



NEWSLETTER

www.vergennestwpmi.gov

69 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE., P.O. Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 897-5671 Hours: M, W, – 9–3, Th – 9–Noon



UMMER 2026

SUPERVISOR:
TREASURER:
CLERK:
TRUSTEES:

TIM WITTENBACH
SHERRY RICHMOND
SHANTELL FORD
RICK GILLET
DUANE RASCH

Township Board Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the Township Hall.

CLERK'S CORNER

by Shantell Ford, Vergennes Township Clerk



Spring and Summer Greetings!

This has been a hard season for me personally, with painful loss. Yet, with loss has come blessing. We all know the cliché “when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” I am taking that literally! I was given a Meyer lemon tree this year for my birthday. It is living in a pot in the office entry area with wonderful windows and natural light. I had to learn about pollinating an indoor tree, along with other ways to take care of the tree. A few weeks ago, I noticed small green balls where the buds

had been. These baby lemons are growing; the largest one is about the size of a small grape. I am excited to be able to pick and eat fresh lemons, and we’ve been dreaming of the lemon dishes to come! If you are in the township hall for any reason, check out the lemons! I trust in this time of growth and change that you will see the blessings, even when you may go through the pain of loss.

Blessings!
~Shantell

SUMMER TAX DEFERMENTS

To Qualify:

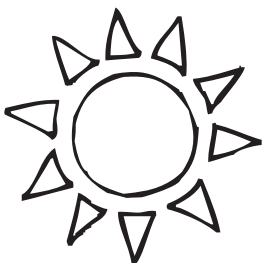
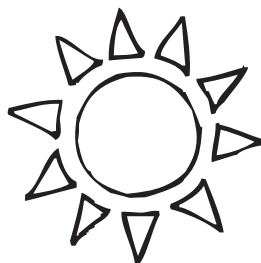
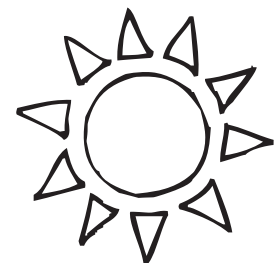
*Your household income must not exceed \$40,000 and you must be either:

- Senior citizen (62 years or older)
- Paraplegic, quadriplegic
- Eligible service person, eligible veteran, eligible widow or widower
- Blind person
- Totally and permanently disabled

*Agriculture

The forms are available in the township office from July 1 through September 14. The deferment period covers one year only, so you must re-apply each tax year.

It does not exempt you from paying your taxes, it only allows for summer taxes to be deferred until the February due date with no interest added.



CEMETERY NEWS

Alton Cemetery

Mark your calendars! Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 10 am - noon, the Lowell Area Historical Museum will be hosting and leading educational tours at the Alton Cemetery.

Fallasburg Cemetery!

“Show me your cemeteries, and I will show you what kind of people you have.”

~Benjamin Franklin

Vergennes Township is unique and blessed to have 9 cemeteries within the township, 7 of which are municipal owned and operated.

What does a cemetery mean to the local community?

“Cemeteries help provide a glimpse into the rich history of the township and its residents. They are a local asset that can help promote community pride and offer peaceful places to reflect.” Township Focus, Michigan Township Association, September 2024

The Township began in early 2024 with a long-term vision of improvements to honor those who have gone ahead and maintain their final memorial. With the help of a grant from LCTV, the township was able to put a flag holder at every Veteran's grave.

The Need for Burial Space

Currently, the township cemeteries that are available for burial are Alton and Bailey. Alton is in the far northeast

corner of the township. It is very popular with those who live in that area and have family roots there. Bailey is more centered and was long considered the township cemetery. Unfortunately, there is little space left unsold at Bailey. The township is looking into whether a small columbarium can be added at Bailey to offer options and space.

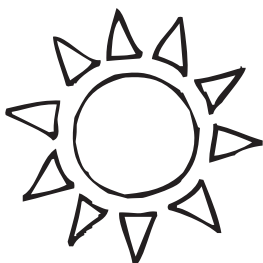
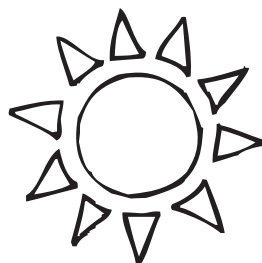
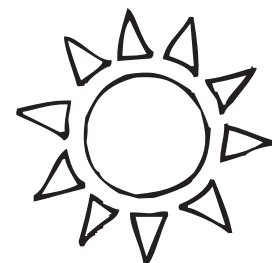
“If their cemetery space is filling up, townships may wish to rethink their current space. Cremains niches, plots and scattering areas take up less space, and can go around trees, along a fence line or in places harder to access.” Township Focus, Michigan Township Association, September 2024

Another option for space is that as the township is divided into multiple small historical communities, the township would like to honor this and offer burial location choices to the residents. The Fallas Cemetery is the ideal location to reopen for burials. This community already has an identity. The village residents, along with the Fallasburg Historical Society have already established a habit of caring for the cemetery, from seasonal cleaning to repair work. In addition, there is land attached to the cemetery that was never developed as cemetery.

The Fallasburg Cemetery was closed in 2001 due to various reasons that the township is in the process of overcoming. For those with historical ties to Fallasburg, or currently reside in the area, the Fallasburg Cemetery will be an option in the future.

VETERAN FLAGS

Many thanks to the McDaniels family, Heather Ransom, and Shantell, Jane and Josie Ford for helping the township honor the veterans buried in our township cemeteries this year!



A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Important Reminders: Summer Tax Collection

- **Collection Period:** July 1 – September 14, 2026
- **Final Due Date (without interest):** Monday, September 14, 2026
- **Office Hours on Due Date:** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Please note:

- **Postmarks are not accepted** – mail your payment at least two weeks early.
- If using **online bill pay**, allow additional time for delivery.
- The **township drop box** is checked daily and is a reliable way to ensure timely receipt.
- Taxes may be paid by **cash, check, ACH, or credit card** (3% fee added).
- If paying with cash, please bring the correct change.
- Visit www.vergennestwpmi.gov to see the payment status of your taxes.

If using your bank for property tax payments be sure to use this address:

Vergennes Township
69 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE
PO Box 208
Lowell, MI 49331

*Many are still incorrectly addressed to our Bailey Drive address.

Best wishes for a fun summer!
Sherry Richmond

FIRE DEPARTMENT

This has been a busy spring for the Fire Department. Please review the township ordinance on BRUSH FIRES before any open burning!

201.428 Open burning.
4.28.

A. No open burning of flammable material is permitted within the township except when the ground is snow covered unless a burning permit is obtained from the City of Lowell Fire Department, which has fire control responsibility for the township. The permit must be obtained prior to each burning, except that for those engaged in agriculture or other activities that may require more than one such burning each year, a permit may be obtained annually, and the City of Lowell Fire Department shall be notified not later than the beginning of each planned burning under the annual permit.

B. Regardless of the possession of such burning permit, no open burning is permitted within 50 feet of a building or at any time a high wind is blowing.

C. Prior to such open burning, an adequate fire line shall be prepared around the area in which burning is to take place; and sufficient water, shovels, and manpower shall be present and remain at the site until the fire is completely extinguished.

D. Any person who does not hold a burning permit when such permit is required, or who holds a burning permit and does not follow the terms of the

permit, and allows a fire to escape and become an uncontrolled fire is, in addition to any penalties that may be prescribed under State statutes, liable for all expenses incurred by the Township in suppression of such fire and is also liable for all damage to property which may result.

E. Exceptions. The provisions of this section shall not prevent:

1. The burning of charcoal, wood or other accepted fuel for preparing of food in an approved container, fire proof ring or utensil while being used in a safe and sanitary manner.

2. The use of approved gaseous or liquid fired "salamanders" commonly employed in conjunction with building and construction operations when used in accordance with accepted safety standards.

3. Roofers, plumbers, tinnerns or other mechanics pursuing a business requiring the use of fire for the purpose of boiling tar, pitch or oil used in the regular course of an appropriate business or trade, and while being used in a safe manner.

4. The burning of empty bags such as those used in agriculture to contain seed, fertilizer or for other agricultural usages, provided that such burning is carried out on tilled bare soil at least 50 feet from the nearest vegetation and is supervised until the fire is out.

(Amended: Ord. No. 92-1, 3-9-92)

ELECTIONS

It is election season again! Here are the upcoming important dates! Please note - there is NO EARLY VOTING on Monday before election day!! All voting is at the township hall, located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell.

Primary Election

Early Voting – July 25 – August 2 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Election Day – August 4 - 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

General Election

Early Voting – October 24 – November 1 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Election Day - November 3 - 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Permanent lists

Vergennes Township keeps two permanent lists.

- Permanent Application list is best for snowbirds, college students, or someone who wants to be notified of upcoming elections but doesn't want to necessarily vote in every election.
- Permanent Ballot list is for someone who wants to vote absentee in every election.
- **REMEMBER!! You can now bring your completed absentee ballot into the precinct during early voting or election day voting and put your absentee ballot into the tabulator!!**

Signature Cure

What does this mean?

When does a voter receive a notice that they need to cure their signature?

This is the terminology given by the Bureau of Elections when there is a problem with a signature on an absentee ballot. The signature can be missing or not match your driver's license. The signature doesn't have to be exact like whether you use a middle initial or full middle name, etc., but the writing has to clearly be the writing on your driver's license signature. It is **election fraud, a felony**, to sign an absentee ballot envelope that is not your own! This is true even for your spouse, or someone from your household!

A LOOK BACK

Oren Ford

Oren Ford lived on 4 Mile Rd and enlisted in Company B of the 25th Michigan Infantry. He battled disease during his time in the service and lived with the effects for the rest of his life. The township is grateful for the generosity from the Lowell Cable TV Grant Committee, Ron Kempker, Dale Kropf and the Veteran's Administration for placing a headstone for Ford in the Alton Cemetery. Oren's new gravestone will be highlighted in the Cemetery Tour on September 26, presented by the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

James VanDusan

James Vandusan/Vanduesen grew up in Vergennes, the son of Adam Vanduesen. He signed up for the Civil War as a substitute for a man who had been drafted, enlisting in Company F of the 16th Infantry. He died on July 4, 1865, after four months of being sick and hospital. The township is grateful for the generosity of Lowell Granite for the labor involved as James' gravestone in the Bailey Cemetery had fallen over. Lowell Granite was able to use their equipment and stand up the large stone. The labor and time were a gift to a man, his family and his community for service to his county that cost his life.

Nathaniel Rexford

Nathaniel Rexford grew up near Fallasburg. He was drafted and enlisted in Company F of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. He was discharged in June of 1865. Nathaniel worked in the logging industry on the Flat River. He was killed while trying to clear a log jam on the Flat River on April 2, 1870. He is buried in Fox' Corner Cemetery. The township is grateful for the generosity from the Lowell Cable TV Grant Committee, Ron Kempker, Dale Kropf and the Veteran's Administration for placing a headstone for Rexford in Fox's Corner Cemetery.