

Hopkins Township

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

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

WWW.HOPKINSTOWNSHIP.ORG

Winter 2009

No Inflationary Increase For Taxable Property Values in 2010

The State Tax Commission announced that the official inflation factor to be used for calculating taxable values on every individual piece of property in the State for 2010, is minus 0.3. A negative inflation factor has never been used before in calculating the value of property for purposes of taxation under Proposal A. One exception to this decrease would be property that has transferred ownership.



Planning Commission Considers Changing Minimum Lot Size in Ag District

The Hopkins Township Planning Commission will meet on January 26, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the Township Hall to further discuss changing the minimum lot size in the Ag District Zoning Ordinance to 40 acres. Please take the time to attend, mail, or email your input to the Board.

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Do You Have E-Waste?

A new recycling service for electronic devices (e-waste) is now available. Township residents can drop off all electronic devices (TV's, computers, monitors, printers, cell phones, etc.) at the Salem Township Transfer Station. There is a \$10 fee for TV's and \$5 for computer monitors. All other electronics are Free. For additional information, contact Ben Williams, Allegan County Recycling Coordinator at (269) 673-5415.



We're "COUNTING" On YOU!

Your 2010 Census form will be arriving in your mail box sometime in February or March. Confidential census information affects the number of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as how federal dollars are spent each year on infrastructure and services such as roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. Your participation isn't just important – it's mandatory. Please promptly complete and return your questionnaire when it arrives. Additional information is available at www.2010.census.gov.

❄ 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
hopkinsareafd@gmail.com

Recycling

Ben Williams, Coordinator
Allegan Resource Recovery (269) 673-5415

Assessor has office hours most Wednesdays

Firefighter's Salute

Please help us thank these hardworking, dedicated, and brave volunteer Firefighters and Medical First Responders who help make our community a safer place to live:

Tim McKinnon, Tom Iciek, Bob Kerber, Brad Kerber, Curtis Channells, Jim Green, Brett Harris, Brian Kerber, Orland Smith, Brian Ballard, Trevor Beilby, Eric Boeske, Shawn Bonnell, Nate Chappell, Orlando Delao, Kyle Fuss, Gary Kerber, Craig Osborn, Alex Schut, Gary Truax, Ed Wamhoff, Doug Collier, Jason Helms, Nick Price, and Justin Johnson. THANKS!



Healthier U.S. Initiative

The Healthier U.S. Initiative is a national effort to improve people's lives, prevent and reduce the costs of disease, and promote community health and wellness. Deciding to live a healthier life is easy; it's the follow-through that's hard. Visit www.HealthierUS.gov or call toll free 800-336-4797 to learn how to: Make physical activity a part of your day, eat more healthy foods, protect yourself and your family from illness, and avoid risks to your health and the health of your loved ones. Bad habits are not easily broken. Good ones are not easily won. BUT YOU CAN DO IT! It's the best gift you can give yourself and your family.



Treasurer Notes

Enjoy the convenience of paying your taxes at United Bank in Hopkins, Wayland, and Dorr-six days a week! Credit card or electronic checks payments are accepted online and over the telephone (convenience fees apply). See the back of your tax bill for additional payment information.

See our website for your property tax bill, payment history, and assessment records.

Review the application in this newsletter to see if you are eligible to defer your tax payment until April 30, 2010.

My office is in my home 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.
Dawn



Hopkins Public Library Offerings

The Hopkins Public Library offers “free” internet access; Children’s Story Time; fax services; movies; books on CD and cassette; and more. You’ll want to stop in and pick up an activity schedule and.... a book!

RECYCLING drop off site is located on N. Franklin Street in the Village of Hopkins and is open all hours. Household 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. No garbage or trash.

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 Resource Recovery 269-673-5415 if you have household hazardous waste or questions.

Online Searchable Ordinance

The Township has partnered with Muni Code to provide a searchable database of our Township Ordinances. We expect this process to be complete and linked to our website soon.



Fire Safety Message

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

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

Swimming Pool Permits

With spring and summer just a few months away, many of you will be purchasing swimming pools. Here are a few things that you should keep in mind when preparing to set up your new swimming pool.

On August 1, 2001, a State Building Code went into effect regarding swimming pools. Because statistics show over 4,000 deaths occur each year from backyard swimming pools, the codes for pools and the liability that comes with them are substantial. The first step in minimizing your liability is to obtain the mandatory permits and zoning approval (location of pool) prior to installation.

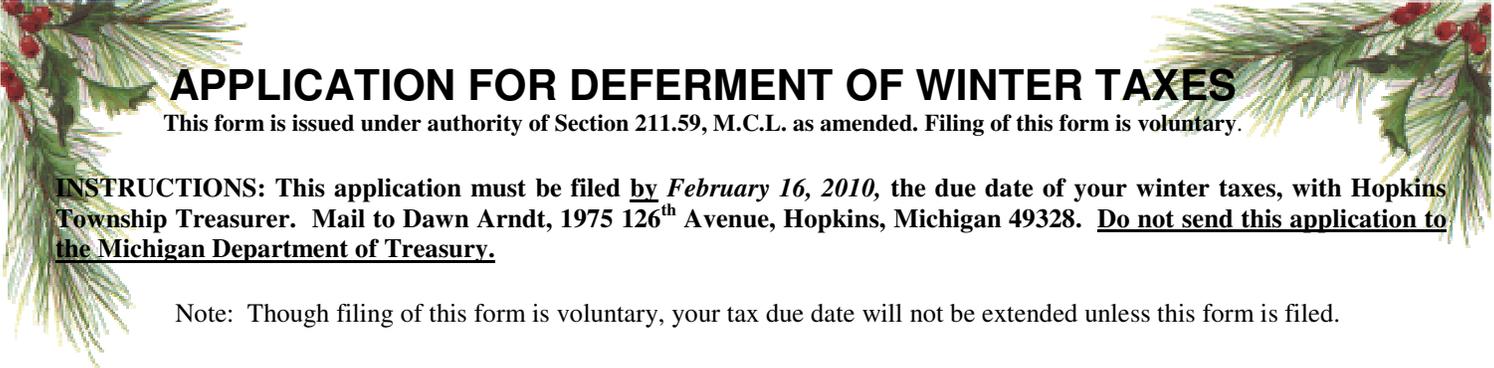
The State of Michigan Building Code requires a permit for any pool that contains over 24 inches of water depth for swimming and bathing purposes; this includes in-ground, on-ground, and above-ground pools and spas. There are also regulations on pool enclosures and removable ladders for all pools over 24 inches in depth. Pools that have filters and pumps are required to have an electrical permit.

The rules and regulations regarding pools are extensive and can be frustrating. For interpretations, questions, permit fees, zoning information and a complete set of rules, please contact Professional Code Inspections of Michigan at (616) 877-2000.

In our office we have “Pool Packets” that contain pertinent information on building code requirements, pool enclosures, and electrical code requirements for pools with filters and pumps. These packets can be faxed or picked up at our office located at 1575 142nd Avenue, Dorr, MI 49323. Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Professional Code Inspections thanks you for your time in this matter and more importantly.....have FUN and BE SAFE!

Sincerely,
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 16, 2010, 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: