

SANDS TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

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

Electronics Recycling Begins!

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 (Alternate)

EMERGENCY SERVICES
Fire Chief - Tom Wahlstrom
239-4967

Assistant Chief
Hall #1 - Ben Yelle
236-2796

Assistant Chief
Hall #2 - Brian Kleven
361-3128

EMS Coordinator -
Lyn Nelson
249-3392

Assistant Coordinator -
Frank Rosado
249-3081

Sands Township kicked-off its electronics recycling program with an event for Marquette County residents on June 16 and 17, 2023, at the Sands Recycling and Transfer Station. This recycling program focuses on consumer electronics such as computers, televisions, monitors, printers, and peripherals (keyboards, cables, mice).

Going forward, Sands Township will host an electronics recycling day for **all** Marquette County residents on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (see page 4 for fees and additional information).

In November 2022, the township received a grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) that helps fund equipment, staffing, electronics recycling promotion, and allows us to participate in a transportation network to move collected electronics to other recycling centers.

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

Recreation Survey

Many residents - over 300 of you - completed the Sands Township recreation survey. The recreation committee is working with Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) to identify residents' recreation priorities in advance of drafting the township's five-year recreation plan. The survey information will also help us with grant applications. When results are compiled, we will work with the Sands Township board to make decisions about recreation opportunities.

Submitted by: Missy Lehtomaki, Recreation Committee

Scrap Tire Collection

The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA) will accept scrap tires from all Marquette County residents at either of the following events:

Date	Time	Location
July 19, 2023	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.	West End Transfer Station 2150 US 41 W Ishpeming, MI 49849
August 10, 2023	3 p.m. - 7 p.m.	City of Marquette Rubbish/ Compost Site 1415 Pioneer Rd Marquette, MI 49855



Refer to the following website <https://mcswma.com/scrap-tires/> or call the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA) for restrictions and additional information.

SUPERVISOR NOTES

Recent accidents at the intersection of M-553 and CR480 raised questions about the four-way stop. In the past we investigated options including installing a traffic light or building a round-about. Although counter-intuitive, some experts consider a four-way stop to be safer than a standard traffic light because drivers from every direction see a stop sign. At CR480 and M-553, each driver sees a flashing red stop light in addition to the stop signs. Drivers are less likely to “run the light” at a four-way stop so accidents tend to occur less frequently and at lower speeds when they do happen. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) consistently reviews accident reports and both MDOT and the County Road Commission continue to monitor the intersection.

Additional news:

- Treasurer Kent Koehn resigned and former clerk Lee Yelle was appointed as the new treasurer to complete Kent’s term.
- Former administrative assistant Pam Roberts returned to the township as the new deputy clerk.
- The Superiorland Pickleball Club donated and installed windscreens on the township sports courts.
- The township parking lot and the sports courts will be resurfaced in mid-August.

Submitted by: Darlene Walch, Supervisor

TREASURER’S NEWS

Summer property tax statements were mailed on June 30, 2023, and are due to the Sands Township Treasurer on September 14, 2023. Beginning September 15, 2023, penalties will be assessed. Please allow seven days for mailed payments to arrive. 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 office at 906-249-9169.

Two items of note regarding summer taxes:

- The Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA) special education millage (appears as “ISD EXTRA VOTED” on your statement) that passed in the May 2, 2023, special election is reflected on summer tax bills and you will see an increase from last year as a result.
- Two other school taxes (appear as “ISD” and “SPECIAL ED” on your statement) moved from winter to summer tax statements, resulting in higher summer tax bills.

Submitted by: Kent Koehn, Treasurer



Residents may pay their taxes online using the secure AllPaid website. A 2.95% transaction fee 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.

ELECTION NEWS FROM THE CLERK

With the passing of Proposal 2 in 2022 there will be many changes to elections in Michigan, especially in regards to absentee ballots and early voting. At this time, we don’t have answers as to how these changes will look and are waiting for guidance from the State Legislators and the Bureau of Elections. The winter edition of our newsletter will have more information regarding these changes and how absentee voting and early voting will look as we head into 2024 and a busy election year. The Presidential Primary is the first election where you will see several of these changes in effect.

We are always looking for more people interested in working as election inspectors for early voting and on election day. If you would like to get involved, you can get an application from the Township office. Training for election inspectors will be done in late 2023 to prepare for the upcoming election year.

If you have questions regarding elections you can go to www.michigan.gov/vote or contact me by phone at 906-249-9169 ext. 2, or at clerk@sandstownship.org. Thank you for your patience as we adjust to these changes.

Submitted by: Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Smoke Alarm and CO Detector Program:

The Sands Township Volunteer Fire Department (STFD) 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.

Did you know? Smoke alarms are recommended inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement - at a minimum.

Contact the Sands Township Fire Department at 906-249-4336 for more information or to schedule an installation.

Cadet Program Update:

At the beginning of the year, STFD was able to send our two cadet firefighters to Firefighter 1 & 2 school. The cadets completed classroom work two nights a week and hands on training on Saturdays from January to the end of May. On May 27, both cadets successfully passed their final practical evaluation. When these cadets turn 18 years old they will be eligible to become certified firefighters in the State of Michigan.

Thank you:

The Sands Township Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for their continued support of the fire department. In June 2023, the department received a grant from the KBIC's 2% fund that will go towards the purchase of critical life saving equipment needed by the department. The department would also like to extend our thanks to the Marquette County Police and Firefighters' Fund for their generous donation to the department that will be used to add emergency lighting and scene lighting to one of the department vehicles.

Submitted by: Fire Chief Thomas Walstrom

PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Although we are supposed to be enjoying spring, as I write this in early June, it seems we have the mosquitos of spring without the warm temperatures and much needed rain. Living in the U.P. has many joys, but the season of spring is not always at its best until later in June.

The Peter White Public Library (PWPL) is in full swing with so many new books (traditional, electronic, and audio CD), programs for all ages, new art exhibits and music performances, and other services. It is easy to find out what is happening and what services are offered by visiting the PWPL website at: <https://pwpl.info>. At the top of the Home Page, you will find a list of "pull down" menus for **About**; **Events**; **Services**; **Research**; **Youth**; and **Donations** to help you find relevant information.

If you prefer to be selective about the information you want to read and would like it delivered directly to your email address, that service is now available. Under the menu **About**, you will see **eNewsletters** listed. This lists a variety of newsletters to which you can subscribe. These will then be sent directly to your email address regularly. You can unsubscribe at any time as well.

The choices are:

- **Primary Newsletter:** This goes to all subscribers and has important information on general content, Board meeting agendas, and other information needed by a large audience.

- **Book sales and Friends of the Library:** A quarterly update on book sales and bookstore news.
- **Digital Resources and Technology:** A quarterly update on digital and streaming services as well as technology equipment available at the library.
- **Library Exhibits:** A bi-monthly update on art exhibits, artist receptions, and special exhibits.
- **Local History:** A quarterly update on local history and genealogy topics.
- **Weekly Program Updates:** A weekly snapshot of upcoming programming.
- **Youth Services:** A monthly overview of all things happening in the Youth Services Department.

These eNewsletters give you easy access to information and choice in receiving the information you are most interested in following. You will find the summer is full of materials, services, and programs that you can enjoy at your local library and online. Enjoy all PWPL offers as part of your summer activities!

Submitted by: N. Suzanne Standerford, TAC Representative

Did you know?

There is a PWPL dropbox at the Sands Township office parking lot where you can return your library materials!

Sanitation News and Reminders

- Have your garbage out by 4 a.m. - we start early!
- Wash or rinse your trash can as needed, and replace cans that are cracked or broken.
- If animals get into your garbage, it is your responsibility to clean it up.
- Large items and bags weighing more than 30 pounds cannot be taken.
- Our garbage crew will not 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.

Changes to Landfill Hours

Beginning December 1, 2023, the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (MCSWMA) (landfill) will begin observing new seasonal hours as follows:

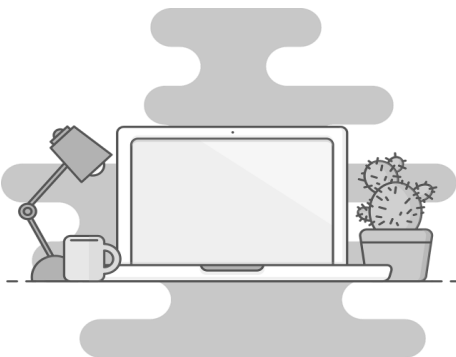
- From December 1 through March 31, hours will be 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- From April 1 through November 30, hours will be 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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



In the first half of 2023, Sands Township had 2,089 unique visits by residents to the Recycling and Transfer Station to drop off plastic, paper, metal and glass recycling, with most recycling activity occurring on Wednesdays.



TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR 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.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Township Board meetings are the second Tuesday of every 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

The Recreation Committee has a member seat open. Please contact the Township Office for further information on the next scheduled Recreation Committee meeting or if interested in becoming a member. 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.



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is in need of a member. What is the ZBA's function? 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 further 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 AT ANY TIME ON THE GRASS AREAS!**

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.

Submitted by Tom Redlon, Cemetery Sexton



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. - 2:00 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. We are always looking for people to join our fire department and EMS.

Contact the office if you are interested in any of 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

www.sandstowship.org

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Your newsletter is paid for with your tax dollars. We welcome your opinions and comments. Please contact the township office or a township official with suggestions or topics of concern you would like addressed.