



# newsletter

GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP

WINTER 2025

## MEET YOUR BOARD!



**Supervisor**

**Jim Wierenga** is a commercial litigation attorney. He and his wife, Sheila, have been married since 1988 and enjoy raising their 8 children in the Township. Jim is currently serving his third term as Supervisor.



**Clerk**

**Kelly Kuiper** has been an election worker since 2010 and has dedicated her career to community development. She enjoys traveling and hiking with her family. Kelly is currently serving her first term as Clerk.



**Treasurer**

**Gene DeWitt** is a seasoned businessman with 60+ years of experience and a retired Deputy Fire Chief with the Georgetown Township Fire Department. Gene is currently serving his first term as Treasurer.



## CONTACT US

**Township Office**

616.457.2340

**GT Connections**

616.457.1170

**Fire Department**

616.226.6019

**Cemetery Office**

616.226.6012

**GT Public Library**

616.457.9620

**Township Board**

[board@georgetown-mi.gov](mailto:board@georgetown-mi.gov)



**Trustee**

**John Schwalm** recently retired after 40+ years of teaching business education and adult evening classes at Davenport University and GRCC. John and his wife Pam are very busy with church, school, and community involvement as well as 4 children and 8 grandchildren.



**Trustee**

**Amy Grasman** is a 35-year resident of Georgetown and a business owner, tennis coach, and past election inspector with a dedicated history of serving her community. Amy is currently serving her first full term.



**Trustee**

**Gary Veldink** is a 3rd generation and lifelong resident of Georgetown, as well as a licensed residential builder for over 44 years. Gary is currently serving his second term on the Board.



**Trustee**

**Kevin Kelly** is a financial advisor who has been a business leader in the community for 26 years. He and his wife have lived in the Georgetown area for the past 35 years. Kevin is currently serving his first term.

## OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays-Fridays 8AM-5PM**

**1515 Baldwin Street  
Jenison, MI 49428**



**SIGN UP FOR THE MONTHLY TOWNSHIP E-NEWSLETTER!**



# Township Updates



## Winter Road Maintenance OC Road Commission

The Ottawa County Road Commission follows a priority system based on traffic volume, road classification, and location for winter road maintenance:

1. State Trunklines (e.g., I-96, I-196, US-31, M-45, M-231)
2. Multi-lane Primary Roads
3. Primary Roads
4. Local Paved Roads
5. Subdivision Streets
6. Local Gravel Roads
7. Dead End Streets and Cul-de-sacs

Please note that it can take up to 48 hours after a snow event for our team to cover the entire road network.

### Reminder:

## Winter taxes are due Feb. 14



## Winter Fire Safety Reminders GT Fire Department

Over half of all home heating fires occur in December-February. To make sure you are safe this winter, here are some tips to prevent fires and avoid fire-related injuries:

- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from bedding, drapes, furniture, and other flammable materials. Place on a level, hard, non-flammable surface.
- Make sure the fireplace fire is out completely before going to bed.
- Do not run any cords under rugs or carpeting.
- Maintain 3 feet of snow clearance around fire hydrants to make them accessible in the event of a fire.



## Assessing Department

2025 Personal Property Tax season is here! Personal Property is not physical real estate (buildings or land), but refers instead to the assets (e.g. furniture, equipment, electronics, etc...) owned or leased by a business that operates in Georgetown Township. If you operate a business within Georgetown Township limits, please watch for the 2025 Personal Property forms in your mailbox. The State of Michigan requires that business owners file these forms with the Township. Many business owners qualify for the Small Business Property Tax Exemption. However, the exemption can only be granted if you are eligible for it and apply for it. Be sure to file any and all paperwork with us before the due date in February so we have time to contact you if your forms need corrections. For a copy of the 5076 Small Business Property Tax Exemption form, please visit [gtwp.com](http://gtwp.com). Please contact the assessing department or your accountant if you have any questions regarding Personal Property forms.

*2025 Change of Assessment Notices will be mailed out in mid-February. If you disagree with your 2025 Assessed Value, you can make an appointment to speak with the March Board of Review. The Change of Assessment Notice will include the dates and times the March Board meets with residents.*

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

**THANK YOU** to the following Township staff who reached a milestone in service to the community in 2024:

**Nancee VanderHeide (10 Years)**  
**Linda McCleery (15 Years)**  
**Kim Kuiper (15 Years)**



Check out our website at  
[www.gtwp.com](http://www.gtwp.com)

# Experience Georgetown



## Library Events

Georgetown Township Public Library

[gtpl.org](http://gtpl.org)

### All Ages Winter Reading Challenge



Join the 32-degree club and take the winter reading challenge from January 1 through February 28. Reading logs are available at the library or online at [gtpl.org](http://gtpl.org).



### January Series @ the Library: Jan. 20-31

Can't make it to Calvin for the January Series? Watch it at the library. The Series will be livestreamed each day. Visit [gtpl.org](http://gtpl.org) for the full schedule.



### Valentine's Tales & Treats: Feb. 13

Come to GT Connections and enjoy Valentine's Day treats with friends while listening to the Jenison Christian kid's choir and heartwarming stories presented by the GTPL staff. Free, adults only, registration required.



### Candyland: March 15

Our entire lower level space will be transformed into a life-sized Candyland board where you can make your way past the gumdrop mountains, avoid the chocolate swamp, and through the peppermint forest, collecting candy along the way. No pre-registration necessary.

## Jenison History Events

### Upcoming Programs:

#### Open Houses @ the Museum:

March 4: 10AM-12PM

March 15: 2-4PM

Admission is FREE but donations are appreciated



#### 1956 Tornado Presentation

April 17 @ 12:45PM: Georgetown Connections

April 30 @ 7PM: Georgetown Library

The Jenison Historical Association is always looking for new members, docents or volunteers. If interested, email [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org).

## GT Connections



[gtwp.com](http://gtwp.com)

GT Connections is a place where seniors from our community come to improve their health, learn new things, enjoy a tasty meal, play games, listen to a concert, and more--all while socializing with others. But it is more than this: GT Connections is a place where hearts are nourished through the giving and receiving of friendship.

Each week, over 300 members participate in Monday - Thursday exercise classes of varying degrees of difficulty. With classes such as Core Balance, Fit to the Beat, Flex & Focus, Move to Music, Chair Yoga, Fit & Strong and more, there is a class to fit the need of most abilities that will work to keep participants flexible and strong. On Friday mornings, the GT exercise room is full of line dancers kickin' up their heels to a country music sound. The best part, though, is the friendships that are made in these classes. One GT member recounts the time her friends from exercise class took turns helping her when she returned home after having surgery. A GT couple talks about the trips they've taken with another couple since they first met in class. And another member expresses thanks to one of her classmates for a weekly ride to GT.

Those who come to the beautiful Georgetown senior center expand their minds with information gleaned from presentations on subjects such as the wonder of hummingbirds and the rich histories of Michigan's small towns. They learn new skills like how to make polymer beads for designing jewelry, how to needle-felt a decorative owl to add to their fall decor, and how to make delicious hors d'oeuvres for the holidays. But best of all, those who come to GT Connections find their spirits more alive and their lives more connected to others, because it is the people themselves, and not the programs, that make up the heart of Georgetown Connections.

What does a year of Township services look like?

# GT BY THE NUMBERS

**55,366**  
residents

**13,000** rides via GT Transportation

**350** building permits issued

**81.64%** voter turnout

**50,000+** program attendees  
at GT Connections & GT Library

**35.5** median age of  
residents

**940+** emergency responses  
from Fire Department

**964** GT Connections Members

**2.1 Billion** gallons of water used

**750,000**  
items borrowed from the library

**271** miles of water main maintained



**800+** Jenison Museum visitors

**200+** burials