicals into the dumpsters.

Have a large item? We offer several days to take these large items to the refuse stations. If you cannot wait, talk with your refuse attendant for the best disposal method, before hauling it to the site.

Construction debris or large items that cannot be broken down, can be taken to the Waste Management landfill in Waters or hire a company to provide a dumpster. This is also the situation if you are cleaning out a home before sale or for a new rental. You will incur a cost for these options.

*Reminder the refuse stations will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

*Your 2024 refuse permits can be obtained after Dec. 1, 2023.

Happy 2024

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays!
We wish you the best for 2024!

South Branch Township, Crawford County, MI

5245 N. M-18, P.O. Box 606, Roscommon, MI 48653

P: 989-275-8232 F: 989-275-4860

Hours: M, W-F, 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.; Tues 9:00 a.m.-Noon

www.southbranchtownship.com