



Douglass Digest

3521 W McBrides Rd Stanton, MI 48888

989-762-8014 www.douglasstwpmi.gov

Township Board

Meets 3rd Wednesday of month

<i>Kathy Rasmussen</i>	<i>Supervisor</i>
<i>Holly Huff</i>	<i>Clerk</i>
<i>Kristi Cordray</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Eric Tester</i>	<i>Trustee</i>
<i>Ken Bunting</i>	<i>Trustee</i>

Planning Commission

*Meets last Wednesday of
January, April, July and October*

<i>Matt Moorman</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Mark Hill</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>
<i>Fletcher Wernholm</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Melissa Bannen</i>	<i>Trustee</i>
<i>Eric Tester</i>	<i>Liaison</i>

Zoning Board of Appeals

<i>Fletcher Wernholm</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Ken Bunting</i>	<i>Board Rep</i>
<i>John Crooks</i>	<i>Citizen</i>

Zoning Administrator

Dave Kelsey

Assessor

Melissa Zemla

From the Supervisor

*It has been a busy spring! We launched a new website and adopted **Short Term Rental and Data Center** ordinances. If you are planning on operating a short term rental on a lake within Douglass Township, you **must** apply for a permit. For permit applications and detailed information on rules regarding Short Term Rentals and other ordinances, please visit the Zoning Ordinance section under the "departments" drop down tab on the website. Summer projects include new siding on the town hall, and a maintenance shed at the cemetery.*

From the Clerk

It's election season! In addition to state and local officials' elections, the Aug. 4, 2026 primary will include the following items for Douglass Township voters:

Fire Millage increase to .75 mill, of which .5754 mill is a renewal of the previously authorized millage that expired in 2025. The new additional millage would be .1746 mill for the purpose of operating, equipping, constructing and purchasing for fire service or any other purpose authorized by law for fire protection service.

Commission on Aging Millage increase to .70 mill, of which .45 mill is a renewal of the millage rate that expires in 2026. New additional millage would be .25 for the purpose of providing the necessary funding to increase services provided to the ever-increasing senior population of Montcalm County.

MSU Extension Millage Renewal of .20 mill to continue operations of MSU Extension services, including 4-H Youth Programs and the Montcalm Conservation District in Montcalm County.

From the Treasurer Summer property tax payments are due by **September 14** and may be paid without penalty through that date. Payments received **after September 14** will be assessed a **1% penalty for the first month, with an additional 1% penalty added each month thereafter** until the balance is paid in full. Residents may make tax payments in person, by mail, through the Township's 24/7 drop box, or online (processing fees may apply). During the summer months, Treasurer office hours are held every **Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** and on the **third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Additional tax collection days will be available on July 21, August 11, and September 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding your tax bill or need assistance with online payments, please contact the Township Treasurer at douglasstwp@gmail.com, 989-762-8014, or 657-359-8994. As you enjoy all that summer has to offer, we encourage residents to plan ahead for tax payments and take advantage of the convenient payment options available. We wish everyone a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer season.

Spotlight On Don and Lois Larsen

Don and Lois Larsen lovingly began taking care of the township cemetery in April 1975, and remained its steadfast caretakers for 51 years. Douglass Township was further blessed in 1976, when they moved into the home in which Lois grew up and her grandfather had built. The Hillside Cemetery was a family affair, as their son Donald also spent numerous hours there. Lois' grandparents, parents, a brother, an uncle, 2 aunts, and their infant son are buried in the cemetery. This family connection is what sparked the desire to be the caretakers. They also shared this desire for service with the Sidney Township Cemetery for 18 years. Throughout their tenure, Don and Lois shared in grief as they buried people they knew, but also made many friends and heard some amazing stories through their work.

Don retired from the job of Sexton at the end of March, and sadly, passed away in April. Don leaves a legacy of service and devotion that the people of the township will not soon forget, and we thank him.

Please join us in a posthumous recognition on July 15 at 7:30 pm as part of the July Board meeting.

Digging into Douglass

The Hillside Entrican Cemetery is located 1/2 mile east and 1/4 mile north of Entrican. Over 1500 people, including early settlers, their descendants, and numerous transplants from other areas have found a resting place among the old maples and sycamores of our beautiful and historic cemetery. Among the notable names buried there is Eliza "Lisa" Vaughn who was buried on the 4th of July in 1917. On this day, mourners found out that Eliza had been a maid for a southern general during the Civil War. As the story goes, one evening as she was serving dinner to Confederate generals, she overheard plans to attack the Union Army. She saddled up one of the general's horses and rode north to the Union Army camp to report what she had heard. With this information, the Confederate Army's plans were thwarted and they were badly beaten. Later, Eliza Vaughn came north, married and settled on a farm west of Entrican. For more amazing local stories, visit www.migenweb.org/montcalm/townships/douglass/entrican. Agnes Comden, a longtime Douglass Township resident compiled many stories of our early days.

Burn Permits

South of Hillis Road: Call the Stanton Fire Department at 616-260-7269

North of Hillis Road: Call the Day Township Fire Department at 989-762-5005

Hall Rental *If you are interested in renting the hall for your next get together, please see the website for pricing information and rental agreement, or call Holly at the hall.*

Cemetery News *Cemetery information (pricing, contact info, and listing) can be found on the website. If you are interested in purchasing a cemetery plot, please contact the hall. Thank you to Steve and Christina Morris for their donation of a new flag at the cemetery. Welcome to Aaron Hadley, our new Groundskeeper and Jeremy McAllister, our new Sexton.*