

MIKADO TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 38

Editor: Jesus "Yogi" Yruegas

December 1, 2019

ALLBAND ANNOUNCES MIKADO EXPANSION EFFORTS IN 2020

In an effort to address increasing demand from our community, Allband Communications has announced that it will be working this winter on plans to expand beyond its current Northern Michigan service area footprint in 2020. This expansion will include the Mikado area, although specific roads and locations will not be revealed for several months. Allband is currently offering free construction with a \$120 pre-activation fee and no contractual obligations throughout its current territory. Although, while Allband has committed to continuing the free construction promotion through 2020, further details will be revealed regarding its expansion promotions, as plans to construct new main line may require slightly higher pre-activation fees or 1-3-year committals of service to help support the rural provider's investment ambitions.

Allband offers its Internet and telephone service in specific areas of Mikado after a 2012 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant was received to construct its current network.

Ron Siegel, Allband's General Manager and a rural broadband advocate, had this to say about the expansion,

"Allband has had the privilege to serve the Mikado community with advanced fiber optic Internet since 2012 and is truly appreciative of the support we have received from the community. After many years of growth challenges due to the economics of rural broadband and government reform, I am very proud to announce we are currently focused on reinvesting capital over the next several years and actively seeking out new sources of funding to expand into new areas, or to "edge-out" our current service lines. Allband has been paying attention and knows there is much more demand out there. We are ready to tear down the barriers that have stifled our efforts for years - so that we can provide you access to the many societal benefits of Broadband, such as access for homework, telehealth, economic development, agriculture, business, working from home, entertainment and many other functions. Please remember though...this is a grass-roots effort and we are starting a new movement. We need your support, your voice and strength in numbers. The more people who express interest, the easier it is for us to lobby for you, expand, obtain funding, recruit talent, maintain the network and give you the most reliable, reasonably priced and robust service we can. Please call, email, write or visit our website. Have a wonderful holiday season and we will see you in the Spring!"

Allband currently provides 100Mbps Fiber Internet for \$59.99 per month and also offers telephone bundles. If you are interested, please talk to you neighbors, spread the word and contact Allband at 989-369-9999 or visit their website at www.allband.org, where you can review their services, apply online or submit an inquiry. You can also email them directly at info@allbandcomm.com.

WINTER SAFETY

Burst pipes are a common cause of property damage and can cause thousands of dollars in water damage. The pipes most at risk in your home are those in unheated interior spaces, such as basements, attics, and garages. But even pipes running through cabinets or along exterior walls can freeze during a cold snap or power outage. Some simple preventive things one can do is always keep garage doors closed, especially if there are water supply lines in the garage. On particularly cold days, keep the kitchen and bathroom cabinets' doors open to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing, especially if the sink is on an exterior wall of the house. Letting water run through an exposed pipe-even a trickle dripping from the faucet-also helps prevent a pipe bursting pressure spike in the event that a section of it does freeze. For the long term, wrap your pipes with insulation which adds great protection. If you plan to be away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home and set the thermostat no lower than 55F degrees.

With the holiday days approaching, one has to be careful with overloaded circuits. Some tips to prevent electrical overloads are to never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances. All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only one heat-producing appliance should be plugged into a receptacle out at any given time. Also consider adding new outlets to your home. Heavy reliance on extension cords indicates that your house does not have enough outlets. One can have a qualified electrician to inspect your home to determine if more outlets are necessary. Recognize that power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.

MILITARY HEALTH NEWS

Prescription drug costs for Tricare users are set to rise Jan. 1, some by as much as 42%.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, a 90-day supply of generic drugs received through the program's Express Scripts mail-order pharmacy will increase from \$7 to \$10. Co-pays on brand-name drugs received through the mail will go from \$24 to \$29; the price rises from \$53 to \$60 for non-formulary drugs. Generic drug prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies will see the cost rise from \$11 to \$13 for a 30-day supply, while the same supply of brand-name medications will increase from \$28 to \$33. Non-formulary drugs -- those not on Tricare's list of fully covered medications -- will go up from \$53 to \$60.

Chiropractic and acupuncture services could be covered by Tricare under a new policy set to be proposed in the next several months. Currently, Tricare does not cover any chiropractic or acupuncture services for military family members. The proposal will be issued in an official regulation change notice no later than early next year, according to a document distributed to military support organizations this week and obtained by Military.com. Following a mandatory public comment period, the proposal will be returned to the Defense Health Agency (DHA), where a final policy will be developed. Coverage would likely not be available to Tricare users until 2021 or early 2022, the document states.

Mikado Township - A Zoned Community
Alcona County Review - Newspaper of Record
Road Commission: 989-736-8168 Township Assessor; 989-736-7689
Ordinance Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator:
Jesus "Yogi" Yruegas (989-736-7721)

SUPERVISOR NOTES

Year 2020 is surely bringing many challenges such as Census 2020 and the General Election. As most everyone knows that the county took back more than \$9,100.00 of PILT money from Mikado Township which means we have to tighten our belts. Also, the county has been raising prices for services they provide to townships creating more revenue loss for townships.

Because of the residents approving our Road Millage, we had another good year of fixing roads this year. I have started looking at roads for next year but it will depend on how much funding we will have available and also approval from the Board of Trustees.

I applied for a grant through CFNEM for the purchase of 3 Thermal Imagery Camera and one Gas Detector. The grant was approved. The fire department also received a Thermal Imaging Camera donated by an undisclosed donor.

We are working on a website for Mikado Township. It is a work-in- progress.

If you are new to the area, please think of registering with the Township Clerk to vote.

November was a busy month for most: We remembered our Veterans on Veterans Day. Hope everyone attended a ceremony. Also, deer season started and for those who did not get a deer, Thanksgiving was just a few weeks away. Hope you enjoyed.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be safe on the wintery roads and as you shovel/snow blow your driveways and walkways.

MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK (Rita Sands, 989-736-7721)

Well, are you ready for Winter yet? If you travel in the winter, be safe on the roads and we will see you in the spring. If you tough it out like me, please be careful when you are out shoveling the snow. We don't want any pulled muscles or broken bones.

The 2020 Election Cycle will soon be here. Mikado Township is in need of workers, both Republican and Democrat. Please contact me if you are interested in working these elections because an application will need to be filled out. You would not be eligible for the election date in March but you could possibly work the August Primary and the November General elections.

Please remember that in the spring, we always have a clean-up in the cemetery. All weathered or worn artificial flowers and all winter blankets are removed from the graves during this clean-up. If there is any item that you wish to keep, please have the item removed by May 1st. We greatly appreciate you taking all items to be discarded with you instead of leaving them on the Cemetery property.

As another reminder, after the snow starts to fall, we lock the restroom at Bruce Park. It is closed until spring. Also, as I mention each Newsletter, I am a Notary Public and am here to assist you. Please remember, if you need a Notary, all persons who sign the form would need to be present, with ID, for me to witness your signature.

Have a wonderful holiday,

Rita Sands

Your Township Clerk

(989) 736-7721

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The meeting will be held on December 11 at 5:30 pm at the Mikado Civic Center for the purpose of correcting clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact and qualified errors. The December Board of Review also has the authority to grant Principal Residence Exemptions and Poverty Exemptions. The owner of property for which a Principal Residence Exemption has been rescinded may appeal that rescission to the December Board of Review. An owner who owned and occupied a principal residence on June 1 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 may appeal to the December Board of Review if the exemption was not on that year's tax roll. Property owners may also apply for a Poverty Exemption on their principal residence if they have not already applied for the Poverty Exemption during the 2019 calendar year. A completed application for consideration of Poverty Exemption must be submitted to the Assessor prior to December 10, 2019. Application forms may be picked up from the Assessor, (989) 736-7689.

The December Board of Review has the authority to review and grant the Disabled Veterans Exemption to a qualified "Disabled Veteran".

OPENINGS

Mikado Township has one position open for the Board of Review. Meetings are held in March (2-3 meetings), July (usually one meeting and December (usually one meeting). Another open position is for the Planning Commission that holds meetings four (4) times a year. There is also one position open for Zoning Administrator/Ordinance Enforcement Officer. Anyone that is interested can submit a letter-of-interest to: Township Clerk, P.O. Box 60, Mikado, MI 48745. Call 989-736-7721 for additional information or any questions.

CLERK DUTIES

- Maintains custody of all township records
- Maintains general ledger
- Prepares warrants for township checks
- Records and maintains township meeting minutes
- Keeps the township book of oaths
- Responsible for regular and special meeting notices
- Keeps voter registration file and conducts elections
- Chair of Township Elections Commission
- Keeps Township Ordinance Book
- Prepares financial statements
- Delivers tax certificate to supervisor and county clerk by September 30
- Must appoint a deputy
- Must post a surety bond
- Maintains Board of Review minutes
- Sells plots and schedule Openings/Closings for Cemetery

