

# Tallmadge Newsletter

Summer 2009

Tallmadge Charter Township

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

Office 616.677.1248 Fax 616.677.6133

WEBSITE: [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com)

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

Supervisor:	James (Toby) Van Ess	
	<a href="mailto:tvaness@tallmadge.com">tvaness@tallmadge.com</a>	
Clerk:	Lenore Cook	<a href="mailto:lcook@tallmadge.com">lcook@tallmadge.com</a>
Treasurer:	Brenda Martin	
	<a href="mailto:bmartin@tallmadge.com">bmartin@tallmadge.com</a>	
Trustees:	Gerald Walt	Clifford Bronkema
	Matthew Fenske	Michael Eppink

I am enjoying the opportunity to serve as your Supervisor. If you have any needs that I can address, feel free to call me at the township office or e-mail me at [tvaness@tallmadge.com](mailto:tvaness@tallmadge.com)



## Monthly Meetings

### **NEW TIME:**

All meetings begin at **7:00 PM** 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> THURSDAY as needed

## A Word from the Supervisor Toby Van Ess

The year 2009 is quickly moving past. The state of our economy is on all of our minds as we continue to look for better times. Our Township is in good financial standing; however our Treasurer, Brenda Martin, and the entire Township Board are keeping a close eye on changes from the State.

The Township Board has decided to cover the cost of the drain crossing on Leonard Street and the Belle Cook drain cleaning from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Leonard. That project is currently in progress. This will hopefully alleviate some flooding for citizens in that area.

We do not currently have any major road projects going on. Ottawa County Road Commission has decided to realign the 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Leonard Street intersection. This project is scheduled for fall 2009.

Next summer, repaving and shoulder work are scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Hayes Street and M-45. Leonard Street repaving will hopefully be scheduled for the following year. These projects, however, are subject to current budget problems within our State.

## The Clerk's Corner – Lenore Cook

The Township Board meeting minutes are now posted on our website. You can view these at [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com)

According to the 2000 census, Tallmadge Township has 6881 residents. At the present time, there are 5583 registered voters.

Tallmadge has three precincts: Precinct One with 2144 voters  
Precinct Two with 2054 voters  
Precinct Three with 1385 voters  
And three school districts: Grandville School with 2108 voters  
Coopersville School with 2111 voters  
Kenowa Hills School with 1364 voters

Of these 5583 registered voters, 1214 voters are over the age of 60 which includes 701 persons on the permanent absentee voter list.

The Community Room at the Township Hall is available for rent. The rental cost to Tallmadge residents is \$75.00. This cost includes use of eight double tables, approximately 100 chairs and a full kitchen. This is your township and we try to keep the cost to a minimum. If you would like any more information or would like to see the room, please call me or e-mail me at [lcook@tallmadge.com](mailto:lcook@tallmadge.com).



## Library

Tallmadge Township does not maintain its own library service. However, for several years the Township Board has approved an annual donation to the Allendale Library. Our Township Clerk,

Lenore Cook, sits on the Library Board as well. We appreciate this fine working relationship with Allendale and would encourage you to use their service.

## Ottawa County Deputy – Rick Sykes

Tallmadge fire and police millage provide an assigned officer in our township two days a week. Your Township Board has again approved paying him from the General fund for one additional day of service in Tallmadge. His 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. He has also set up Neighborhood Watch programs within the Township.



## Treasurer's Comments Brenda Martin

As your newly elected Treasurer, I have learned a great deal and enjoyed my first 6 months on the job! Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I

inherited a legacy of sound fiscal policies from previous Treasurers Toby Van Ess and Frank Sessions.

The Michigan legislature has just informed us that Revenue sharing will be cut by 15% over the next 4 months. This will have a serious impact on Township budgets. Fortunately, we have reasonable reserves and had adjusted the Township budget in the anticipation that our incoming funds would be lower this year. The Township funds are well diversified in a variety of interest bearing accounts.

### TAXES:

- Summer 2009 tax bills will be sent out the first week of July.
- Taxes may be paid in person at the Township M-F / 9AM-2PM.
- Payments may be mailed or placed in the Township drive-up drop box located near the front door.
- Include the top third of the bill with your check or money order.
- Payment received in the mail or placed in drop box will be issued a receipt only if you include a **SASE** (self-addressed stamped envelope) as well as the lower two thirds portion of the bill.
- **Taxes will no longer be accepted at the 5/3 bank.**

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 their property taxes are paid.

If you qualify for summer tax deferment you must sign a new application **each year** prior to September 14. This application is available online at [www.tallmadge.com](http://www.tallmadge.com). Qualifications are outlined on the township website or call the Treasurer.

## Discount Prescription Cards

The Ottawa County Commissioners have informed us that Free Prescription Discount Cards will be available to County residents the first of June. These will be most helpful to persons who do not have health insurance that covers prescriptions, but anyone can check if the program will benefit them. You can pick up a card at the Township office, Health Department Offices, many senior centers and human service providers. The card can also be downloaded from the Ottawa County website, [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org). A "hotline" has been set up for further information. That number is 616.393.5632.

## Township Planner – Greg Ransford

We would like to call your attention to a new Township Ordinance adopted in April 2009 regarding door-to-door sales or peddlers. While the Township cannot prohibit door-to-door sales, we can and do require a license to operate within the Township. The license requires individuals to register their name and business with the township, identify their mode of travel, provide a photograph and submit their place of residence.

In addition, we limit door-to-door sales from 9am to 7pm, Monday thru Saturday. Door-to-door sales may not occur after 7:00pm or on Sundays. Schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church youth groups, young athletic leagues and similar organizations are exempt from this Ordinance. In the instance you have a door-to-door sales individual who cannot produce a license issued by the township, is operating after hours or on Sundays, you may either call the township during normal office hours or non-emergency dispatch at 1-800-249-0911 to have a Sheriff Deputy respond.



## Fire Chief – Al Brouwer

The second of our two new pumper trucks arrived on April 27. It is now in service at the Tallmadge location. The truck received in November 2008 is in service at the Wright location. These two trucks meet new equipment and emissions requirements. These replace trucks purchased in 1989 and 1991.

### Can we find your house?

To assist us in locating your house as quickly as possible, you can 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 on-line 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 the Township Office.

## 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. We have made significant improvements to the park this year, including new swings and playground equipment. The two ball fields have been groomed. There are two tennis courts, a volleyball court, basketball court and horseshoe pits. A pavilion is available on a first come basis.



## Spring Construction

There has been a significant reduction in new home construction this past year. We are certain this is a reflection of the current economy. As a reminder, any new building, addition and some remodeling projects require permits. All necessary forms are available at the Township office. Building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits are issued onsite at the Township Office.

## NOCCOA

**North Ottawa County Council On Aging** offers some services to older residents in our area. Most Townships have a voted millage to fund these services to their residents. The Tallmadge Township Board has chosen to make an annual donation to NOCCOA from the general fund rather than proposing a millage. For further information, call 616.842.9210.

## New Broadband Service

The Ottawa County wireless broadband network has been completed. The network provides high-speed, fully mobile broadband Internet access to more than 95% of the County's population. Although the wireless signal cannot reach every household in the County, it does provide a broadband option to many residents of Ottawa County who previously had no broadband access.



The broadband network is owned and operated by iPCS Wireless Inc., a Midwest-based communications company offering Sprint products and services. The cost will be \$59.95 monthly.

- **July 9 from 6 - 8PM** at Tallmadge Township Hall

As part of the public/private partnership between Ottawa County and Sprint affiliate, iPCS Wireless Inc., the company is hosting 'Broadband Open House' events in each of the County's local units of government. Attendees will be able to experience the Mobile Broadband service using desktops and laptop computers, test optional broadband equipment such as signal-strength booster antennas and WiFi "hot spot" routers, and sign-up for the service. For additional information, call 616.738.4852 or e-mail [plan@miottawa.org](mailto:plan@miottawa.org).

## Cell Phone Recycle

The Ottawa County Sheriff and the 911 Cell Phone Bank provide emergency communication for seniors and victims of abuse in our community. Please donate your used cell phones at the Township Office.