

Notes from the Zoning Administrator.....

Jerry Gross

Burn Permits

The township rescinded its burn barrel ordinance this year because it is covered under the State of Michigan Act No. 102 of the Public Acts of 2012 and our ordinance was out of date. Residents can still use a burn barrel but can only legally burn untreated wood, paper and cardboard. According to the State law, it is illegal to "conduct open burning of household waste that contains plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals or hazardous materials."

Additionally, burn barrels must be made of metal or concrete and have a wire mesh screen on the top with holes not to exceed 3/4 inches. Violations should be reported to the Kent County Sheriff or the Michigan State Police as they have jurisdiction over State laws.

Open fires in a pit or that cover an area larger than an area 3 ft x 3 ft are considered bonfires and must have a permit. For any fire in a pit or fire ring

that is smaller than 3 ft x 3 ft and is being used to cook on or sit around for fun does not require a permit.

Because Nelson Township contracts fire services from Cedar Springs, Sand Lake and Spencer Township, you must request the permit from the municipality providing your fire service. See map below.

Additionally, to qualify for a permit:

- You must be the property owner or have written permission from the owner to burn.
- You must be a minimum of 18 years old to request a permit and be in attendance of it.
- You must have a water source at the base of the fire.
- You must have the fire a minimum of 25 feet from any structure or woods and 10 feet inside your property.
- You can only burn from 8 AM until midnight.

We understand that sometimes a tame fire can get out of control. If it does, call 911 right away.

You will need to provide the following information at a minimum for the permit:

- Address of where you are going to be burning
- What you will be burning
- What date you are going to start
- For how many days (up to 4 days max)

City of Cedar Springs: Call 616.696.1221 and leave a detailed message. Fire Department staff will return a call to you in a timely fashion. If you do not receive a return phone call within 24 hours, it may be because you do not live within our fire jurisdiction.

Spencer Township Fire Department: Call 616-984-2200, if you get the answering machine, you must wait 24 hours to start burning. This gives us time to collect the information and call it in to our dispatch.

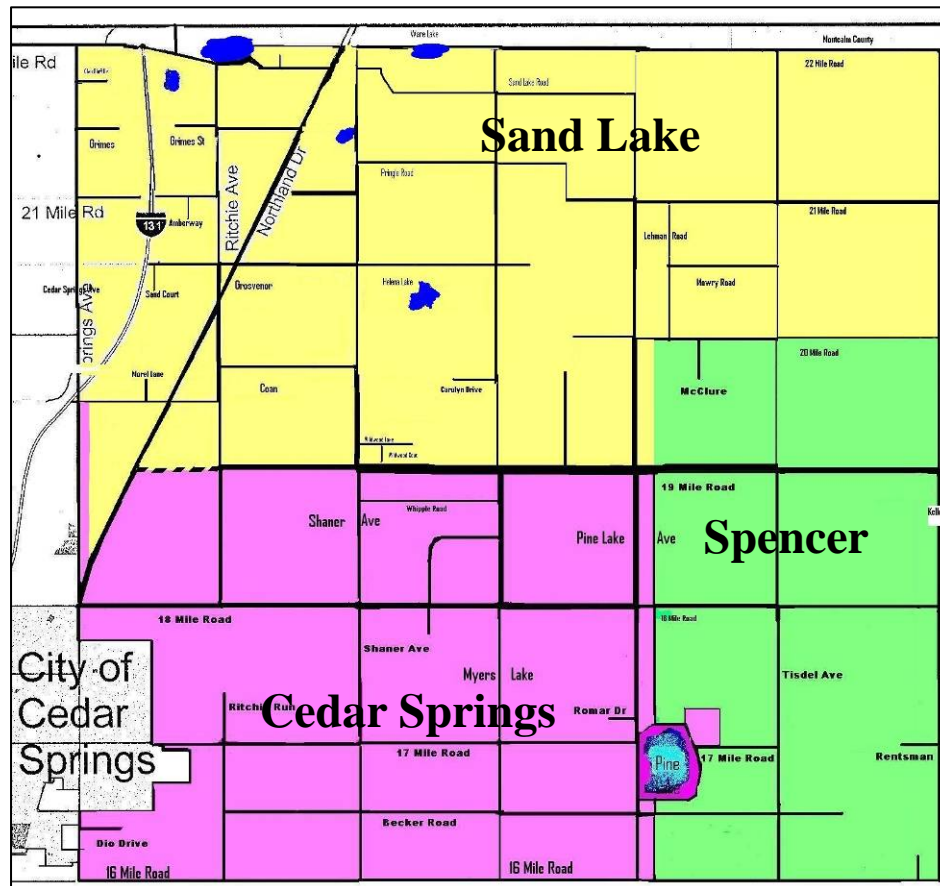
Village of Sand Lake Fire Department: Call 616-799-5538 or email fire@villageofsandlake.org.

Help Us Improve Your Broadband Service

The Kent County Broadband Committee is comprised of local community leaders from various sectors with a common mission of enhancing and expanding the access, adoption and use of broadband (high-speed internet) throughout the county for the benefit of local residents and businesses.

Your participation in our Residential Broadband Survey is very important in developing an accurate assessment of broadband availability and related needs in your municipality and all of Kent County. To take the survey online as a resident, please go to <http://connectmycommunity.org/kent-county> and select the "resident" option. If you don't have access to the internet, you may also pick up a printed copy of the survey at your local township, village or city office.

Thank you in advance for your participation in our survey! We'd appreciate your response by Friday, July 29.



Nelson Township News

Summer 2016

Township Cleanup

At our May 21 cleanup, we collected five 30 cu yd dumpsters of trash plus a dump trailer full of lumber by 11 AM. The last few years we only filled four. We tried to get more delivered but our waste hauler didn't have anyone available to deliver them. We are sorry for the inconvenience that many had loading up and not being able to dump. We appreciate those that did come back the next weekend where we filled another dumpster and a half.

Our next cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 10 from 8 AM to Noon. We will plan for extra dumpsters. The location will be the same: the base of the Sand Lake Water Tower on Cherry Street.

Nelson Township identification required. Please present a tax bill or voter's registration card.

We WILL accept.....

- Appliances, sheet metal, wire
- Auto Parts and engines (liquids drained)
- Lawn Chairs and lawn mowers
- Fencing (must be flattened & folded)
- Mattresses and propane tanks
- Furniture, carpeting, wood, clothing, glass, etc.
- Tires – must be cut in four pieces
- Lead acid batteries and fluorescent

Holiday Closings

The Township and Village offices will be CLOSED:

- Monday, September 5
- Monday, October 10
- Thursday, November 24
- Monday, December 26 – Thursday, December 29 (Treasurer will be available December 27 from 9 AM – 5 PM to collect taxes)

light bulbs

Loose items (shingles, drywall, etc) must be bagged/boxed-No shovel offs

We WILL NOT accept.....

- Hazardous or toxic waste
- Yard clippings or brush
- Commercial dumping
- Concrete
- Railroad ties
- Garbage

If you have any questions about what you can bring, call the Township at 636-5332.

Roads

Dust Layering

The Township budgets for three applications of calcium chloride each year. These are applied by a contract that is administered by the Kent County Road Commission. We typically have them applied prior to Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day.

This year the weather cooperated and the contractor was able to get the solution on the roads before Memorial Day.

Driving slower helps reduce the amount of dust kicked up and also decreases the formation of washboards and is easier on your car. While neither can be eliminated, they can be mitigated by taking our time.

Road Maintenance

Progress is being made on the paving of 16 Mile Road between Tisdell and Keller. The township has split the cost of paving the two mile section from Pine Lake with Courtland

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Nelson Township
2 E. Maple Street
Sand Lake 49343
Office Hours Monday-Thursday
9 AM - 3 PM
Telephone (616) 636-5332
Fax (616) 636-4452

Township Board Members
Supervisor: Tom Noreen
Clerk: Laura Hoffman
Treasurer: Katy Austin
Trustees: Maureen Mahoney
Glen Armstrong
Assessors: Jill and Amanda Brown
Zoning/Enforcement: Jerry Gross

Township Board Meeting
2nd Tuesday of each month- 7 PM

Village of Sand Lake
P.O. Box 139
2 E. Maple Street
Sand Lake 49343
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Telephone (616) 636-8854
Fax (616) 636-4564
Clerk: Leticia Nielsen
Treasurer: Brenda Arnold

Council Board Meeting
3rd Monday of each month
at 7 PM

Council Members
President: Roger Towsley
Trustees: David Dewey, James Ward, Adam Hill, Thomas Norton, Danielle Hardenburg, Bette Towsley

Library
88 8th Street
Monday-9:30 AM-8 PM
Tuesday and Saturday-9:30 AM-5 PM
Wednesday-Noon to 8 PM
Thursday-Closed
Friday-9:30 AM to 6 PM

Librarian
Paula Wright, Branch Manager

From the Clerk's office.....
Laura Hoffman

New Polling Location for Precincts 1 & 3

August and November 2016 Elections

Precinct 1 & Precinct 3:

The new polling location will be the Community Room at the Nelson Township/Sand Lake Library, 88 Eighth Street, Sand Lake, MI 49343

Precinct 2:

Nelson Township Hall located at 2 Maple Street, Sand Lake, Michigan 49343

To learn more about voting, your ballot, find your precinct, or to see if you are registered to vote, visit: michigan.gov/vote.

Notary Services

Residents who need documents notarized can bring them to the Township during office hours; however, it is best to call first. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Treasurer are notaries.

Please do not sign them until you get here and bring a picture ID with you. There is no cost to our residents for this service.

Passports

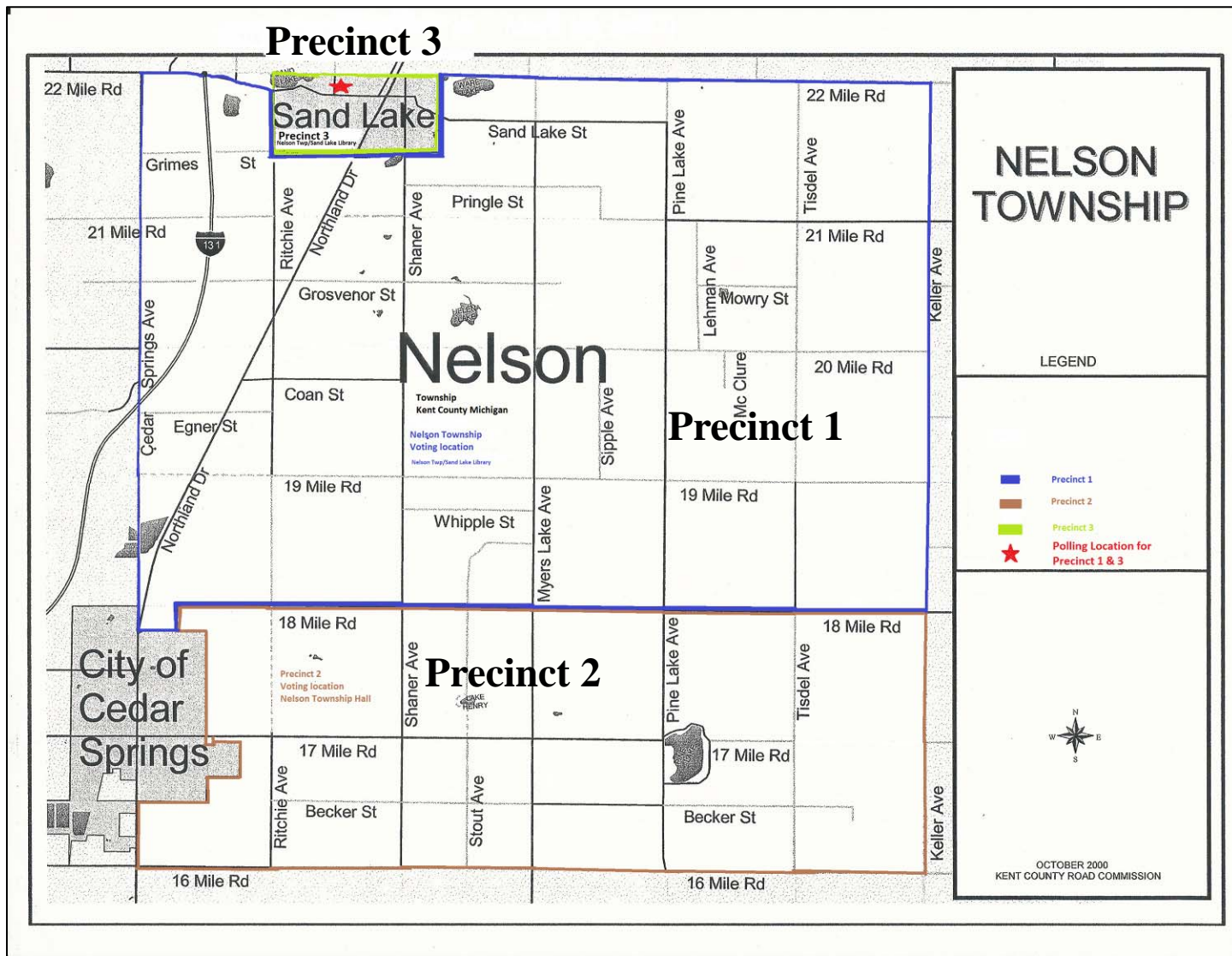
Anyone can apply for passports by appointment at the Township. Call 636-5332 ext.15 to schedule an appointment. For more information visit this website www.travel.state.gov.

From the Treasurer's Office...

Katy Austin

We will be in the office Monday through Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM. On September 14, I will be in the office from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Dog licenses are now aligned with your pet's rabies shot date and can be purchased for the duration of the rabies shot, which is usually one or three years.



From the Assessor's Office

Welcome our New Assessors

In May, the Township hired David Brown to be our assessor. Working in our office will be his wife, Jill Brown, and their daughter, Amanda. We are excited about having them on our team. Their regular scheduled workdays for Nelson Township are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM-3 PM, however they may be performing fieldwork past 3:00 pm and on other weekdays as well. Please contact them if you'd like to make an appointment or request a site visit as they are often out in the field updating property record card information.



Amanda



Jill

They can be contacted at: Office Phone: 616-636-5332 ext. 13 or for after hours and weekends you can either email us at: townshipassessing.amanda@gmail.com or call their Cell Phone at: 231-881-4536.

Assessing Record Updates

The Assessing staff will be visiting a number of properties in the township as part of their sales studies, building permit follow-ups and State recommended guidelines for annual property inspections. We will always wear identification and all of our work is performed on the exterior of buildings and involves measuring all structures, sketching their dimensions and updating pictures for the property

Purchase of Development Rights

The Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board 2016 PDR Application Cycle deadline is coming up on July 31, 2016.

We encourage landowners, townships, villages and cities to tell farmers, neighbors and community members about our land preservation program. Farmers benefit by permanent protection of their farmland through direct compensation for selling their development rights. In fact, ensuring their land will continue in agriculture for future generations benefits the entire community by maintaining the agricultural economy and rural character of Kent County's farming communities.

Please go to the website at <https://www.accesskent.com/Departments/BOC/PDR/> to find out more about the program and the link to this year's application (found along the left-hand side of our main page).

Thank you for your interest, and please contact us with any questions.

Please return the application by July 31st, 2016 to: Kent/MSU Extension, Attn: Stacy Byers, 775 Ball Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Questions call (517) 244-7197 or e-mail: christians@gmail.com.

Roads (continued from page 1)

Township and the County, Courtland is also paving the half mile segment from 16 Mile Road south to Benham Road.

Spencer and Oakfield are working with the Road Commission to pave the rest of 16 Mile Road from Keller to Harvard. he township's share of state fuel tax revenue goes directly to the Kent County Road Commission. Under Public Act 51, the Township has no fiscal responsibility for maintenance of roads. As was well publicized in the Proposal 1 debate that

failed in May, there are billions of unfunded road repairs. So, until we can get the funding fixed, maintenance will be limited.

The Road Commission rebuilt a section of White Creek Avenue from Egner Street to 20 Mile Road. This was done to improve the sight distance for drivers turning north on White Creek from Egner.

They also did some repair and chip sealed Myers Lake Avenue from Becker Street to 18 Mile Road.

Paula Wright Library Branch Manager



Paula Wright

Paula Wright is our new Branch Manager at the Nelson Township Library. She joined the staff on June 29. KDL selected Paula Wright to fill the vacancy when Branch Manager Craig Buno applied for the Walker Branch Manager's position.



Craig Buno

Craig had been serving as the Interim Director of Branch Services for a number of months. Kip Odell, from the Grandville Branch, has been our Branch Manager during that time.



Kip Odell

Paula was the Librarian at the Appleton, Wisconsin, Public Library. Paula said, "I grew up in Troy but went to GVSU and lived in Grand Rapids for over 10 years before my detour to WI, where I've been for about 11 years. I have many friends and family in the GR area and am excited to return to the area and see how much it's grown and changed."