

# Tallmadge Newsletter

Summer 2010

Tallmadge Charter Township

O-1451 Leonard N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Office 616.677.1248 Fax 616.677.6133

www.tallmadge.com

**As your elected Township Officials and Trustees,  
we are proud to be of service to you, the residents  
of Tallmadge Charter Township.**

Supervisor:	James (Toby) Van Ess	tvaness@tallmadge.com
Clerk:	Lenore Cook	lcook@tallmadge.com
Treasurer:	Brenda Martin	bmartin@tallmadge.com
Trustees:	Gerald Walt	Clifford Bronkema
	Matthew Fenske	Michael Eppink

## New Township Office Hours



Late last year, the Township Board approved changing our office hours. In keeping with several other townships, we traded Friday hours for working longer hours on Tuesday.

We hope that these extended hours also will be more convenient for our working residents.

Monday: 9 AM–2 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM–7 PM

Wednesday: 9 AM–2 PM

Thursday: 9 AM–2 PM

Friday: Closed

## Monthly Meetings

All meetings begin at **7:00 PM** and are held at the Township Hall.

- Planning Commission: 2<sup>nd</sup> MONDAY of each month
- Township Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY of each month
- Zoning Board of Appeals: 3<sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY of each month, as needed

## Township Park

Several years ago, the Township received a grant to assist in the establishment of an area park. This park is located behind the Township office. It is available for use year round, with bathrooms open from about May through September. The two ball fields have been groomed. There are two tennis courts, a volleyball court, basketball court and horseshoe pits. The park includes a variety of playground equipment and a giant sandbox area with diggers. A pavilion is available on a first come basis.



## A Word from the Supervisor – Toby Van Ess

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Township Supervisor. If you ever have an issue you would like to discuss, you can reach me by telephone at the Township Office or at tvaness@tallmadge.com.

I have been diligently reviewing the Tallmadge water/sewer rates, which seem to have escalated out of control. Most of our Township is serviced by private well and septic; however, several businesses and residents on the east boundaries have Grand Rapids sewer and water. I am currently working with the City of Grand Rapids to find a remedy to this situation and hope to have some answers by fall, when the rate study is conducted.

The completion of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. between Hayes and M-45 is scheduled for late August or early September. This project involves repaving the roadway and widening the shoulders. The repaving of Leonard Street has been re-scheduled for 2012.

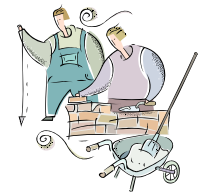
This spring, the Township Board covered all costs of spraying for gypsy moths on 110 acres within the Township. If you had an outbreak of caterpillars, please contact me so you can be added to a list for next year. If funds are available, we will again spray the most heavily affected areas.

The Michigan legislature has informed us that Revenue sharing will continue to be cut. These funds are our largest source of revenue for operating and providing the services you expect. We will continue to try to operate your Township at the current level; however, this is becoming more difficult as time goes on. We will continue to monitor this and do the best we can with the resources we are given.

Again, I am enjoying serving as your Supervisor. If I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

## Construction Permits

**Verbatim from the Code Book:** Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the Michigan Building Code, or to cause such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit.



Yes, that is all one sentence!

## Changes in Library Service begin July 1st

The following letter was written by the Director of the Allendale Public Library. So that you remain informed, we have reprinted the entirety of his letter below.



To All Tallmadge Township Residents:

In 2006, the Allendale Library contracted with Tallmadge Township to provide library services to Tallmadge residents. This came about at a time when the contract with the Coopersville Area District Library was terminated, which threatened to leave Tallmadge residents without a home library. This would have also cut Tallmadge residents off from any Lakeland Library services. Thankfully, that scenario was avoided and the Allendale Township Library has been honored to be Tallmadge's home library and to serve Tallmadge patrons for the past 4 years.

Up until now, Lakeland encouraged all libraries to make their resources available to all patrons of Lakeland member libraries. Beginning July 1, 2010, however, a new policy approved by Lakeland will take affect and each individual library will decide whether to serve patrons belonging to other libraries.

According to this policy, as residents of a township that does not have a dedicated millage for library support that equals at least .3 mils (approximately \$75,000), you will need to be issued a new library card. *This card will distinguish Tallmadge residents and may mean that you will only be able to use the Allendale Library.* This also would mean that holds can only be placed through the circulation desk at the Allendale Library and only on Allendale Library items (including books, DVDs, CDs, etc.).

We hope that other libraries will choose to continue extending their services to you also. Tallmadge residents who currently use a library other than the Allendale Library are encouraged to contact that library and inquire whether they will be able to maintain current borrowing privileges after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

On November 2, Tallmadge Township may be asking Tallmadge residents to vote on .3 mils support for the Allendale Library. An affirmative vote would restore full borrowing privileges to Tallmadge residents.

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience as this unpleasant change is implemented! Above all we hope to provide the best possible service to Tallmadge patrons and always welcome your questions and feedback at 895-4178 or at [allrb@llcoop.org](mailto:allrb@llcoop.org).

Rob Bristow, Director of the Allendale Public Library

## Treasurer's Comments – Brenda Martin

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer. Should you have any questions regarding your taxes, please call me at 677.1248, email me at [bmartin@tallmadge.com](mailto:bmartin@tallmadge.com) or stop by the Township Office.

### TAXES

- Summer 2010 tax bills will be sent out the first week of July.
- Taxes may be paid in person at the Township Office, Monday–Thursday.
- Payments may be mailed or placed in the Township's drive-up drop box located a few steps west of the main entrance.
- Include the top 1/3 of the bill with your check or money order.
- Payment received in the mail or placed in the drop box will be issued a receipt only if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope and **the entire tax bill.**

### \*\*\* NEW THIS TAX SEASON \*\*\*

We have made arrangements to allow you the option to pay property taxes by automatic withdrawal from your checking account. Should you wish to participate or have questions, more information will be detailed on your Summer tax bill or online. You may download the necessary form at [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com)



NOTE: If your mortgage company pays your property taxes, the Township sends them a statement as a service. **However, each property owner is ultimately responsible to see that his or her property taxes are paid.**

If you qualify for summer tax deferral, you must sign a new application **each year**, prior to September 14. This application is available at [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com). Qualifications are outlined on the Township website or may be described during a phone call with the Treasurer.



## A Note to All Residents about Fall Leaf Burning

Over the past year, there has been much discussion and some complaints addressed regarding the burning of leaves in Tallmadge Township. As a matter of clarification, you are allowed to burn leaves on your property. All fires must be tended until completely extinguished. In neighborhoods where houses are in close proximity, we ask that you be considerate of wind direction and control the amount of smoke produced by a smoldering pile of wet leaves. We request that you show common sense and be a good neighbor.



## The Clerk's Corner – Lenore Cook

The Township Board meeting minutes are now posted on our website, [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com).

### REMINDER:

- Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2010  
Last day to register for this election is July 6, 2010
- General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010  
Last day to register for this election is October 4, 2010

If you wish to vote absentee for either of these elections and are not on the permanent absentee list, please contact me. If you have any questions regarding these elections, I will be pleased to receive your call by telephone, 677-1248 or by e-mail [lcook@tallmadge.com](mailto:lcook@tallmadge.com).

## Ottawa County Deputy – Tyler Kempema



The Ottawa County Sheriff's Department has assigned us a new Community Relationship officer. His name is Tyler Kempema. Tyler has made the transition very smoothly. He has taken initiative to introduce himself to most of the business owners, as well as several residents.

Tyler's duties include a wide variety of community policing. He assists with enforcement of local ordinances, as well as traffic and criminal matters within the Township. Additionally, he has set up Neighborhood Watch programs within the Township.

## Fire Chief – Al Brower



### CAN WE FIND YOUR HOUSE?

To assist us in locating your house as quickly as possible, you may purchase a green and white reflective address sign from the Fireman's Association. The cost is \$15.00. Cost includes the sign, post, and installation. Order forms are available at the Township Office or at [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com).

### BURN PERMITS

Burn permits are required by the State of Michigan. Permits may be obtained free of charge by calling the Fire Chief at 677.1610. Or you may obtain one at the Township Office, Monday through Thursday.