



2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Master Plan



The Township is undertaking an important task of updating the community's Master Plan. A Master Plan, as defined by the Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) is a document and policy guide designed to help communities create a vision of what they want to look like in the future. Master Plans help guide communities in their decisions on land use development and preservation. Master Plans are written and adopted by a local Planning Commission and might also be adopted by a local legislative body, although Master Plans are not laws on their own.

The public is engaged to give input on how they [the public] want the community to grow over the next 20 years. The Planning Commission creates and maintains the Future Land Use Map from this planning process, which guides the Commission in its decision on zoning and development. Your feedback is important to this process.

The Township would like to request that you complete this online survey by scanning the QR Code, visiting the survey link on Township website, or by completing a hard copy of the survey, which can be picked up at Township Hall.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's office hours are going to be:

- **Starting Tuesday July 9, 2024 – September 16th, 2024, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30am to 1:00pm**
- **Week of July 4th, 2024, Closed**
- **September 17th, 9:00am to 5:00pm (Summer Tax Due Date).**
- **September 18th to Dec. 3rd, Tuesday & Wed 9:30am to 1:00pm**

If you don't receive your tax bill by July 10, 2024, please call the Treasurer's office 269-637-4441 ext. 2 or send an email to treasurer@cascotownship.org

Elections

The August 6, 2024, Primary Election is for nominating State and Local Officials and the November 5th Presidential Election is for electing Federal, State and Local Officials. In 2022 Michigan voters passed Proposal 2 which has increased your options for voting:

- 1 – Vote by Absentee Ballot (Mail-In Voting)**
- 2 – In-Person Early Voting**
- 3 – In Person Voting on Election Day**

Vote by Absentee Ballot -- You can get an absentee ballot starting June 24, 2024, by requesting one in Person or by asking to be on **the permanent Absent Voter Ballot List** where you are automatically sent a ballot before each election. Ballots can be returned to the township by mail or in-person up until 8:00pm on election day when the polls close. The township has a new, secure drop-box where ballots can be dropped off inside the township hall foyer, 24 hours per day. It is well lit with security cameras tracking activity.

In-Person Early Voting – You can vote in-person for 9 days in advance of the elections. For the August Primary Election the polls at the Casco Township Hall will be open for early voting on **Saturday July 27, 2024 – Sunday August 4, 2024, 9:00am – 5:00pm**, including weekends. This works just like election day voting. When you arrive, you fill out an application, show your ID, vote at a voting booth, and enter your ballot into the tabulator. Early voting for the November 5th Presidential Elections early voting will take place starting **October 26, 2024 – November 3, 2024**, also open **9:00am-5:00pm**, including weekends.

In-Person Voting on Election Day – You vote on election day the same as in the past. The polls will be open on Election Day, **Tuesday, August 6, 2024, from 7:00am until 8:00pm.**

The elections will be secure and accurate. Each person is issued a ballot, and that ballot number is recorded. Whether it is an Absent Voter or an In-Person Voter, their ID and signatures are checked. The number of ballots issued must match the number of ballots that are pulled from the tabulator at the end of the day. Our tabulators are not able to be connected to the internet and our Electronic Poll Book laptop is not connected to the internet at any time on Election Day. If you have any questions about voting or the election process, please contact either **Cheri or Kathy at 269-637-4441, extension 4 & 5** respectively.

Transfer Station:

If you have used the Transfer Station lately you have seen a new face. Earl Lash has been the attendant since late January. The Board appreciates Earl as he has accepted the role and has been administering the policies of the Board. The goal is to keep the Transfer Station operating for the benefit of the residents and policies are in place to ensure the operation is feasible and sustainable. Thank you for helping us and Earl by understanding and complying with the rules. At 69th St, North of 103rd Ave. Open Saturdays only, 8:00am – 2:00pm

Casco Nature Preserve:

The Parks Committee, Andy Litts, Chairperson, Debbie Weaver, Vice Chair, Paul Macyauski, Board Representative, Matt Super, Don Quick, Libby Catt, members and Kelly Hecker, recording secretary, have been busy planning and working on the Construction of Bathrooms at the Park. The project will improve access to areas of the property and the facilities will enhance the experience and be appreciated by patrons for years to come. The committee is aware that there is a lot of interest in restoring access to the beach. They have been and will continue to explore options and hopefully enable Casco residents to once again enjoy the beach.

Short Term Rentals:

This year we have more than 150 registered short-term rentals. There are several new owners renting this year and some rental homes have been sold and the new owners don't intend to rent. It has been suggested that we put together training for new owners planning to rent to make sure the rules are understood and followed.

Paul has completed his inspections for the year and is currently following up on the changes that need to be made. Again this year he did the inspections in the spring so that they aren't disruptive during the rental season. Kathy is following up on septic inspections that are due this year as well.

(Rentals Cont.) The new hotline number is up and running and comes in two forms now. You can file an online complaint as you are taken through a series of prompts that include a drop-down list to help confirm accurate addresses. You can also call the number and speak to a real person. Both approaches have the same response time, they will be sent to us immediately after you file the complaint. You can find the hotline number and link to the online form on the Home Page of the website (www.cascotownship.org).

Senior Services

Casco Senior News

Your local Senior Programs at the Casco Township Hall will continue uninterrupted! Please join us for the following programs at 7104 107th Ave., South Haven, MI.

Monday & Thursday	10:00am – 11:30am	Stretching and Balance, Coffee & Chat following
Tuesdays	12:30pm – 3:00pm	Cards and Snacks
Fridays	10:15am – 11:00am	Cardio Drumming
Fridays (after July 12)	11:15am – 12:00pm	Tai Chi (Fall prevention & arthritis)

The following classes have limited space and require sign-up. Please call or text Mary at 610-316-3550

Cooking Classes – 12:00pm – 1:30pm

August 12 – Salads

October 7 – Harvest Bounty

December 2 - Soups

Crafts – 12:00pm – 1:30pm

August 5 – Summer

October 21 – Fall

December 16 - Holiday

All the above activities are held at Casco Township Hall, 7104 107th Ave. South Haven, MI 269-637-4441

Casco Senior Programming Expanded

Senior Services of VanBuren County would like to take this opportunity to thank the voters of Casco Township for putting your faith in our organization! We have many centers for you to enjoy including our main site at 08337 M40 Hwy in South Haven.

We opened our doors to the Casco Seniors in January of 2023 so if you haven't stopped in yet, please do! Starting in July, you will begin to receive our quarterly newsletter which will give you an idea of all we have to offer. If you don't receive it, please let us know and we will add you to the mailing list. On the back of this page is a list of all the activity centers currently available to you. There are no membership fees for anyone 60 or older who owns property in Casco Township.

If you have any questions about how this will impact you, or what services are available, **please contact us at 269-637-3607 (main line) or me personally at 269-742-4331.**

Again, welcome to

Diane Rigozzi, Executive Director



<p style="text-align: center;">Bangor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2nd and 4th Monday of the Month 10:30am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Simpson United Methodist Church 507 Joy St. Bangor, MI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bloomingtondale</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Every Friday except the 3rd of the month 11am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bloomingtondale Municipal Building 109 E Kalamazoo St. Bloomingtondale, MI</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Covert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday –Thursday 9am-12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Services of Van Buren County Building 33800 M140 Hwy. Covert, MI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Decatur</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Every Wednesday 11am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Hope Church 319 W. Delaware St. Decatur, MI</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">South Haven</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday - Friday 8am to 3pm 08337 M-140 Hwy, South Haven 269.637.3607</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Gobles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Monday of the Month 11am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gobles United Methodist Church 210 Exchange St. Gobles, MI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grand Junction</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Second Tuesday of the Month 11am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Congregational Church 54128 CR 388, Grand Junction MI</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hartford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Every Tuesday and Wednesday 11am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Services of Van Buren County Center 501 Main St. Hartford, MI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Porter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Every Thursday 11am-2:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Porter Township Hall 88040 M-140 Hwy. Lawton, MI</p>

