

Hopkins Township

142 E Main St, P.O. Box 217, Hopkins, MI 49328

Phone (269)793-3188 Fax (269)793-7906

Winter 2008

We Salute.

Upon their retirement, the Township Board wishes to recognize and express our thanks and appreciation for the many years of service these individuals have given to Hopkins Township:

Jean Marie Modreske - 12 years

Joyce Lussenden - 40 years

LaVerne Lussenden - 40+ years



John Nowak Park Donation

John Nowak has generously donated to Hopkins Township 14.66 acres of land on 135th Avenue between 12th Street and 14th Street. The land is to be used for park purposes only and will bear the Nowak name. The Township has yet to make plans regarding any future development of this property.

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Foreclosure Help

If you are having financial problems, don't risk losing your home. Free or low cost counseling is available.

 Save the Dream, operated by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), directs homeowners to a counselor in their county who specializes in foreclosure prevention. 1-866-946-7432

 Department of Housing/Urban Development 1-800-569-4287 or www.hud.gov

 The Center for Foreclosure Solutions available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1-888-995-HOPE

Happy Holidays



Civil War Veteran Markers

Our thanks to Pete Arnsman and his team who continue to work on the ordering and placement of markers for Civil War veterans buried in the Township cemeteries.

Please take time to join us at Maplewood Cemetery to remember our soldiers on Memorial Day

May 25, 2009 at 10 a.m.

* The Township Board meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Library *

Our website is a great source of information, check it out !

Township Directory

**POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

Website: www.hopkinstownship.org

Supervisor/Assessor

Mark Evans (269) 793-3184
supervisor@hopkinstownship.org
1451 124th Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328

Clerk

Lisa Battjes (269) 792-4457
clerk@hopkinstownship.org
1514 135th Avenue, Wayland, MI 49348

Treasurer

Dawn Arndt (269) 793-7742
treasurer@hopkinstownship.org
1975 126th Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328

Trustees

Douglas Hills (269) 793-3826
1608 128th Avenue, Hopkins, MI 49328.
Chuck Wamhoff (269) 793-7239

Building/Zoning/Land Division

Professional Code Inspections (616) 877-2000
pciofmi@yahoo.com
1575 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI 49323

Cemetery Sexton/Asst. Assessor

Lisa Evans (269) 793-3184

Planning Commission

Lori Castello, Chair (269) 793-0173
planning@hopkinstownship.org

Zoning Board of Appeals

Tom MacArthur, Chair (269) 793-3297

Burning Permits

Allegan County (269) 686-5222

Fire Department

(non-emergency)
Tim McKinnon, Chief (269) 793-1000
hopkfd@accn.org

Recycling

Allegan Resource Recovery (269) 673-5415

Assessor has office hours most Wednesdays

Who to call?

Mark Evans- Tax assessments, appeals, poverty exemptions, general information.

Lisa Battjes- Voter registration, absentee ballots, permanent absent voter list, general information.

Dawn Arndt- Property tax payments, tax deferments, newsletter and website, general information.

P.C.I.-Building permits, land divisions, and zoning questions.

Lisa Evans- assessment information, cemetery lot sales, burials, placement of headstones.



From the Clerk

I would like to thank you for placing your trust in me to fulfill the responsibilities of clerk and Dawn Arndt for all the help with training for the new position.

Mark, my husband, and our three children have lived in Hopkins Township for twelve years and hope to help preserve its character. Mark works for ADM. I sell real estate and am a loan officer. We love this community and I will strive to serve it well.

If you are interested in being placed on an permanent absent voter list, please contact me.

Lisa Battjes



Treasurer Notes

New this winter is the convenience of paying your taxes at United Bank in Hopkins, Wayland, and Dorr-six days a week! We have also partnered with Official Payments Corporation to accept credit cards and electronic checks online and over the telephone (convenience fees apply). See the back of your tax bill for additional payment information.

Review the application in this newsletter to see if you are eligible to defer your tax payment until April 30, 2009.

I will be using my home for the treasurer's office. It is located at 1975 126th Avenue (first house east of 20th Street). Please call or email me with any questions. As I work during the day, emails and messages will be returned in the evenings and on Saturday. I look forward to serving Hopkins in this new capacity and thank you for your confidence and support.

Dawn Arndt

Library Receives Art Grant

The Hopkins Library received a grant for the purchase of art. The art is now hanging throughout the library. You'll want to stop in and enjoy the view and..... of course..... pickup a book!

RECYCLING drop off site is located on N. Franklin Street in the Village of Hopkins and is open all hours. Materials that are accepted include empty plastic bottles, jugs and grocery bags; clean empty clear, green or brown glass; clean metal and aerosol cans; small batteries sealed in ziplock bags; paper items including newspapers, cardboard, junk mail, magazines, and phone books. Used motor oil can be taken to Stoddard Oil on 12th Street in Wayland.

Large cartons, polystyrene, appliances, and tires can be taken to the monitored depot site in Salem Township on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. You must present your resource recovery card.

Call the Health Department at 269-673-5415 if you have household hazardous waste.

Questions? Call Resource Recovery 269-673-5415

Property/Parcel/Tax Data Online

The Township has partnered with BS & A Software to provide current assessing and property tax information to our property owners, realtors, and mortgage/title companies through our website.



Fire Safety Message

The Hopkins Area Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the importance of

-  Having your furnaces and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually.
-  Placing a smoke alarm on every level of your home.
-  Replacing the batteries in your smoke alarms twice a year.

Agricultural Exemption

The State Construction Code officially known as Public Act 230 excludes agricultural buildings and structures from **construction** permits only. It has nothing to do with zoning and land use permits as local ordinances govern these issues. As per the State's definition, to be qualified for an agricultural exemption, the following rules need to be considered:

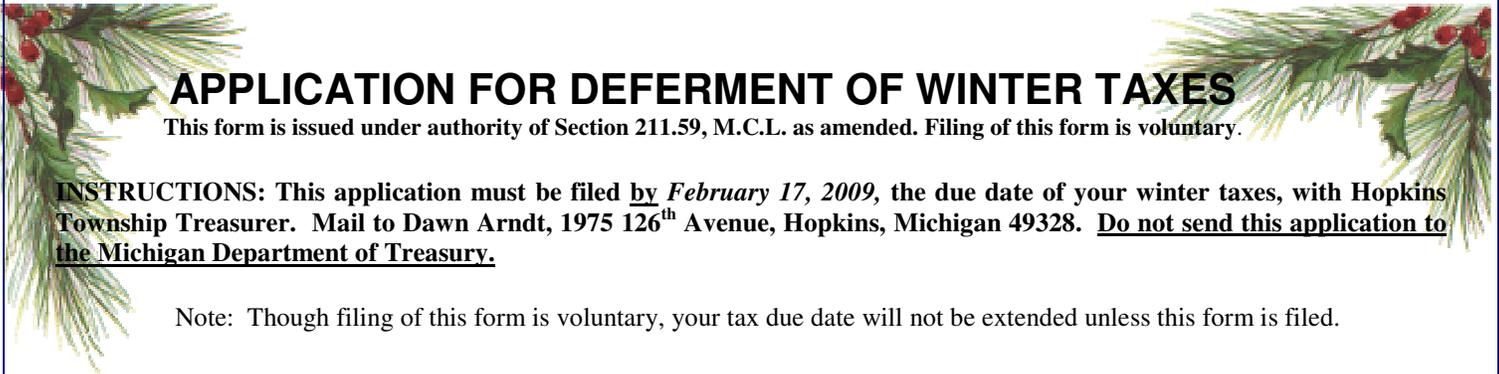
1. No part of the building or structure may be used as a dwelling.
2. The building may not be used for retail sales ever. Wholesale sales are permitted such as selling raw milk and produce to processors.
3. The produce, crops, livestock, etc. must be grown on the same property the building is located. This language excludes farm co-op buildings such as grain mills where many farmers would bring crops to be processed, but they are not grown in that location.

Please remember, the exclusion is based solely on use of the building and items #1, 2, & 3 above. If the building is used for any other purpose, the exemption does not apply. A building used for horses, feed, farm equipment, animal husbandry, horticulture and other bone-a-fide agricultural uses are exempt. Should you be erecting a building or structure for an approved agricultural use, a building permit is not required.

However, a **Zoning Compliance permit is required** to assure the use of the building is permitted in the zoning district it is located and it meets minimum setback requirements for the lot. An accessory building for a garden tractor or 4-H rabbit which also stores cars, motor homes or boats is an example of a building which would not be considered exempt. The pre-dominate use must be for agricultural purposes.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Professional Code Inspections of Michigan (P.C.I.) at 1-800-628-3335. Zoning compliance permits may be obtained from P.C.I. or may be downloaded from our website www.pcimi.com. A zoning compliance permit is required to be obtained prior to the construction of an agricultural building. The zoning fee is \$35.00 payable to Hopkins Township.

Kirk Scharphorn, Building Official Hopkins Township



APPLICATION FOR DEFERMENT OF WINTER TAXES

This form is issued under authority of Section 211.59, M.C.L. as amended. Filing of this form is voluntary.

INSTRUCTIONS: This application must be filed by February 17, 2009, the due date of your winter taxes, with Hopkins Township Treasurer. Mail to Dawn Arndt, 1975 126th Avenue, Hopkins, Michigan 49328. Do not send this application to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Note: Though filing of this form is voluntary, your tax due date will not be extended unless this form is filed.

Applicants Name

Parcel I. D. Number

Address of Taxpayer's Principal Residence

HOPKINS TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY

I hereby request that the treasurer of the municipality where I reside, defer the due date of the WINTER & SUMMER (if application was made by Sept. 15) TAXES on my PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE identified above, without penalty or interest charges, until APRIL 30. I certify that my gross household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$40,000 and that I qualify for the deferment provided for in the General Property Tax Act under the classification marked below.

- 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death
- Paraplegic or Quadriplegic
- Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower
- Blind Person
- Totally and Permanently Disabled

Certification:

I understand that misleading or false statements on this application may subject me to penalties and interest for late payment of taxes.

Applicant's Signature

Date:

FOR CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP USE ONLY

Deferment Approval Signature- Local Treasurer

Date: