



**Fall/Winter 2014
Nelson Township
News**



Treasurer's Notes

By Katy Austin

You may notice some new millages or increases of existing millages on your tax bill. These changes are due to the results of either the May, August or November 2014 elections.

If you live in the Cedar Springs school district the changes are as followed:

	2013	2014
Kent District Library	.88 mils	1.28 mils
Kent County Senior	.3244 mils	.50 mils
Kent County Veterans (new)	--n/a--	.05 mils

If you live the Tri-County school district the changes are as followed:

	2013	2014
Kent District Library	.88 mils	1.28 mils
Kent County Senior	.3244 mils	.50 mils
Kent County Veterans (new)	---n/a---	.05 mils
Montcalm ISD	2.7292	3.6825
(Includes new special education mileage)		

Supervisor

By Tom Noreen

Library News

Some of you may have been asked to participate in a survey sponsored by the Kent District Library regarding increasing hours or days of operation at the Nelson Township/Sand Lake Branch of the library.

The Kent District Library and Nelson Township partner to provide library services to the residents of Nelson Township and the surrounding area. KDL provides the staffing, holdings, and programs while Nelson Township operates and maintains the facility. Each does so with dedicated millages to fund their portion of the partnership.

The Township's library millage currently covers the existing hours of operation. Additional hours or days will result in increased operating expenses that will have to be paid out of the general fund if sufficient library funds are not available.

The Township Board will get the survey results and then make a determination on how to proceed.

Building Department

Casey Patterson joined our building department as Building Inspector/Official in September when he was hired to replace Dave Chapin upon his retirement. Dave served the township for over twenty years as the Building Inspector/Official. Casey also serves in Spencer, Sparta, and Tyrone Townships. He is available on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons after 3 PM by appointment. You can schedule an ap-

pointment or an inspection by either calling 636-4999 or emailing him at buildinginspector@nelsontownhip.org.

Colt Jacobs is our Electrical Inspector. He replaces Pat Huffman who did our inspections for over twenty-five years. Colt has worked as our substitute inspector for many years. He also serves in Montcalm County. He can be reached at 616-318-2964. He conducts inspections on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Elections

Residents living in the Tri-County School District will have an election on February 24, 2015 to approve a 5-year, 1.5 mill sinking fund proposal for building maintenance.

Disabled Veterans

Veterans currently enrolled in the State of Michigan property tax relief program are reminded that they must reapply in January 2015 so that their applications may go before the March Board of Review. Recipients must apply annually.

Qualified Forest Program

By Ben Stein

The Qualified Forest Program (QFP) is a tax incentive program for landowners who own forested property. If a property owner agrees to sustainably manage their woods according to a forest management plan (written by a qualified forester), they will receive an exemption on their school operating taxes (up to 18 mils) on the property covered by that plan. In addition to the millage exemption, landowners may also obtain an exemption from the uncapping of taxable value if the property is transferred.

Those who qualify for QFP are private landowners with a minimum of 20 contiguous acres in a taxing jurisdiction. For parcels less than 40 acres, no less than 80% shall be forested (producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year). For parcels 40 acres or more, no less than 50% shall be forested. Landowners must have an approved forest management plan written by a Qualified Forester, and agree to manage their land according to the plan. A maximum of 640 acres may be enrolled in a taxing jurisdiction. If the property is your primary residence you are not eligible for exemption under QFP.

Lands enrolled in QFP are NOT required to be open to public access. Also, structures (cabins, sheds, barns) are permitted on properties receiving QFP exemption, but the footprint under the structures will be taxed at the full millage.

For more information on the Qualified Forest Program, visit the program's website at www.michigan.gov/qfp or or contact your Conservation District Forester Ben Stein at 989- 831-4606 extension 113.

If a property owner is interested in obtaining a tax exemption for QFP, the owner may contact the Kent Conservation District or Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, who will advise the landowner regarding how to proceed. If you have forested property but are not interested in enrolling in QFP, you may still call your conservation district forester for information and recommendations on how to manage your woods, including a free site visit.