



GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP NEWS & INFORMATION

8555 KALAMAZOO AVE., SE, CALEDONIA, MI 49316

616-698-6640 ~ WWW.GAINESTOWNSHIP.ORG

Elected Officials & Trustees:

Rob DeWard, Supervisor

Michael Brew, Clerk

Laurie Lemke, Treasurer

Dan Fryling, Trustee

Tim Haagsma, Trustee

Bob Terpstra, Trustee

Kathy VanderStel, Trustee



OPTIONS FOR PAYING YOUR BILL: From Treasurer, Laurie Lemke

Options for paying your Township utility bills, permits, and fees.

In person at our office weekdays from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

After hours drop box. For your convenience payments may be deposited in our drop boxes. In the parking lot opposite the main entrance or just outside the entrance doors. All payments received in the drop boxes are considered paid on the following business day.

Mail in your payment. Please mail payments 7-10 business days before the due date. *Your postmark is not considered your payment date.*

Your Bank's On-line bill payer. When using your bank's bill payer service for payment, keep in mind they will mail us a check on your behalf.

Pay online at gainestownship.org. Click on the on-line services tab. Checking accounts service fees are \$3.00 and credit or debit card payment fee is 3%.

Payments via phone during Township hours at 616-698-6640.

Thank-you,

Laurie J. Lemke, MiCPT, CPFA, MCAT
Gaines Charter Township Treasurer



Change in Fireworks Ordinance: Rod Weersing, Township Mgr.



The Township's Fireworks Ordinance was revised in September 2023. The Township's intent is to follow the State's restrictions, and the revision was made to clearly define the days and times it is permissible to discharge fireworks in the Township; and incorporate recent changes the State has made. The following is an excerpt from the revised ordinance, please note that it is extremely specific as to when fireworks may be discharged in the Township. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

- A. IGNITION, DISCHARGE OR USE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS:** No person shall ignite, discharge, or use any consumer fireworks within the Township except during the following dates and times and as permitted by State or Federal law:
- 1) December 31, after 11:00 a.m. and until 1:00 a.m. on January 1.
 - 2) On Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day after 11:00 a.m. and until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
 - 3) On June 29 to July 4, after 11:00 a.m. and until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
 - 4) On July 5, if July 5 is a Friday or Saturday, after 11:00 a.m. and until 11:45 p.m.
 - 5) On Saturday or Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day, after 11:00 a.m. and until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Rod Weersing, Township Manager

For over a decade, Gaines Charter Township has maintained its existing 4.5 patrol units of service (three 12-hour shifts per day).

The Township has experienced significant population growth over the last several years. The increasing number of residents and businesses translates to a higher demand for law enforcement services. The current staffing model is insufficient to meet the demands for calls for service and the time required to investigate complicated incidents.

The Public Safety Special Assessment, implemented to help cover the ever-increasing costs of maintaining police/fire/emergency coverage, will increase from 0.75 to 1.00 effective with the 2023 winter tax bill. The additional funds will be used to add additional contracted patrol deputies through the Kent County Sheriff's Office to our Township, while also helping to maintain the two full-time Fire Departments in the Township. This additional staffing from the KCSO will enhance the quality of policing services provided to residents and visitors. The presence of police may deter crimes, and increased patrols will shorten response times. In a recent study, Gaines Charter Township surpassed all other townships within Kent County in terms of priority 1 and 2 calls, which are classified as the most urgent and life-threatening responses.



HOLIDAY HOURS

The Elected Officials and Staff of Gaines Charter Township wish you a safe and happy holiday season. As our calendars fill up with holiday gatherings of family and friends, please make note of following Township Hall closings:

Wednesday, Dec. 20th ~ Closed 12PM – 1PM for staff luncheon
Friday, December 22nd ~ Closed at noon, Monday, December 25th ~ Closed,
Friday, December 29th ~ Closed at noon, Monday, January 1st ~ Closed



E-NOTIFY: Rod Weersing, Manager

STAY IN THE KNOW!

Want to know when agendas are posted, when the latest Newsletter is available, or receive special alerts? You can now sign up to receive special alerts via email or text.

Simply go to the Township website (www.gainestownship.org), right on the home page you will see a small black box on the righthand side that says, **"SIGN UP FOR E-NOTIFY"**. Click on the "Read More" and follow the instructions to register for E-Notify and choose the notification(s) you'd like to receive, delivered either via text or email.

If you would like to receive information via text message, enter your phone number. Scroll down the page, and you will see what information you are currently able to receive via E-Notify: alerts, Township Newsletters, meeting information. Select "BY EMAIL" or "BY TEXT" for each item you would like to receive. All that is left to do is click "Save Changes".

NOTE: Gaines Charter Township does not have access to the subscriber's information

Visitors... Manage e-Notifications of Page Changes



DO I HAVE A LEAK?: Tracy Lawrence, Water & Sewer Administrator

A convenient way to pay your bill is to use the automatic clearing house (ACH) service. This service is free of charge from the Township. On the 20th of the month your bill is due (the following business day if the 20th is on a weekend), the transfer of funds will be made from your checking or savings account to pay your quarterly bill. The application is available on our website or contact our department to get the application sent to you.



Do you want to receive your bill via email instead of the mail? Email us at karen.rounds@gainestownship.org to sign up for paperless billing.

Did you know? Minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of wasted water nationwide each year and 10% of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.* Common leaks in the home are worn toilet flappers and dripping faucets. An easy way to detect a leak is to check your water meter. Note the read before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the read changes, you probably have a leak. Dye strips, available at your request here in the W/S Dept, can be placed in the toilet tank to identify a leak. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. An old toilet flapper may be the culprit if your toilet is leaking and can be a quick, easy fix. A checklist of possible reasons for high water usage, including leaks, is available on the Township website (www.gainestownship.org).

*"Fix a Leak Week". EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, Mar. 2023, www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.





GAINES ELECTIONS NEED YOU!

**HELP RUN SMOOTH, SECURE
AND ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS**

**SIGN UP TODAY TO
BECOME A PAID
POLL WORKER
IN GAINES.**

**PLEASE JOIN
CLERK MICHAEL BREW
FOR AN
ELECTION WORKER
JOB FAIR
WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 6, 2023
7:00 PM
8555 Kalamazoo Ave SE**

Are you passionate about the election process and eager to make a difference? Don't miss the Election Worker Job Fair at 7pm, Dec. 6, in the lower level of the Township Building at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave SE.

Discover the essential responsibilities of election workers and get insights into the election process and its significance. Your participation as an election worker matters to the community. Don't miss this chance to be part of our election process and get paid to work elections. Be part of the team that makes elections happen. We will be signing up new potential election inspectors. Please don't miss it.

Can't make the job fair? Applications are available on the Clerk's Page of our Township web site or at the Gaines Township Offices.

Return your application to Gaines Charter Township Clerk's Office or via email at: michael.brew@gainestownship.org

Please call (616) 698-7980 for more information.