

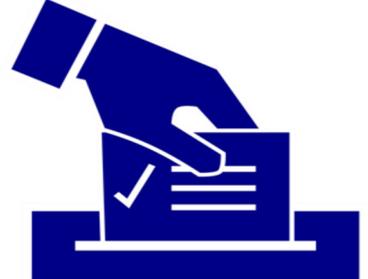


# The Profile

WINTER 2015

## ELECTION WORKERS WANTED

Have you ever considered working for Plainfield Township during an election day? The Township Clerk is now accepting applications for election worker. There are three elections scheduled in 2016: March 8, August 2, and November 8. If you have basic computer skills and can work all day on any of these dates, please contact Clerk Ruth Ann Karnes via email at [karnesr@plainfieldmi.org](mailto:karnesr@plainfieldmi.org) for information regarding qualifications and to receive an application. Election workers are paid \$140 per day with additional pay for training time. Students age 16 and older have been found to be excellent precinct workers and are encouraged to apply.



## CHECK OUT THE TOWNSHIP'S PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD



Plainfield Township provides a Performance Dashboard on the main page of our website that can be viewed by people to see how Plainfield Township is performing in certain areas. Also provided is a "Citizen's Guide", a "Debt Service Report", and a "Projected Budget Report", providing people with the ability to see historical revenue and expense trends, current and future debt service schedules, and General Fund budget information. The "Citizen's Guide" allows people to review historical trends of various revenue and expenditure sources by selecting the appropriate tab at the bottom (Revenues or Expenditures) and selecting one of the various sources from a drop-down list located in box 4 on both tabs. We encourage residents to view all the information to become better informed of the Township's performance. The website is: [www.plainfieldmi.org](http://www.plainfieldmi.org). In the near future, we will be providing a link on our website that will allow people to view detail financial information with lots of search and display options. The link will be to "OpenGov", and the purpose is to provide financial transparency and make it "open" to the public.

## PAY YOUR TAXES AND UTILITY BILLS ONLINE

Did you know you can pay your utility and property tax bills online through your bank's online bill pay system? This is a great way to make sure that your payments are received by the proper due dates. However, to ensure payments are applied to the proper account **it is very important that you designate what type of bill you are paying**. Please be sure to set up two separate bill pay accounts for Plainfield Charter Township, one for paying your utility bills and another for paying your property tax bills. Tax and utility payments must be made separately and should be marked appropriately by putting a parcel number on the tax payment or an account number for utility payments.



## DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SMOKE DETECTORS?



The Smoke Alarm Grant Program is coming to an end. If there is someone living in your home age 65 or older, age 14 or younger, or hearing impaired, you qualify for this program. If you live in a mobile home, or your home was built prior to 1975, you qualify. Please call (616)363-6651 or email [smokealarms@plainfieldmi.org](mailto:smokealarms@plainfieldmi.org) to register. Firefighters will come to your home and install smoke alarms with a 10 year tamper proof battery at no cost to you.

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Plainfield Township continues to try to make life better for you. Over the last year the Township Board has:

- completed major neighborhood water and sewer improvements;
- increased our annual spending on law enforcement, adding a dedicated Community Police Officer and a 16 hour per day road patrol deputy;
- made improvements to Premier Park on 10 Mile;
- partnered with the Grand Rapids North Rotary Club to install a Disc Golf Course at Grand Isle Park
- approved a \$8.527 million dollar General Fund 2016 Budget applied for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Acquisition Grant that will pay the majority of the cost to acquire the Grand Rogue Campground along the Rogue and Grand Rivers.



As we come into the spring, it will be time for township residents to file petitions if they are interested in running for election for the Township Board. The filing deadline for the August 2, 2016 Primary Election and November 8, 2016 General Election is at 4:00 pm on April 19, 2016. If you want to know what it entails to serve your township as a Trustee, Clerk, Treasurer or Supervisor, feel free to contact Township Hall or any of the other elected officials. Serving as a local elected official is rewarding, gratifying and worthwhile.

Your Township Board and staff are dedicated individuals who work daily to make sure that Plainfield Township is a great place to live, work and play.

--Jay Spencer, Township Supervisor

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR BUSINESSES WITH PERSONAL PROPERTY

There have been several changes to Personal Property Tax (PPT) since Michigan voters approved Proposal 1 on August 5, 2014. To help business owners navigate those changes, please note the following information.

1. The small taxpayer exemption allows businesses that have personal property with a true cash value of less than \$80,000 to be exempt from PPT. Instead of filing a PPT return, those qualifying have to file an affidavit claiming exemption. A Personal Property Tax Exemption Form 5076 can be found online at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/5076f\\_493854\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/5076f_493854_7.pdf). This information will also be sent out in late December by the Assessor. It must be completed annually and returned to the Assessor's office no later than February 10 as long as the true cash value of the personal property remains below \$80,000.
2. For those businesses that do not qualify under the small taxpayer exemption, the business must file a Personal Property Statement L-4175 annually, no later than February 20. This will be mailed in late December by the Assessor to those businesses on our books, or it can be found online at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/632\\_2016\\_fillable\\_503675\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/632_2016_fillable_503675_7.pdf). If a statement is not filed, an estimate of PPT will be assessed for tax purposes.
3. Delinquent Personal Property Taxes have a 3% initial penalty added after February 14 and 1% interest per month until paid. Failure to pay delinquent tax debt may result in seizing of personal property or court action.
4. When a business moves out of the Township or goes out of business, it is the business owner's responsibility to notify the Assessor of this change, (616) 726-8880. You can do this by simply submitting a letter to the Assessor, on company letter head, stating when the business moved or closed and the status of the personal property.

# No Wipes Down the Pipes

Even if a product says it is “flushable” ...

Unless it is toilet paper, it should not be flushed!

- Diapers (including cloth, cotton, disposable, or plastic)
- Flushable, disposable, cleaning, or baby wipes
- Paper towels, cloth towels, or any type of rag
- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial Tissues



Place the items listed above in a trash can

**Putting these items down toilets may plug sewers and  
cause raw sewage to back up into YOUR HOME**

## 2016 CHANGES TO PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REGARDING ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURING AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES ASSESSMENT

Beginning December 31, 2015 (for the 2016 assessment year) qualified new personal property and qualified previously existing personal property located on occupied real property is exempt from ad valorem taxation and is instead subject to the State Essential Services Assessment. Additionally, certain P.A. 198 (IFT) Property and New Personal Property (P.A. 328) are subject to the State Essential Services Assessment. To claim this exemption, a fully completed Form 5278 must be received by the Assessor of the local unit of government where the qualified personal property is located **no later than February 20, 2016**. Taxpayers should not complete this affidavit and statement unless the personal property meets the definition of eligible manufacturing personal property.

Property that was placed in service in 2006 through 2012 will still be reported as ad valorem personal property in Part 2 on Form 5278, the *Affidavit and Statement for Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property and Essential Services Assessment*. Property meeting the definitions of qualified new personal property and qualified previously existing personal property placed in service after 2012 and prior to 2006 will be exempt from ad valorem taxes and will instead pay the State Specific Essential Services Assessment.

Taxpayers can obtain a copy from the Commission website, [www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission](http://www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission), or [www.michigan.gov/PPT](http://www.michigan.gov/PPT). Forms that are not fully completed will result in denial of the exemption. The Assessor will carefully evaluate the business activities of the claimant to ensure that they meet the statutory requirements of the Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property Exemption.

## 2016 ELECTION INFORMATION

### **Elections Dates for 2016:**

March 8, August 2, and November 8. (May 3, 2016 if needed for any special election)

**Last day to register** to vote in order to participate in this Primary Election is **February 8, 2016**.

### **Absentee Voting**

Absent Voter applications are available at the Plainfield Township Clerk's office located at the 6161 Belmont Avenue, Belmont, MI. You may also contact the clerks department at 364-8884 or [burtm@plainfieldmi.org](mailto:burtm@plainfieldmi.org) and the application can be mailed to you.

Electors who wish to apply for an absent voter ballot **by mail** must apply no later than Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. The Township Clerk's office will be open on that Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. to issue absentee ballots. ***No other departments will be open.***

Those still wishing to receive an Absent Voter ballot after March 5, can do so by voting **in person** at the Township Clerk's office on Monday, March 7, until 4:00 P.M.

### **Voter identification requirements are in effect**

Michigan election law requires that each registered voter present a photo I.D. at the precinct in order to be issued a ballot.

### **Electronic Poll Books**

Plainfield Township has implemented the Electronic Poll Book (E-Poll Book). The E-Poll Book allows precinct officials to check voters in with a scan of their **driver's license** or **ID card**. The Electronic Poll Book is NOT connected to the internet and is strictly a voter registration database / election software program. The scanning of your driver's license or ID card does not, in any way, access your private, personal, or financial information or put your identity at risk of theft. Going from paper-based to an electronic system speeds up voter check-in, improves accuracy, and helps expedite election night returns.

**Michigan Voter Information Center** - [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

- Check to see if you are a registered voter
- Find your polling location
- View a sample ballot
- Register to vote
- Absentee voting
- Contact your local election official
- Learn to use your voting equipment
- Find answers to frequently asked questions

### **Campaign Signs**

**Definition:** A temporary campaign sign related to a primary, general or special election, which displays the name, party or other related information of political candidates running for office, issues placed upon a ballot to be voted upon or other political issues. **Without limitation, a campaign sign is not permitted in the public right-of-way.**

**Size:** The sign area of any single sign shall not exceed twelve square feet and shall be setback a minimum of five feet from all lot lines

**Number:** There shall be no more than four signs on any single property and all such signs shall be located on private property. The total amount of sign area for all signs utilized shall not exceed 32 square feet.

**Duration:** Campaign signs are only permitted for a period not to exceed 60 days prior to an election or voting day, and all such signs shall be removed within 14 days after an election or voting day.

## How You as a Resident Can Help Reduce Pollution Entering the Grand River

Plainfield Township is working to better manage storm water runoff. As resident of Plainfield Township, you have the opportunity to help reduce the amount of pollution entering the storm sewer and ultimately the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

### What is Storm Water Pollution?

When it rains, storm water flows over lawns, streets, and parking lots, carrying with it road dirt, fertilizers, oil, and grease into storm drains, which are often located alongside streets and parking lots.

### Where do Storm Drains Lead?

Storm drains lead directly to nearby streams and lakes, usually without any type of treatment. Storm water entering storm drains in Plainfield Township ultimately leads to the Grand River and Lake Michigan.



### How Can I Help Reduce Storm Water Pollution?

- Report dumping to your Plainfield Township storm water coordinator, Rick Solle, P.E., Director of Public Services at (616) 363-9660 or [soller@plainfieldchartertp.org](mailto:soller@plainfieldchartertp.org).
- Make sure that wash water and other wastes do not enter a storm drain.
- Recycle waste as much as possible.
- Remember to close the lids on dumpsters and outdoor trash cans.
- Help build awareness of storm water pollution by sharing this information.
- Never dump grass clippings, vehicle fluids, or anything else down a storm drain.
- Dispose of pet waste in a trash can.
- Take used motor oil to a quick lube or auto shop.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn before a rain storm.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash, or on your lawn, to prevent dirt and soap from entering a storm drain.

