

## Township Officials

William F. Browne, Supervisor  
Brandee Ellis, Clerk  
Denise Medemar, Treasurer  
Rose Ann Wendt, Trustee  
Bob Dobbins, Trustee

Paul Shamblin, Zoning /Enforcement Officer  
Douglas Darling, Assessor  
Sally Burgess, Assistant Assessor  
Karen Popp, Administrative Assistant

## Message from the Supervisor

We are experiencing a financially challenging period. The dramatic decrease in revenue sharing over the past few years has created a revenue vacuum for Valley Township. The ongoing pressures of Headlee and Proposal A have been further compounded by real estate devaluation. As with most townships, Valley Township is finding it difficult to balance rising expenses with increasingly limited dollars. To assure our financial viability, we must identify means to increase our cost-effectiveness and productivity. We are searching for ways to “do more with less” and maximize the use of scarce resources.

Over the next few months, the Valley Township Board members will be discussing long-term solutions and strategic planning in fiscal considerations. We hope to develop real solutions that will produce long-term, meaningful results. Some of the issues we will be discussing include the following:

- Multiple year budgeting
- Review of millages, including general operating
- Reduction in dust control (third application)
- Modification of township fee structure
- Cemetery expenditures.

We need you, our residents, to give us your input on these and many other issues. Please consider attending the township board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

On a positive note, we have been notified by the Allegan County Road Commission that they will be reducing the speed limit on Taft Road. Many thanks to the residents who attended the meeting of the Road Commission and the members of the Commission for attending to our request.

**Bill Browne, Supervisor**

## Valley Township Open House

We will be holding an Open House at the Township Hall on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 pm, prior to our regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:30 pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your Supervisor, Assessor, Zoning Administrator and some of the Board Members. Cookies, coffee, and punch will be served and a table will be set up with useful information such as zoning and permits, Life ambulance, burn permits, Millgrove Cemetery, recycling, senior services and other services offered by Allegan County.

It is our hope that you will attend and stay for our board meeting afterwards. If you've never been to a Township Board meeting, this is a perfect opportunity. Agenda for the meeting will be available at the open house.

## Toys For Tots Collection Site

We are collecting for the Toys For Tots program again this year, . “No child should be without a toy this Christmas”. Please bring your donations to the Township Hall during regular business hours before December 19th or bring donations to the Open House on December 8th.

## Winter Tax Collection

WINTER TAXES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN February 16, 2010

The Treasurer will be at the Township Hall for the collection of the Winter Taxes on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, December 31, 2009, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 9:00 am to Noon.
- Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Monday, March 1, 2010 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Payments will also be accepted during regular business hours, 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday - Thursday, from now until the due date. If paying with cash, you must have the EXACT AMOUNT. For safety reasons, the Township Hall does not have any cash on hand to make change. Tax Bill Receipts will only be sent if requested. If you wish to have a receipt, please indicate that on your tax bill when you send in your payment. A receipt will be forwarded to you. Please note, postmark dates will not be accepted as the payment date. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Medemar at 269-673-1595.

## Tax Bill Deferment

Select properties may qualify for DEFERRED PAYMENT of THEIR TAX BILL if one of the following pertains to you:

- The Homestead Property of a person 62 years old or older, or, the surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years old or older at death, with a household income below \$40,000.00.
- Persons with a disability that allows them to qualify for an extra, personal exemption on their State Income Tax form.
- Property that is classified or used as Agricultural Property may qualify if the gross receipts of the farming operations are less than the household income of the owner.

Individuals who meet the above criteria for a deferral must complete a form available through the Township Treasurer. The form must be completed each year in order to have taxes deferred without a penalty in any given year. The form must be filed with the Township Treasurer by February 15, 2010 to receive the deferral. You can contact the Township Treasurer at 269-673-1595.

## Assessor Information

The assessing office performs an annual appraisal on each taxable property in the Township. The appraisals are based on the information maintained in the assessment records. In order to keep this information accurate, periodic inspection of the properties must be done, including the interior of buildings. If the information in the record is in error or incomplete, the resulting appraisal may not accurately represent the value of the property.

Records on properties that have sold will be verified for accuracy, as this is the market information used to produce accurate appraisals. Records on properties currently under construction will be visited to update the records as well.

The assessing office is responsible for not only the annual assessments, but also taxable values, principal residence exemptions, qualified agricultural and forest exemptions. Assessment & taxable valuation notices on each property are mailed after the annual assessment roll is completed near the end of February.

If you wish to speak with someone in the assessing office, normal office hours are maintained each Thursday.

The Valley Township Officials want to thank the residents for their contributions throughout the past year. We want you to join us in making Valley the best township in Allegan County.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON