

Lowell Charter Township
2910 Alden Nash SE
Lowell, MI 49331

Phone: 616-897-7600
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Web: www.twp.lowell.mi.us

Supervisor:
Jerry Hale

Clerk:
Linda S. Regan

Treasurer:
Leslie Stougaard

Trustees:
Bill Thompson
Carl Blough
Steve VanderZiel
Mark Anderson

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SUPERVISORS NEWS

Lowell Township is currently taking a survey to assess the need for reliable and affordable high speed Internet access in the township. This survey can be accessed by going to the Lowell Township web site at www.twp.lowell.mi.us and clicking on the link to the survey. A paper copy of the survey is included in this newsletter or copies are also available at the township office. Residents of neighboring townships and the City of Lowell are welcome to participate and any results collected for them will be forwarded to their municipal offices. Vergennes and Ada Townships are also conducting similar surveys. The survey will be used to create a Township Marketing Report with all relevant information needed to build a business case in which to compel service providers to engage in our market. The cost for this project is being paid for by a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund.

We have been getting complaints about boat and recreational equipment parking in the Township. Residents are reminded that the Lowell Township Ordinance allows recreational equipment to be parked or stored in any front yard for no more than 24 hours and then only for the limited purpose of loading or unloading such recreational equipment.

Jerry Hale

NEWSLETTER Summer 2009

CALENDAR

August

10 Planning Commission
17 Twp Board

September

14 Planning Commission
21 Twp Board

October

12 Planning Commission
19 Twp Board

November

9 Planning Commission
16 Twp Board

December

14 Planning Commission
21 Twp Board

The Township Board has its regular meeting on the 3rd Monday of every month. It may have a workshop meeting on the 1st Monday.

The Planning Commission has its regular meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month. If a second meeting is necessary, it is held on the 4th Monday.

If any Special Meetings are required, notice of same, including an agenda, will be posted at the Township Hall at least 18 hours before the meeting.

Meetings are Held in the Township Hall at 7 PM unless noted otherwise. All meeting are open to the public.

Regular Township Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 5.

Survey (continued)

Question 13: The team at Lowell Township is working very hard to attract reliable, affordable Internet service provider/s to the Township. If you have had previous experience trying to get high speed Internet service to your home or business and would like to share your experiences, your information would be helpful to us.

Instructions: Please feel free to share your experiences below.

[Empty text box for survey response]

Lowell Township
2910 Alden Nash Rd.
Lowell, MI 49331
www.twp.lowell.mi.us

Please fold, staple and mail or deliver to Lowell Township Offices.

Thank You!

Tax Information

Please note Summer Tax bills will be sent out July 1, 2009

REMINDER! SUMMER TAX DEFERMENT FORMS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

www.twp.lowell.mi.us and/or www.michigan.gov

OR YOU MAY REQUEST A FORM FROM:

LESLIE STOUGAARD/TREASURER
616-897-7600

MAIL FORMS TO:

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
LESLIE STOUGAARD/TREASURER
2910 ALDEN NASH, SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK (BASED ON 2009-2010 HOMESTEAD TAX MILLAGE)

FOR EVERY DOLLAR (\$1.00) YOU PAY IN PROPERTY TAXES

- .26 GOES TO LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS
- .23 GOES TO STATE EDUCATION TAX
- .16 GOES TO KENT COUNTY OPERATING
- .01 SENIOR
- .03 JAIL
- .18 GOES TO KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- .07 GOES TO GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- .03 GOES TO KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY
- .03 GOES TO LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The websites below have advice for avoiding foreclosure and resources for those in financial crisis.

US Dept of Housing & urban Development

www.hud.gov (search for Dollar Homes)
www.hud.gov/local/mi (Michigan Specific)
www.hud.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm (tips)

Michigan State Housing Development Authority

www.michigan.gov/mshda
(foreclosure process assistance)

Michigan Attorney General's Office

www.michigan.gov/ag (Consumer Protection)
(download brochure "Avoiding Foreclosure")

From the Assessor

My name is Marla M. Platt and I have been the Assessor since September 1, 2008, it is a pleasure to serve Lowell Charter Township

Everyone is wondering what next year will bring for values in this falling market and struggling economy. It is probable that there will be a decrease in values reflected on your assessments for 2010. At this time it is not known how much of a decrease, as the study to determine the percentage ends on September 30, 2009. The CPI (Consumer Price Index) as determined by the State of Michigan was 4.4% for 2009, which caused an increase in taxes even if your Assessment decreased however for 2010 this should be considerably lower or at 0%.

There is a new form available, Conditional Rescind Form L4640, if you have your Principal Residence for sale and it is unoccupied, and you have purchased another Homestead in Michigan, you can keep your Principal Residence Exemption for up to three years. If you have moved out of State or are renting an apartment you would not qualify. If you are in this situation and qualify for this special exemption period, please contact this office or print a form on line at www.michigan.gov/treasury (go to Local Government).

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the office on Monday afternoons or Tuesday mornings.

Marla M. Platt
Assessor

Survey

<p>Question 1: Of what township are you currently a resident?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Ada <input type="radio"/> Keene <input type="radio"/> Bowne <input type="radio"/> Lowell <input type="radio"/> Caledonia <input type="radio"/> Vergennes <input type="radio"/> Grattan <input type="radio"/> Other </p> <p>Question 2: What is the current address of your residence?</p> <p><i>Instructions: Please note that your address will remain STRICTLY confidential. This information will be used for demographic analysis and will not be used for marketing purposes.</i></p> <p>Question 3: Do you own or manage a business in Lowell Township?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Question 4: What is the current address of your business?</p> <p><i>Instructions: Please note that your address will remain STRICTLY confidential. This information will not be used for marketing purposes.</i></p> <p>Question 5: Do you work from home or from a home-based business?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Question 6: Is high-speed Internet access necessary for your business purposes?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Question 7: Do you have students (current or future) at home that would benefit from Internet access?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Question 8: Do you have DSL or cable modem broadband Internet access at home?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Question 9: If you said "no" to Question 8, would you like to have the option of having high speed Internet at your home or business?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> I currently have service</p> <p>Question 10: If you have high speed Internet service, who is your current service provider?</p> <p><i>Instructions: Choose one that applies. If you do not have service currently please skip to question #10.</i></p> <p> <input type="radio"/> AT&T Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Comcast Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Charter Comm. Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Wild Blue Satellite Internet Service <input type="radio"/> HughesNet Satellite Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Iserv <input type="radio"/> Other </p> <p>Question 11: Are you satisfied with your current high-speed Internet provider?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Question 12: Have you attempted, but failed to find an Internet service provider that could / would provide service to your address listed above?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> I currently have service</p> <p>Question 13: With whom have you attempted to subscribe for high speed Internet access?</p> <p><i>Instructions: Please choose all that apply.</i></p> <p> <input type="radio"/> AT&T Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Comcast Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Charter Comm. Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Wild Blue Satellite Internet Service <input type="radio"/> HughesNet Satellite Internet Service <input type="radio"/> Iserv <input type="radio"/> Other </p> <p>Question 12: What would you be willing to spend for high speed Internet access for your home or business in Lowell Township?</p> <p><i>Instructions: Please check the most appropriate answer.</i></p> <p> <input type="radio"/> \$35 to \$50 per month <input type="radio"/> \$25 to \$35 per month <input type="radio"/> \$15 to \$25 per month </p> <p>Over, please!</p>
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