

# Nelson Township Newsletter

Summer 2024

## Millage Details - *\*\*Important\*\**

**This is an extremely important renewal. Per the State of Michigan if you have no Fire/Emergency Service your ISO rates will increase meaning your home/structure insurance rates will increase.**

### TOWNSHIP TO ASK FOR .5 MILLS FOR FIRE/EMERGENCY COVERAGE

The Nelson Township Board voted, at their February meeting, asking Township Property owners to consider the renewal of .50 (1/2) mill to fund fire and emergency coverage for the residents. This is not an increase, just a renewal. This renewal will generate approximately \$ 86,596 annually. This money can only be used for fire/medical emergency services. Two departments serve the Nelson Township Community. Sand Lake Fire Department and Cedar Springs Fire Department.

Sand Lake Fire Department Total Calls for 2023 – 659

Cedar Springs Fire Department Total Calls for 2023 - 878

**Without Volunteer Firefighters our communities would be in trouble. They are the ones that people turn to in their time of need. Thank you for your service.**

**This millage is on the August Ballot.**

TOWNSHIP OF NELSON  
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PROPOSAL NO. 1

MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION

0.5000 MILL FOR FIRE PROTECTION PURPOSES\*

Shall the previously voted increase in the Township of Nelson tax rate limitation, currently 0.4794 mill (\$0.4794 per \$1,000 of taxable value), be renewed and levied in the years 2024-2029, both inclusive, and shall an additional 0.0206 mill (\$0.0206 per \$1,000 of taxable value) be approved and levied to restore previous reductions under the "Headlee Amendment" since this millage was last approved, resulting in the levy of 0.5000 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value), subject to reduction as provided by law, on taxable property in the Township?

The purpose of this levy is to provide funds for fire protection services in the Township including the cost of contracting for fire protection services and for the acquisition of fire and rescue motor vehicles, apparatus, equipment and buildings. It is estimated that a levy of 0.5000 mill would provide revenue of \$86,596 in the first calendar year, of which \$3,568 would result from the additional 0.0206 mill. The revenue from this millage levy will be disbursed to the Township of Nelson.

**Cost: \$100,000 home value = \$50.00 per year**

## Fall Cleanup

September 14th | 8:00am-1:00pm

Located by the water tower



**NELSON TOWNSHIP**

When You're Here, You're Home

The township has partnered with North Kent Community enrichment. As a resident of Nelson Township you will now receive a discount. Check out what they have to offer:

<http://www.mynkce.com/>



**North Kent  
Community Enrichment**

FORMERLY CEDAR SPRINGS AREA PARKS AND RECREATION

## Introduction to New Employees:

- **Lisa Murphy** is the deputy clerk and brings a long background in the banking business.
- **Bonnie Rausch** is the QVF (Qualified Voter Filer) clerk.
- **Andrea Carr** assists the zoning administrator. Andrea is a longtime resident of Nelson township and has a background in real estate assistance and office management. .

## Supervisor - Robyn Britton

[supervisor@nelsontownship.org](mailto:supervisor@nelsontownship.org)

With the election right around the corner. I'd like to tell everyone how much I've appreciated representing Nelson Township. Hard to believe it's been almost 8 years in this role. Our boards have worked hard to bring the township to where it is today. Some of the highlights:

Partnership with Courtland Township in paving 16 Mile Rd., the creation of Ritchie Trail, Obtaining the VFW - For The Gathering Place Community Building, updating our accounting system for more transparency to BS&A, Facelift to the Village/Township Hall to is mention a few. Most of which was obtained with Grant money at no cost to the taxpayers.

One of the big questions I get is over roads. Please see the Road Improvement chart on the cost for local roads (Gravel), Turning a Gravel Road to Pavement.

## Treasurer - Katy Austin

Deputy Treasurer - Susan VanEnk

[treasurer@nelsontownship.org](mailto:treasurer@nelsontownship.org)

Thank you for allowing us to serve as your Nelson Township Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer. We always enjoy seeing you and helping you is often the best part of our day! The Treasurer's office is open 9am-3pm Monday - Wednesday. Emails sent to the treasurer are checked M-F and is a great way to reach us outside of normal office hours.

Sincerely, Katy Austin & Susan VanEnk

## Clerk - Laura Hoffman

[clerk@nelsontownship.org](mailto:clerk@nelsontownship.org)

**Early Voting** for the August 6, 2024 Primary, will be held starting Saturday, July 27th thru Sunday, August 4th, from 8:00am - 4:00pm in the Meeting Room at the Township Hall (2 Maple St, Sand Lake). Please take advantage of this new voting opportunity.

There is a **drop box** located on 5th St. in front of the Fire Barn for the drop-off of Absentee Ballots and Applications. This drop box is under 24 hour video surveillance.

## Assessor - Amanda Toomey

[assessor@nelsontownship.org](mailto:assessor@nelsontownship.org)

My office hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 9 AM - 3 PM. During this time, I may be out in the field. Please call me in advance to set up an appointment or to verify that I am in the office. As a reminder I will be out to verify each new building permit that was pulled. I will also be performing re-inspections on select properties to ensure the record card is accurate and up to date. Before visiting I will mail out a letter with information. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## Zoning / Enforcement - Jerry Gross

[zoning@nelsontownship.org](mailto:zoning@nelsontownship.org)

Just a reminder of the old saying "One Mans trash is another mans treasure". I am frequently called with complaints that pertain to junk vehicles and parts and/or trash that is left in the yards or on the property of some of our residents, both of which are violations of ordinances within Nelson Township. You personally may believe that the items laying about your property are of great value but it may not be seen that way by others. Taking the time to learn what is acceptable can save problems in the future.

### Township Board Meetings:

2nd Tuesday of each month - 5:00pm

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED JULY 1ST - 4TH

TAX & ASSESSING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FREE 24/7  
FOR HOMEOWNERS AT [WWW.NELSONTOWNSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.NELSONTOWNSHIP.ORG)


## Road Improvements

### 2024 Local Road Program Nelson Township

ROAD/STREET	Miles	TWP Share	KCRC Share	TOTAL
		50%	50%	
Crush & Shape	1.00	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$330,000
Mill & Fill	1.00	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$330,000
Chipseal	1.00	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000

ROAD/STREET	Miles	TWP Share	KCRC Share	TOTAL
		55%	45%	
6" Limestone (Trees, Ditching, Etc)	1.00	\$55,000	\$45,000	\$100,000
6" Processed Milling (Trees, Ditching, Etc)	1.00	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$100,000

ROAD/STREET	Miles	TWP Share	KCRC Share	TOTAL
		55%	45%	
Gravel to Pavement	1.00	\$715,000	\$585,000	\$1,300,000



**Kent County Register of Deeds**

**For Immediate Release**  
Media Contact: Robert J. Macomber,  
Chief Deputy County Clerk  
P: 616-632-7661  
E: [rob.macomber@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:rob.macomber@kentcountymi.gov)

### Kent County Register of Deeds Launches 'Fraud Notify' System to Help Safeguard Property Owners

**Grand Rapids, MI (March 14, 2024)** – Kent County Register of Deeds Lisa Posthumus Lyons announces the launch of its *Fraud Notify* system to help combat property fraud within Kent County.

"Home ownership has long-defined the American Dream and families work so hard to achieve that dream," Kent County Clerk/Register of Deeds Lisa Posthumus Lyons said. "That's why we're launching *Fraud Notify* to offer Kent County property owners added peace of mind and powerful information in a world where threats aided by technological advances are a growing concern."

The *Fraud Notify* system is a free service that alerts subscribers via email whenever a document bearing their name, or any other name they've designated, is recorded within the Kent County Register of Deeds Office. Upon receiving notification of a recording, property owners will be able to assess its validity and notify law enforcement if they suspect fraud.

"Unfortunately, there is no tool that will prevent property fraud completely, but *Fraud Notify* will help equip Kent County property owners with information they need in order to be aware if a theft has occurred, to respond quickly, and to seek justice," Lyons concluded.

The theft of real property (including homes and vacant land) is a rapidly growing threat across the country. Property fraud occurs when someone records a fraudulent document at the county land records office, making it appear as if they own property that is not legally theirs. This occurs without the true owner ever knowing until they themselves attempt a real estate transaction on the property, which could be years, long after the crime had been committed. Most often, once the ownership is fraudulently altered, the property is then sold by the thief. Not only is the victim robbed of what is likely their greatest financial asset, but they are then left with the outstanding debt of any mortgage on the property and must navigate through the legal and criminal justice system at great expense.

Property owners interested in subscribing to Kent County's *Fraud Notify* can do so at [accesskent.com/fraudnotify](http://accesskent.com/fraudnotify).

Upcoming Road work or to file a complaint about a road:

[https://kentcountyroads.net/about/community\\_resources/report\\_an\\_issue.php](https://kentcountyroads.net/about/community_resources/report_an_issue.php)



Kent County  
Road Commission