



# Keene Township

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Ionia County

## Newsletter Fall 2022 keenetwp@gmail .com

Keene Township Residents:

Keene Township is getting ready for the November 8 general election.

- The polls will be open from 7 am until 8 pm
- Absentee Ballot Applications can be sent out, just mail or email a request to the Township or drop one off at the drop box located at the hall.
- November 5<sup>th</sup> the Clerk or Deputy Clerk will be at the Township Hall from 9 am until 4 pm to take care of any voting needs.
- Remember if you don't want to mail your ballot or application use the secure Drop Box located at the Hall.

Jeanne Vandersloot our Zoning Administrator would like to share some information

- Her contact information is 616-897-4242 or email [zoningadmin@msn.com](mailto:zoningadmin@msn.com)
- **Junk and Unlicensed Vehicles:** Keene Township adopted a junk, scrap and junk vehicle ordinance in 2009. Vehicles must be in a running condition and licensed.
- **Zoning Permits:** A Keene Township Zoning Permit is required for all homes, accessory buildings and agricultural buildings built or moved into the Township. Small storage sheds up to 200 square feet do not require a permit but must meet accessory building setbacks.
- **Vehicle Registrations:** Residents in Keene Township with Lowell addresses should check their automobile registrations as the DMV/SOS often puts Kent County instead of Ionia County on them. Kent County then receives the revenue money from these registrations instead of Ionia County.
- **Flat River Frontage Owners:** There are special regulations along this State designated Natural River. We have had quite a few violations to these regulations so please contact me to make sure you are in compliance.

### Planning Commission highlights 2022:

The members have been very busy this year working on zoning ordinance amendments. One was to allow shipping cargo containers with regulations and permits. They amended the solar energy ordinance for residential systems and are now in the process of amending the commercial solar energy section. They wrote and adopted new zoning language for biofuel operations and reviewed an application for a biofuel system to be constructed at the Maple Row Dairy Farm. In addition, have started a review of the zoning map to determine areas that should be rezoned.

### From the Assessor's Desk: Fall/Winter 2022

Over the summer and fall months, the Keene Township Assessor conducts property field reviews in the township. She also reviews and finalizes all building permits and property improvements through the end of the year. The State of Michigan requires that townships keep updated and accurate property records by reviewing properties every year. These reviews are necessary to verify the accuracy of property record card data and may include measuring the OUTSIDE of buildings, porches, decks, driveways, verifying sketch data, and updating exterior photos. Field reviews are a critical component in calculating a fair, accurate and up-to-date value of each and every property in the township. You may notice the assessor in your neighborhood. When conducting field reviews or finalizing permits, she wears a bright colored shirt or safety vest, carries identification, a measuring wheel, a camera, and a clipboard. Her vehicle is marked with identification: Township Field Reviews. If your property is part of the annual review, she will knock at your door if any measurement verification is required as part of the review.

### From the Supervisor:

In the last year, we have had many changes in the township. September of 2021 our Clerk, Nancy Feuerstein resigned and we appointed Tami Hardy to fill her position. This year our long time Trustee Harvey Noon resigned and in October we appointed Brett Hulliberger to finish out his term. We want to thank both officers for their years of service. On a different note, Keene Township is forming a committee to determine if the township needs to relocate. The lot size we have is small and parking is a big problem. Anyone interested please email the Township stating you would like to be on the committee and later this fall we'll meet to discuss our options. The spring cleanup day is back after a couple of years off due to Covid. It is usually held in late April, so watch for information next year on this annual event.

Finally, communication is the key to a better township government. But it works both ways, if you have some concerns or ideas to make Keene Township a better place, please reach out to us.

Thank You