

6316 STATE STREET  
PO BOX 224  
GARDEN, MI 49835

E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
GARDENTOWNSHIP  
CLERK@YAHOO.COM

PHONE 906-644-7602

WEBSITE:  
[GARDENTWP.COM](http://GARDENTWP.COM)



TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS  
ARE HELD THE SECOND  
TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
AT 6:00 PM AT THE TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY BUILDING

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**SUPERVISOR**  
KATHERINE YOUNG  
906-450-1878

**CLERK**  
BRENDA LESTER  
906-644-7602

**TREASURER**  
JENNA SILKWORTH  
906-644-7602

**TRUSTEES**  
CRAIG POTVIN  
906-450-5622

SUE ROCHEFORT  
906-644-7602

**ASSESSOR**  
COLLEEN & JOE MAKI  
OFFICE PHONE: 906-241-9618,  
906-280-4372  
FAX: 906-428-157  
JMAKI4215@SBCGLOBAL.NET,  
EAGLE1701@CHARTER.NET

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**  
JOE MAKI  
906-280-4372  
JMAKI4215@SBCGLOBAL.NET

**TRANSFER STATION**  
906-644-7139  
HOURS: 9AM TO 5PM  
MON. WED. SAT.  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**FIRE CHIEF**  
KEITH FARLEY  
906-450-7036

**UPDATES FOR 2023:**

- The Community Center in Garden Township now has an emergency generator installed, providing residents with access to bathrooms, a kitchen, and warmth during power outages. This is a fantastic addition to the community!
- The hall has been upgraded with new outdoor faucets, electric outlets, and security cameras inside and outside the building. The security cameras were purchased with grant funding.
- We are currently working on resolving condensation issues caused by a roof problem, which will be fixed in the spring.
- A special thank you to Terese Quasthoff for her beautiful flowers and dedication to taking care of them. We would also like to thank Steve Minor for the gorgeous flower planters he built for the front of the hall.

**PLANNING AND ZONING**

**Citizen Planner Training**

To better serve our community, the Planning Commission members are currently enrolled in the Citizen Planner training course, provided by Michigan State University.

**Zoning Requests**

If you have any requests for zoning permits or land divisions, please submit them to our Zoning Administrator, Joe Maki, at (906) 241-9618.

HAPPY  
*holidays*



See flipside for important tax and voting updates



## PROPERTY TAXES: NEW POLICY AND IMPORTANT DATES

### New Tax Collection Policy

The Garden Township Board has recently approved a Tax Collection Policy that addresses concerns regarding underpayments, overpayments and bounced checks. The policy is available to view on the township's website, Gardentwp.com and below.

### Winter Tax Bills

Winter tax bills are scheduled to be mailed by the end of November, and are expected to be received during the first week of December. You can pay taxes in person, by mail (PO BOX 12 Garden, MI 49835), or in the secure drop-box located to the right of the main entrance of the Township Hall. Note: if you plan to pay in person, call ahead as the Treasurer's position is not full-time.

### Important Dates

**February 14, 2024** is the last day to pay winter taxes without incurring any late fees or interest.

**February 29, 2024** is the last day to pay summer or winter taxes at the Township level. Any unpaid taxes after this date will be turned over to Delta County as delinquent and will need to be paid through the Delta County Treasurer's office.

**All taxes must be received by 5 pm on the due date or will be considered late, with interest and penalties applied. Please note that postmark dates do not count.**

### Address Changes

It is important to keep the Garden Township Treasurer informed of any mailing address changes to ensure that tax bills are received in a timely manner. Occasionally tax bills or payments do not arrive at their intended destination. Please contact Jenna Silkworth, Garden Township Treasurer, at (906) 450-4960 with any address changes or concerns.

Remember, property taxes are due even if your tax bill gets lost in the mail or if your payment is lost. While uncommon, these events can happen and it is important to be aware of these possibilities.

#### TAX COLLECTION POLICY Garden Township June 13, 2023

**Legal Dates/times for Treasurer to be in Office** – In compliance with Michigan compiled laws 211-44(2)(b), the treasurer (or their designee) must be in his or her office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the last day before taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent (the last day in February); at least one business day between December 25<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>; and for the collection of summer taxes, the last day taxes are due and payable before interest is added (September 14<sup>th</sup>).

The last day to pay winter taxes without incurring interest or late penalty is February 14<sup>th</sup> – Treasurer MAY choose to hold office hours, but it is not required.

All taxes must be received on the day they are **due by 5:00pm**.

Taxes may be paid in person to the treasurer **at the office**, placed in the **drop box** located to the right of the main entrance of the main door to the Township Hall, or sent in the **mail**.

Post mark dates will NOT be honored, taxes must be RECEIVED by the due date.

**Underpayments** – Tax payers are responsible for sending the accurate amount, the treasurer shall not be responsible for contacting tax payers with notice of underpayments.

**Overpayments** of \$5.00 or more shall be reimbursed to the tax payer via check in the mail. Any overpayments of less than \$5.00 shall not be refunded.

**Bounced Checks** shall be subject to a \$50.00 fee from the township, PLUS all associated fees charged to the township by the bank, including potential overdraft fees.

**Receipts** shall not be sent via mail unless the tax payer provides a self-addressed envelope along with the appropriate postage.

The above Tax Collection Policy was approved by the Garden Township Board at a regular meeting held on June 13, 2023.



Brenda Lee Lester  
Garden Township Clerk

### ELECTION CHANGES

In the last State election held in November of 2022, Michigan electors voted to approve proposal 2022-. With that new law, there will be some changes in the voting process for federal and state elections in the future. The biggest new change **allows for early voting** for 9 consecutive days prior to Election Day. Early voting is only required for federal or state elections. Any special elections for the townships, counties, or schools will not give the voters the opportunity to vote early but it will be available for the presidential primary to be held in February, 2024. Early voting will not be done at your precinct but will be held in the Escanaba area at a designated location that has not been finalized. That information will be published in the paper closer to the election. Another change will be there is **no longer a permanent absent voters list**. The new list will be called the Permanent Ballot list. Anyone can apply to be on the Permanent Ballot list by visiting Michigan.gov/vote or by obtaining a new application from the township clerk when they are available. If you have any questions, please call the township office at 906-644-7602 and leave a message and the Clerk will call you back.