

SBT NEWS – 2019 WINTER

Hello from the Zoning Office!

First, I'd like to thank all the SBT residents that have welcomed me to the township over the last three years of working in the zoning department. Second, I'd like to acknowledge and thank my predecessors, Mr. Phil Verdui (posthumously) and Mr. William Reghi for their skills, professionalism, and wisdom. Third, I'd like to present a few tips and some important info regarding specific zoning topics.

I'd like to invite all our residents to take a look at our recently updated and expanded website at www.southbranchtownship.com to check out the new **ZONING PAGE**. There you will find a plethora of zoning information, including frequently asked questions (FAQs), forms, regulations, maps, and info regarding special zoning areas such as the Stream Corridor Overlay zone.

Also, a friendly reminder regarding camping on vacant land (parcels without a primary dwelling) and the correct permitting process for such activities. Camping on vacant parcels is allowed **ONLY WITH A PERMIT** and can be **temporary**, for a maximum of 15 days at a time, or **annual long-term**, without a restriction on number of days, **with a permit, provided additional requirements are met**. Please see **SECTION 3.06 of the SBT Zoning Ordinance** (on our website!). In the coming months ahead, the township will be redoubling its efforts to achieve compliance with our zoning ordinance in all aspects but particularly in regard to *camping activities*. All residents, that currently have RVs (a.k.a. recreational unit) that have been left on a vacant parcel for extended periods in excess of the 15-day maximum, are urged to read the ordinance and take the appropriate steps to comply with our ordinance. Compliance may be achieved either by removing the recreational unit from the vacant parcel, OR obtaining the proper permit through the zoning office. Enforcement review regarding camping on vacant land will commence on **March 1st 2020** and residents found to be in violation of Section 3.06 on or after that time, are subject to the appropriate enforcement action by the Township, which can include a civil fine of up to \$500. If you have any questions regarding our zoning regulations for camping activities or any other zoning ordinance questions, please contact me. I'd be happy to assist. I look forward to helping with all your zoning needs! 😊 Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bonnie J. Shanatona
SBT Zoning Administrator
989-275-8232

Greetings from the Treasurer's Office!

As some of you may know, Rosemary Oakey has retired as the township Treasurer. We thank her for her service, to the township for the past 5 years, and wish her the very best in her retirement. Cathy Lewis is the new township Treasurer and Kate Barkley is Deputy Treasurer. When you come in to pay your upcoming taxes, make sure to say hi to these new faces.

Speaking of taxes, just a reminder, Winter taxes are payable through February 14, 2020 without penalty. Taxes paid between February 15 and March 2 will include a 3% penalty. As of March 3, unpaid taxes will be turned over to the County Treasurer. We gladly accept partial payments and a drop box is available at the entrance of the township hall. Taxes can be paid by cash, check, money order and visa/debit card with an additional fee.

Dog licenses are now available until February 28, 2020! \$8.00 for dogs that have been spayed/neutered and \$15.00 for dogs that have not. Stop by the township office with a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination and pick up your dog license. Township hours are Monday through Friday, 9AM – 12PM.

JUST REMEMBER:
A LICENSED DOG IS A HAPPY DOG!



Happiest of holidays from everyone here at the South Branch Township Office!

Assessing News

Christie Verlac has been a township staple for well over 30+ years and most of our residents already know her as our SBT Assessor. Just a reminder, the Assessor periodically inspects properties within the township for value re-assessment after a qualifying event, such as a sale, transfer of ownership, or property improvements. Please contact the Assessor's office with updates to Principal Residence Exemption status or address changes. Christie can be reached during our normal office hours, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, or via email request for an appointment.

Thank you!

Hello from the South Branch Township Fire Department!



- Please ensure your address is visible from the road so 1st responders can find you. 911 signs are available at the station. Call the station, or our Fire Chief, Phil Lewis, for more information. 989-275-4779
- Make sure your driveways have enough clearance, both width & height, for emergency vehicles. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with 15 feet overhead clearance and sufficient area in which to turn around is needed for our larger trucks.
- Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Every day, 7 people die in house fires. **Don't be a statistic!** Smoke detectors are available free of charge through the American Red Cross for those in need.
- Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on fire danger status and other events.
www.facebook.com/southbranchfire
- Firewise Audits, an inspection of the outside of a home to evaluate & identify wildfire risks and risk reduction steps, are available free of charge through the SBT Fire Dept.
- Missing street name signs can impede our ability to locate you in an emergency. Please report any missing or damaged signs to the Fire Dept.
- Remember to turn off seasonal decorations (lights) and other electrical sources when leaving home.



Have a safe and happy holiday season!

SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP CRAWFORD COUNTY MI

5245 N. M-18 | PO Box 606 | Roscommon, MI 48653

P: 989-275-8232 | F: 989-275-4860

Hours: M – F, 9AM to 12Noon

www.southbranchtownship.com

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Greetings from the Supervisor's office!

Just some friendly reminders that will help with keeping our community safe and pleasant:

- Keep your property free of debris
- Large Item Day is June 27th 2020
- Hazardous waste day for Crawford Co. is in June 2020 (call the Twp. Office in May for exact date and time)
- Refuse Stations (Dump) are open Sat, Sun, Mon & Wed from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
- Recycling is available at the Refuse Stations (see our website for accepted recyclable products)
- If capable, you may consider taking walks along your roadway and pick up debris as you stroll along. Springtime is always a great time for this after the snow has melted away! Ask your neighbors & go out as a group. Not only is the walk good for your health, it will be good for the environment, too! Please remember to always wear a safety vest or bright colored clothing if walking out on the roadways.
- Have a voice in your community! Consider becoming a member on our Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals. (Call the Twp. For further information).

Our Supervisor, Laurie Luck, and the rest of the South Branch Township Board will continue to work hard for you in keeping our Community prosperous. 😊

Planning Commission News

SBT is currently in the process of reviewing our Master Plan. When the review is complete, a special public engagement session will be held to hear from our residents regarding their opinions, ideas, and suggestions for our future development plans. Notice of the session date will be advertised in the Crawford County Avalanche and on our website. Regular Planning Commission meetings are always open to the public and all interested residents are invited and encouraged to attend. Regular monthly meetings of the Planning Commission are held at the Township Hall building on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there. If interested in joining the Planning Commission, please contact the Township Supervisor to learn more.

News from the Clerk's Office!

2020 will be a big election year!

Our state, and our township, will be having three elections next year.

*The Presidential Primary will be on **March 10, 2020**

*The State Primary will be on **August 4, 2020**

*The State General Election will be on **November 3, 2020**

Dates to remember to vote in the presidential primary:

The last day to register in any manner, other than in person at the clerk's office, is **February 24, 2020.**

The last day to obtain an absentee voter ballot:

*via First Class Mail is **March 6, 2020,**

*and in person at the clerk's office by **March 9, 2020**



Come see our Website!

www.southbranchtownship.com

Here you will find a LOT of information regarding such things as, upcoming public hearings, ordinances, zoning rules, application forms for permits, principal residence exemption forms, and general notices and updates. Suggestions for additions to the site? Let us know. We appreciate the feedback. So, go now, check us out!



From all of us at the Township, have a safe and happy Holiday Season!

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