

# SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 10 a.m -3 p.m.  
987 S M-553, Gwinn, MI 49841 Phone 906-249-9169 Fax 906-249-2120**

Website - <https://sandstownship.org> email - [office@sandstownship.org](mailto:office@sandstownship.org)

## Supervisor's Updates

### TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Supervisor - Darlene Walch  
249-9945

Clerk - Carolyn Kerkela  
361-0630

Treasurer - Lee Yelle

Trustee - Justin Yelle

Trustee - David Kallio

Zoning Administrator -  
Randall Yelle

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Shelley Brauer (Chair)  
Justin Yelle  
Suzanne Sundell  
Pamela Lajewski-Pearson  
Cory Bushong

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Victoria Jenema (Chair)  
Shelley Brauer  
David Kallio  
Jane Noe  
Jamin Wonch

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief - Tom Wahlstrom  
239-4967

Assistant Chief -  
Andrew Sicotte

Assistant Chief -  
Andrew Linsmeier

EMS Coordinator -  
Lyn Nelson  
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator -  
Frank Rosado  
249-3081

### Dig Out Your Old Electronics!

In addition to our regular electronics recycling schedule on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sands Township will host a special, expanded electronics event in July:

- July 19 – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- July 20 – 9 a.m to 3 p.m.

Electronics recycling focuses on communication and entertainment electronics such as TVs, computers (desktops, laptops, tablets), monitors, printers, fax machines, routers, cables, phones, keyboards, tuners, LCD monitors and flat screen TVs.

**Note:** Just because an item has an electric plug does not qualify it as “electronics” in the context of this grant-funded recycling program. Therefore, we cannot accept toasters, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, hairdryers, or similar items as part of this recycling program. Contact us to find out the best way to dispose of those items. See page 6 of this newsletter and our website for more details about fees and restrictions.

### Does Your Septic Give You Trouble?

Residents planning to replace their septic systems may seek assistance from the Septic Replacement Loan Program, which provides low-interest financing options for loans up to \$50,000. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has partnered with Michigan Saves to offer financing for the replacement of failing or near-failing septic systems, in efforts to protect Michigan's water resources and safeguard the well-being of its residents. Visit [MichiganSaves.org/Septic/](https://MichiganSaves.org/Septic/) for additional information.

### Important Notifications Available

We continue to register residents to receive important information, such as weather-related closings, by text or email through our partnership with Marquette County Central Dispatch. To enroll in this service, email us at [office@sandstownship.org](mailto:office@sandstownship.org), come by the office, or call 906-249-9169. Please indicate your preferred method of contact and provide your contact information (such as, email address for email notifications, or telephone number for text or phone message notifications).

The system behind this service is being upgraded this summer. Beginning in August, residents will be able to register themselves for this service and make changes to contact information and what notifications to receive. We'll have a link on our website when this feature becomes available.

### Roads Update

This summer sections of Silver Creek and Scenic Hills subdivision will be treated with chip seal. Township streets and roads are being reviewed in cooperation with the Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC) as we update our 5-year road maintenance plan. MCRC requests that we submit proposed projects for the 2025 season by mid-August 2024. This enables them to review plans from all the townships and coordinate projects for efficiency and cost management.

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

# Treasurer's News

The 2024 summer property tax statements were mailed by July 1, 2024, and must be paid in the office by September 16, 2024, to avoid interest or penalties. Beginning September 17, 2024, a 1% penalty is added to unpaid tax bills. On October 1, 2024, and each month thereafter an additional 1% interest is added. On February 15, 2025 an additional 3% penalty is added.

- If you have not received your tax statement or if your statement went to your escrow company and you would like a copy, call the township office at 906-249-9169.
- Please allow 7-10 days for mailed payments to arrive. Postmarked dates are not accepted.
- Checks must clear or payment and receipts are void.
- As of March 1, 2025, all tax payments plus interest/penalties must be submitted directly to the county treasurer's office.

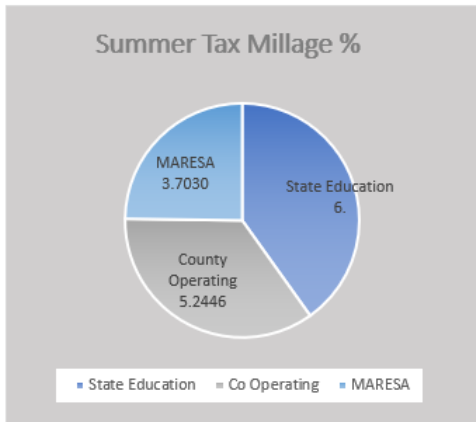


On or before February 28, 2025, residents may pay their taxes online using the secure AllPaid website. A 2.95% transaction fee is the payer's responsibility and applies for payments made using VISA, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover. To pay online, visit the Sands Township website at sandstownship.org and click the **Tax Credit Card Payment** tab.

View the pie chart for a breakdown of where your tax dollars are going. The detached portion of the pie is what stays within the township to support various expenses.

**Summer Tax Collection**

State Education	Co Operating	MARESA
6	5.2446	3.703

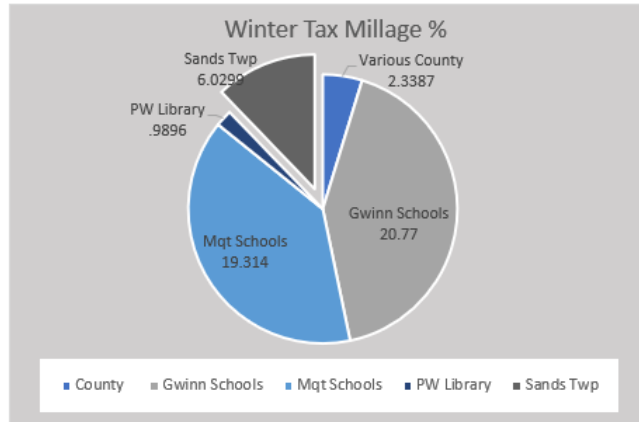


Break down for MARESA:

ISD	0.2030
ISD Extra Voted	1.5000
Special ED	2.0000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.7030</b>

**Winter Tax Collection**

County	Gwinn Schools	Mqt Schools	PW Library	Sands Twp
2.3387	20.77	19.314	0.9896	6.0299



Break down for Schools, Township & County

Gwinn:		Marquette:		Sands Twp:	
Operating	18.0000	Operating	18.0000	Operating	1.9831
Debt	0.4200	Bond	0.3800	Fire	0.8704
Debt 2	0.8500	Sinking Fund	0.9340	Ambulance	0.4349
Sinking Fur	1.5000	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.3140</b>	Roads	1.7415
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.7700</b>			Garbage	1.0000
		<b>County:</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.0299</b>
		Transit Authority	0.597		
		Aging Services	0.4474		
		Medical Care	0.5448		
		Central Dispatch	0.497		
		Rescue Safety	0.1525		
		Veteran Affairs	0.1		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.3387</b>		

**Note:** A Principal Residence Exemption (known as the homestead exemption) exempts a residential home from the 18 mills tax levied by the school districts.

## Election News from the Clerk

### Upcoming 2024 Election Dates

- Primary Election  
August 6, 2024, with early voting July 27 – August 4
- General Election  
November 5, 2024, with early voting October 26 – November 3



### Election Updates and Early Voting

Voters in August and November have several options when it comes to casting their votes.

#### In Person Voting on Election Day

As always, polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day. All Sands Township voters may vote on election day at the Sands Township Hall, 987 S State Highway M-553.

#### Early In-Person Voting

For all state and federal elections, early voting is available for nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before election day. Sands Township's early voting site is at the Chocolay Township Office located at 5010 U.S. Highway 41 S, Marquette. Early voting hours are from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

#### Absentee Ballots

Voters who choose to vote absentee have several options for requesting and returning their ballot.

- Requesting an Absentee Ballot
  - Online at [mvi.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvi.sos.state.mi.us)
  - With a signed application that can be requested in person at the Township office, via email to [clerk@sandstowship.org](mailto:clerk@sandstowship.org), or by phone 906-249-9169
  - Placement on the Permanent Ballot List, which means a ballot will automatically be mailed to you prior to every election
- Returning an Absentee Ballot
  - By mail (postage pre-paid)
  - Placement in the video-monitored drop box at the Township office, available 24/7
  - In person to the Township office during office hours
  - New Option – In person during early voting or on election day, with the voter placing their ballot in the tabulator themselves

### Voter Reminders and Information

- Voters may learn more about the candidates, view the ballot, track their absentee ballot status, or check their registration status at the Michigan Voter Information Center, [mvi.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvi.sos.state.mi.us).
- If you are a “snowbird” or otherwise have an alternate mailing address for parts of the year and choose to be on our permanent ballot list, it is your responsibility to update us with your alternate address and the dates it is active. The post office will not forward ballots.  
**Note:** The November ballots will be mailed around September 25, 2024.
- If you would like to learn more about the voting process or wish to work as an election inspector, please leave a message for the Clerk at 906-249-9169 or [clerk@sandstowship.org](mailto:clerk@sandstowship.org).

## Fire Department Updates

### Smoke Alarm and CO Detector Program:

The Sands Township Volunteer Fire Department (STFD) still has smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors that are available to township residents **free of charge**. To receive alarms, they must be installed by a member of STFD and documented with the Michigan Prevention database.

Contact the Sands Township Office at 906-249-9169 for more information or to schedule an installation.



## EMS



### Did you know?

You can text 911 in an emergency

As a reminder, it is important to call **or text** 911 when an emergency occurs, and to stay in contact with the dispatcher as they go through a series of questions. In some cases, they will explain how to initiate lifesaving interventions.

The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. With three quick actions, you can be trained and empowered to save a life. **Stop the Bleed**® courses are available to anyone interested in learning to control life-threatening bleeding. Please visit their website ([stopthebleed.org](http://stopthebleed.org)) for class information and other resources, including a free, downloadable poster.



### Personnel Update:

Members of our EMS agency come from a wide array of professional and educational experiences. Sands Township EMS is happy to welcome new member, Charter Tschirgi! Charter joined the Sands EMS team in March 2024 having completed classroom, EMT, and emergency room training with UP Health Systems in Marquette, and obtaining state and national certification. Charter is 2022 transplant to the UP having grown up in Wyoming and retiring from the Coast Guard after 22 years of service. He and his family live in the Oakridge neighborhood and enjoy the beauty and wonder of the UP.

In addition, Spencer Crane who lives near the Crossroads recently completed an EMT course and is awaiting national and state licensures. Spencer reached out to our office when reading in a prior township newsletter about the need for neighbors helping neighbors through service on the EMS agency.

### Other:

- Michigan underwent its triennial review of EMS protocols that dictate how we care for patients. EMS agencies were educated on additional treatments and were then required to demonstrate competency.
- Sands EMS participated in the 2024 Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment and were ranked above average when benchmarked nationally with agencies our size.



## Peter White Public Library News

After a mild winter, summer has arrived – at least on some days! On lazy summer days or when you are looking for activities that add something new to your days, come visit Peter White Public Library (PWPL). This summer is full of interesting activities of all types and for all ages.

There are several options to help you find out what is happening. The best place to find options is online at [pwpl.org](http://pwpl.org). There, you can find: the array of digital resources; reserve a room; programs, book clubs, and cinema viewing; or browse the online catalog. As you scroll down the homepage toward the bottom, you can subscribe to E-Newsletters of various types including Alerts/Closures, book sales, available resources in print or digital, art exhibits, local history, and programs for adults and youth. All you need to do is put in your email address and check the boxes next to the newsletters that you would like to receive. They will then appear in your email inbox automatically.

Next to this subscription request, you will see a box titled “Event Calendar.” Follow the arrow and you will find a calendar of tentative events for the rest of 2024. In addition to the events calendar, at the very bottom of the homepage on the right side is a green box “Questions? Chat with a Librarian.” This is a quick way to ask a question about the library or how to find information.

The PWPL homepage is chock full of information about what will be happening in the months to come with dates/times and short explanations of the programs. You could spend a whole vacation just exploring all the free resources, programs, or support you might want at your library. Two favorite programs of mine include an e-newsletter titled “Off the Shelf,” which comes once a month and lists new books that arrived during the current month as well as anticipated new books for the following month. To subscribe to “Off the Shelf” check “Books and Materials” when you subscribe to e-newsletters on the homepage. A second favorite of mine is “Concerts on the Steps” which features various local music groups on the front steps throughout the summer (indoors in case of bad weather).

I hope to see you at PWPL across these summer months.

Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative



## Sanitation News and Reminders

- Have your garbage out by 4 a.m. - we start early!
- Large items and bags weighing more than 30 pounds cannot be taken.
- Our garbage crew cannot pick up building materials, appliances, furniture, carpet, or metal. Please call our office to find out how to dispose of these items at the:
  - Sands Recycling and Transfer Station for a fee (**cash or check only** - see below), or
  - Marquette County landfill using a permit purchased at the township office.
- Items containing freon must be taken to the County landfill for disposal after obtaining a \$40 per item permit from the Sands Township office.
- Sands Township does not offer curbside recycling. Your recycling can be brought to the Transfer Station free of charge.
- Do not throw used batteries in the trash! You can bring them by the Township Office or the Sands Recycling and Transfer Station for recycling.



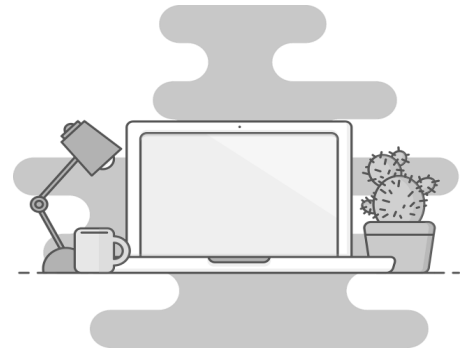
### Transfer Station Hours and Fees:

Wednesday 4 - 7 p.m.  
 Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Load	Fee
1 or 2 small items, car trunk	\$5
3 or more smaller items in a car, truck, or trailer	\$10
Small pickup, SUV, Van, or small trailer	\$15
Medium trailer, regular size pickup	\$20
Large trailer, long box pickup	\$25
Box trailers or dump trailers	\$25 and up
Metal or Recycling (including glass)	No Charge

### Landfill Hours

The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA) (landfill) is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



### Electronics Recycling Hours and Fees:

3rd Saturday of each month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Computers (desktop, laptop, tablets) - no charge
- Printers - no charge
- Cables, cords, wires, keyboards, mice, stereo equipment, DVD/CD players, satellite tuner boxes, routers, other miscellaneous items - no charge
- LCD small computer monitors - no charge
- CRT computer monitors - \$5 each
- Flat Screen TVs and box TVs - \$5

Electronics included in this program are primarily communication and computer related. Unfortunately, items such as vacuum cleaners, microwaves, and hairdryers are not included in the definition of electronics.

In the first half of 2024, Sands Township had 2108 unique visits by residents to the Recycling and Transfer Station to drop off plastic, paper, metal and glass recycling!



## TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

### Stay in Touch with Sands Township

Check out our website at <https://sandstownship.org> for the latest township information. Here you will find draft board minutes, zoning information, the transfer and recycle station schedule, facility rental information, and a News Page with the latest information and postings for our residents. Monthly reports are submitted by several departments and committees and are posted in the office for public viewing. We are also on Facebook - like our page to keep up-to-date on township information.

For last-minute information such as office closings or garbage pickup changes, we will update the township phone message, our Facebook page, and the website, when possible. For garbage delays due to weather, TV6 will also be notified. In addition, emergency notification will be sent to residents who have opted to receive texts, emails, and/or phone calls from the township.

#### TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Township Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Draft minutes are posted at the township office and on our website. There is also a meeting summary posted each month in the Mining Journal.

The public is welcome to attend all meetings in person or by Zoom.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson - Missy Lehtomaki

Vice Chair - Carrie Lusk

Secretary- Kirsten Matthews

Members - Bob Kallio, Wendell Kurr, Wendy Maas, and Shawn Sitar

Please contact the Township Office for information on the next scheduled Recreation Committee meeting. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Sands Township Fire Department meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. at Station 1.

The public is always welcome to attend these meetings.



#### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission is required to meet at least four times per year. Meetings occur on the third Tuesday of the month.

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The ZBA hears appeals, evaluates requests for interpretations, and approves or denies variances. They have four regular meeting dates throughout the year; however, the board only meets if there is business to conduct.

Please call the township office for additional information.

## CEMETERY INFORMATION



The Sands Township Cemetery is located on Miller Road. Water is available at the fire tank for plants and flowers.

**Please, no vehicles on grass areas at any time!**

Lots are available at a cost of \$250 for residents and \$350 for non-residents.

Our cemetery sexton is Tom Redlon. General cemetery maintenance is done by Nick LaMere and Ron Tervo performs the lawn maintenance. Graves are dug by Jamin Wonch.

For more information, please contact Tom Redlon, Cemetery Sexton at 346-6927 or the township office at 249-9169.

The Cemetery Ordinance is available for review at the Township during regular office hours.



## NEWSLETTER

987 S State Hwy M-553  
Gwinn, MI 49841

*Striving to protect your water & environment*

# HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWNSHIP ENCLOSED

### **Transfer Station Hours:**

Wednesday 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month –  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### **Electronics Recycling**

3rd Saturday of each month - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### **Want to Get Involved?**

Are you interested in getting involved with the Township, but aren't sure how? We always need subs on our garbage truck, and we are always looking for people to join our fire department and EMS.

Contact the office if you are interested in these opportunities. If none of these sounds like a good fit, but you would still like to get involved, let us know and we will see how we can use your help!

### **Contact Us**

906-249-9169

987 S M-553, Gwinn, MI 49841

[office@sandstowship.org](mailto:office@sandstowship.org)

[www.sandstowship.org](http://www.sandstowship.org)

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