



RICHLAND REPORTS

"In touch with the community"

February 2018

What's Inside!



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Information**

**Stop in the office to sign up
for our email database to
receive current township
news and fun activities!**

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS AND STAFF:

Supervisor - *Lysanne Harma*
Treasurer - *Marsha Drouin*
Clerk - *Desiree LaDuke*
Trustee - *David Wendzel*
Trustee - *Paul Foust*
Trustee - *Trey Eldridge*
Trustee - *Bear Priest*
Fire Chief - *Gerald Luedecking*
Asst. Fire Chief - *Rick Hoffman*
Parks Director - *David Jones*
Asst. to Treasurer - *Barb Skinner*
Asst. to Clerk - *Theresa Paddock*
Ordinance Officer - *Bear Priest*

Building Inspector:

Steve Siegwart

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:30-10:30 AM

Planner:

Russ Wickland

Hours: Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12 PM
and 4th Wednesday of month
from 3:30 - 5 PM

Assessor:

Angela Story

Hours: Monday and Wednesday
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Parks and Recreation

PARK FEATURES:

Playground
1.75-Mile Walking Path
Baseball Fields
Pavilions w/Picnic Tables
Gazebo
Basketball Court
Soccer Fields
Volleyball Court
Rugby / LaCrosse Field
Concession & Restroom
Water Supply
Stoves/Grills
Multi-Purpose Fields



For more information on how to reserve and rent playing fields or park pavilions please visit www.richlandtwp.net/parks-recreation or email richlandtwpparks@gmail.com



ATTENTION ALL PARK PATRONS!

**YOUR DOG MUST BE LEASHED
AT ALL TIMES AT THE PARK!**

Ordinance Information

Topic: Accessory Buildings

This is the time of year that many people start the planning for adding an accessory building. The first consideration is typically what size of building. No matter what the size, the location must be in compliance with the Richland Township Zoning Ordinance. Two types of buildings do not require a building permit: A shed that is 200 square feet or less in size or a building devoted to an existing agricultural operation. Even these buildings require compliance with the zoning ordinance as to setbacks and parcel sizes.

SETBACKS/YARDS: The accessory building must be placed in the side or rear yard (this is determined by the location of the residence, which creates the front yard). The standard setback is ten feet (10') from either the side lot line or the rear lot line. An accessory building is only permitted in the front yard through approval of a special exception use by the Planning Commission.

SIZE: The size of the accessory building is based upon a number of factors. Initially, the calculation is based upon the total square footage of all existing accessory buildings, including attached garages or detached buildings, including sheds. These totals are then deducted from the square footage allowance, which is based upon the size of the parcel and the proposed location. For all parcels, where the location is 200 feet or less from the road right-of-way, the maximum is 1,632 square feet. For parcels between 1.01 acres and 4.99 acres, this allowance increases to 2,208 square feet if placed back greater than 200 feet. For parcels 5 or more acres, there is no size limitation if the setback is greater than 200 feet.

FOOTPRINT OF THE RESIDENCE: There is also a requirement that the total allowance cannot exceed the footprint (ground floor square footage) of the residence. This requirement is only waived for parcels of 5 acres or more that are setback more than 200 feet from the road. The intent of this provision is that the residence is the principal building on the parcel and the accessory building should not dwarf the size of the residence. Applications can be made for increasing this size beyond the allowance or the footprint through approval of a special exception use by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission would typically look at the location of the residence and the proposed size and location of the accessory building in granting this approval.

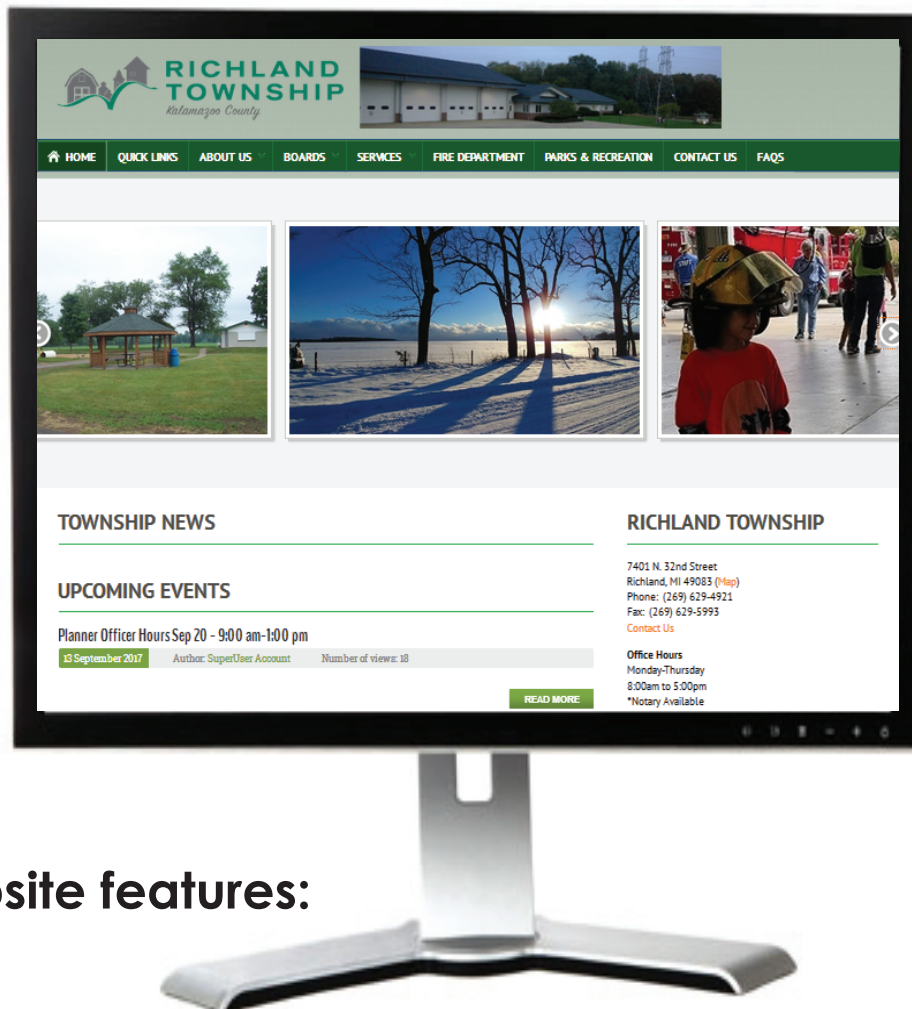
VACANT PARCELS: The Planning Commission can also grant special exception use approval for constructing an accessory building on a vacant parcel, but only if this is occurring at the same time as the construction of the residence.

If you have questions as to whether you comply with these provisions, you should contact the office to schedule an appointment with the Zoning Administrator, who maintains regular hours on Wednesdays to assist you in this process.



Township Website

New! February 2018



New website features:

- ✓ Mobile/smart device friendly!
- ✓ Allows visitors to share news and calendar events directly to their social media accounts!
- ✓ Will be hosted on redundant secure servers!
- ✓ Be ADA compliant for the visually impaired!
- ✓ The Township will have 100% control over content!
- ✓ The new site will be able to be updated by our office staff!
- ✓ **Will save the Township about \$1000 per year!**

Fire Department News

In 2017 the Richland Township Fire Department responded to 363 calls for service, this was a slight decline from the 372 calls it responded to in 2016. Of the 363 calls for service, 209 calls were for medical services.



During the year, the Richland Township Fire Department provides tours of the fire station to different groups as well as providing fire safety classes to numerous school children. The Fire Fighter's Association purchases fire department hats and coloring books to pass out to the children during their safety presentations. In the month of October, during Fire Prevention Week, the Department hosts an open house at the station with the Fire Fighter's Association providing cider and donuts to the attendees.

The Fire Department would like to remind you to keep your driveways and fire hydrants clear of ice, snow, and debris to allow for quick, safe passage of the trucks in case of emergency. The Richland Township Fire Department is a paid-on call department and is always looking for interested community members that would like to commit to training to become a firefighter and medical first responder. Applications are available at the Township Office.

Election Dates

May 8 – County and Local Ballot Proposals

August 7 – State Primary

November 6 – State General Election



New voting equipment was purchased in 2017 and will be used in this year's elections! Precinct locations remain the same – Precinct 1 is at Gull Lake United Methodist Church, Precinct 2 is at Richland Township Hall and Precinct 3 is at Haven Reformed Church.

You can register to vote at the Richland Township Hall. Applications for Absentee Ballots can be obtained online at www.michigan.gov, if you are not on the permanent AV list. If you are on the permanent AV list you can expect an application for the AV ballot about 2 months before the election.

If you are interested in becoming an Election Inspector to work the elections please contact Desiree LaDuke – Clerk – at 629-4921 for more information. Election Inspectors are paid for training as well as the days they work the election.

Prairie Home Cemetery

In 2017 Richland Township was the fortunate recipient of Parker Koernke's Eagle Scout project. He installed a flagpole, memorial plaque, two benches, and a bush. Please join us by the flagpole on May 28, 2018 at 11:00 AM as Richland Township holds its Memorial Day Service to honor our local veterans'

Richland Township partners with the Gull Lake Community Schools Gateway Academy in April and October for cemetery clean-up day. Please contact the Township office in advance of these days if you have placed items by the gravesite that you wish to remain undisturbed.



Parker Koernke's Eagle Scout project!

**Cemetery lots are available for purchase by Township residents.
For additional information please contact the office at 629-4921.**

Recycle and Waste

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TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY FOR RICHLAND TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE RESIDENTS ONLY

Date: APRIL 28, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

LOCATION CHANGE

All clean-up day events will be held at Gracespring Church located at
8643 Gull Road Richland, MI 49083

Dumpsters will be available for the following items to be dropped off:

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

Household junk and debris (whatever you have cleaned out of your basements, closets, cupboards and garage)
Metal objects and scrap metal
Construction debris (wallboard, roofing, plaster, drywall, etc.)
Cardboard, magazines, newspapers, cardboard boxes

NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

No explosive, hazardous, or toxic materials
No yard waste (leaves, branches, grass clippings)
No dead animals
No auto parts or tires
No paint cans (dried latex accepted)
No glass or bottles
No rocks, sand, or concrete material
No electronics (TV's computers, etc)



Rapid Shred – Shredder

April 28, 2018

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Gracespring Church

Rapid Shred, western Michigan's premier document destruction company is coming to Richland, MI to assist our community residents in disposing of their unwanted documents and other paper items that they don't want to throw away in the trash. Rapid Shred's mobile shredding units will destroy your paper right at Gracespring Church. This state-of-the-art truck is capable of shredding 5,000 – 6,000 pounds of paper per hour. Once destroyed, the shredded paper is transported back to a secure facility where it is baled. These bales are loaded onto semi-trailers and transported to the paper mill where the shredded paper is pulped and recycled into new paper products.

This is a free service offered to Richland Township and Village Residents. Non-residents will be charged a per vehicle fee.

Household Hazardous Waste

A Free Service to Rid Your Home of Household
Chemicals and Electronics

Info Hotline 373-5211 & www.kalcounty.com/htw

Materials Accepted:

Batteries, Computers, Cleaners, Gasoline, Mercury,
Oil-Based Paints, Garden Chemicals, Used Motor Oil,
Televisions, Business Waste for a fee

Not Accepted:
Latex Paint

DROP OFF TIMES:

TUES & FRI (8:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
WED (NOON - 6 PM)
Second Saturday of Month
8:00 AM - NOON
(Except Aug. and Sept.)

Location:

1301 Lamont Ave. Kalamazoo,
MI 49048

(Next to the Fairgrounds)