



## March 2023 Newsletter

### Public Works, Water & After-Hours Emergencies

Public Works and water department hours are 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays  
**For after hours drainage, roads, water, sewer and animal control problems, please call 519-671-8915**

### Members of Council:

- Mayor Grant Jones - [mayorgjones@southwold.ca](mailto:mayorgjones@southwold.ca)
- Deputy Mayor Justin Pennings - [deputymayorpenning@southwold.ca](mailto:deputymayorpenning@southwold.ca)
- Councillor John Adzija - [councilloradzija@southwold.ca](mailto:councilloradzija@southwold.ca)
- Councillor Sarah Emons - [councilloremons@southwold.ca](mailto:councilloremons@southwold.ca)
- Councillor Scott Fellows - [councillorfellows@southwold.ca](mailto:councillorfellows@southwold.ca)

Township of Southwold Council and Staff would like to welcome our newest members to the team. Josh Mueller, Planner. We would also like to congratulate Caitlin Wight on her new position, Deputy Treasurer.

### Time Change occurs March 12th, which is a great time to change your Smoke & CO Alarm Batteries! Remember to Test your alarms monthly!

DYK? Alarms must not be more than 10 years old? Check your alarms for Date of Manufacture and/or "Replace By" date.

DYK? You can purchase alarms with 10-year batteries, so you never need to change the battery?

Questions? Contact us anytime at [fireprevention@southwold.ca](mailto:fireprevention@southwold.ca)

911 Signs: The Southwold Fire Department asks that all residents ensure 911 signs are in good condition and visible.

Farmers and Rural Property Owners: Did you know that you can have a 911 sign installed on vacant farmland and properties? This can save first responders precious time when responding to an emergency! Council passed a resolution to support the Mission of Farm 911, The Emily Project - [www.farm911.ca](http://www.farm911.ca). The cost to install a new 911 sign is \$100.00. A replacement 911 sign is \$50.00. Contact the office, or visit our website for information on sign installation.

The Communities in Bloom will be holding their Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 27th, 2023 at the Keystone Complex Pavilion. Keep an eye on the Communities in Bloom Facebook page, and Township social media channels for the most up to date info.

### Important Tax Dates in 2023: Interim property tax installments are due by Friday, March 31st and Wednesday, May 31st, 2023

#### Starting July 1, 2023

#### Changes to Recycling Collection

Starting July 1, your blue box recycling program will be managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit producer responsibility organization committed to building efficient and effective recycling systems to minimize waste, and ensure materials are reused again and again. This transition will result in no change to the materials you can recycle or your current recycling schedule. More information will be provided in the coming months.

#### Coming Summer 2023!

#### Changes to Garbage Collection

As of July 1st, 2023 GFL is the new waste collection contractor.

Urban areas of Ferndale, Lynhurst, Talbotville will receive bi-weekly curbside organics collection, weekly garbage collection.

Backyard composters or digesters are available for rural residents



Tickets for Lawrence Station: The Crash of American Airlines Flagship Erie are available at the office for purchase. \$18 each, cash only. Show dates: April 14 at 7: 00 PM, April 15 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM.



#### Reminder!

Please do not flush "Flushable" wipes

Wipes don't break down and are causing pumps in the Talbotville Waste Water Treatment plant to break

Payment Options: In person at Township office - cash, cheque, debit, credit card (a 2% surcharge is charged on all credit card transactions). Online bill payments and telebanking services through your financial institution. Afterhours cheque payments - we have a secure mailbox on the exterior of the office.

Bill Delivery: The Township of Southwold offers email delivery of property tax and utility bills. Forms are available on our website or at the Township office.

Water Bill Due Dates: 2023 Due Dates: April 28, July 31, October 31, 2023 and January 31, 2024. Payment arrangements can be made by contacting the Township office.

Preauthorized Payments - available Monthly and on Due Dates: Preauthorized payment (PAP) plans are available for tax installments and water utility bills. The monthly withdrawal is on the last business day of each month. Please visit our website, or visit the Township office to complete the form to enroll.

Greening Communities Program: This program, administered by the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, gives residents the opportunity to purchase saplings. Please contact Betsy McClure at [betsy@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca](mailto:betsy@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca) or 519-631-1270 x 229 for more information.

Volunteer Recognition Award: deadline for nominating a volunteer for the Volunteer Recognition Award is June 30th, every year.

Southwold Scholarship Award: deadline for applying for the Southwold Scholarship Award is July 31st, each year.

Landfill odour complaint?: Call Green Lane Landfill at 519-652-0909

Locates - Call before you dig: If you require a locate for your outdoor project, please contact Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit their website: <https://www.ontarioonecall.ca/>

Streetlights: We rely on our residents to report when streetlights are out. Please call the office to report a streetlight concern. Thank you for your help!!

Garbage and Recycling Collection: The 2023 Collection Calendar is available on our website, or in print at the Township office. For missed pick-ups or service request, please contact the Township office, or fill out a request on our website. Please note the Garbage Collection Contractor is changing July 1, 2023 to GFL.

Drain Maintenance: We ask that property owners take time in early spring to look at areas on your property where municipal drains are located. Maintenance request submissions in advance of crop planting allows for efficiency in scheduling repairs. There is a drain maintenance request form on our website. If you have any questions on completing a request, please contact the Township office, or email [drainage@southwold.ca](mailto:drainage@southwold.ca).

Homeowners connected to Municipal water: It is the homeowner's responsibility to have the water shut-off valve (curbstop) accessible and visible to Municipal Staff at all times. This is so that it can be easily located in the case of an emergency or in the event that the water needs to be turned off at your home.

Dogs running at large: If you would like to request the pick-up of a stray dog, please contact the Township office. Please have a description and location of the dog. The dog must be confined for St. Thomas City Animal Services to pick it up.

Building Permits: The building department transitioned to a new e-permitting and inspection software, Cloudpermit, in 2022. For information on building permits, or on submitting one, please visit our website.

Half Load Season on Roads: is effective from March 1 to April 30, every year. The weight allowed is reduced on roads and bridges. Farm equipment, including mounted implements, are not subject to the reduced weight rules on "load reduced roads", Class B roads or bridges. However, heavy farm equipment owners are potentially liable if an overweight vehicle causes damage to a highway or bridge.

Municipal Parking By-Law: By-law 2002-4 prohibits parking of any motor vehicle on municipal streets between the hours of 3:00 AM and 5:00 AM year-round. Owners of vehicles that are in contravention of this by-law are subject to a fine. Any vehicles in contravention of this by-law are subject to removal at the owner's expense.

MPAC Property Assessment Notices: Update your mailing address online with MPAC. As a property owner, you will receive notices from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation about your property's assessed value. If you want to change your mailing address, you can easily update it on [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca).