



WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

To remove or add your name to our contact list please e-mail Planning/Zoning Administrator Leslie Meyers at zoning@whitewatertownship.org

E-LETTER JANUARY 2011

Miller honored with Distinguished Service Award from County

Pat Miller's volunteer service began early. He served as a volunteer fireman and reserve police officer for the Village of Kalkaska throughout the 1980's while rising his young family and building his career with MDOT.

In 1992, the Millers' moved to Whitewater Township and Pat continued his community service by joining the Mt. Holiday Ski Patrol as a National Ski Patroller and becoming an "Elk", an active booster for the Elk Rapids Schools.

As his children left the nest, Pat directed his newly found spare time toward his community, joining the Whitewater Township Planning Commission in November of 2006. These were trying times for the Township as two factions were battling the newly proposed Master Plan. By early 2008, it was apparent that a compromise on the Master Plan could not be reached. Pat worked diligently to start the process over and involve as many as possible right from the start. He worked as an ambassador at Planning Commission open houses, served on the Survey Design Team (a committee made up of residents and officials, designing a survey that was sent to all property owners, not a random sampling), headed the Road Committee which is just finishing up a new Private Road Ordinance, reinvigorated the Williamsburg Fire Auxiliary as their new President and serves on the Emergency Services Building Committee. Pat also served for 3 years as the Township representative to the TC-TALUS Technical committee.

Pat's service has won him praise for his outstanding efforts from his peers and the community and includes the following: 2008 recipient of the Park Willis Award for Outstanding Everyday Ski Patroller. This award is presented to someone who takes on projects and responsibilities above and beyond those expected during and after the season. He is most noted for his snowmobile training program.

2006 MDOT Statewide Directors Award recipient. It was not just his dedication that won him the award but in the words of his supervisor that nominated him, "One of his strongest qualities is his futuristic view."

Pat created the grand entrance for the Alumni Plaza at Glowicki Field, the Victory Bell Display and the softball scoreboard.

In his second term as a Planning Commissioner for Whitewater Township, Pat currently serves as the Vice Chairman and shows no signs of slowing down. His current goal is for the Township to adopt a Master Plan that is acceptable to most. The Planning Commission, Township Trustees and residents commend Pat Miller for his dedication, commitment and levelheadedness to the future of Whitewater Township. Based on his track record, we are assured Pat will not stop until the Master Plan is complete and will continue to be a strong force behind bringing the goals, objectives and policies of the Plan to fruition.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness Tip #5

Dogs may be man's best friend, but due to health regulations, most emergency shelters cannot house animals. Find out in advance how to care for your pets and working animals when disaster strikes. Pets should not be left behind, but could be taken to a veterinary office, family member's home or animal shelter during an emergency. Also be sure to store extra food and water for pets. For more information, visit the Animal Safety section on www.redcross.org or visit the Humane Society Web site at www.hsus.org

Preparedness Tip #6

Go through your calendar now, and put a reminder on it — every six months — to review your plan, update numbers, and check supplies to be sure nothing has expired, spoiled, or changed. Also remember to practice your tornado, fire escape or other disaster plans.

Preparedness Tip #7

Check your child's school Web site or call the school office to request a copy of the school's emergency plan. Keep a copy at home and work or other places where you spend a lot of your time and make sure the school's plan is incorporated into your family's emergency plan. Also, learn about the disaster plans at your workplace or other places where you and your family spend time.

Tips 1–4 on the website in the 10/10 and 12/10 newsletters. Look for more tips in February.

Planning Commission Considerations

The Planning Commission is currently considering changes to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow for certain farm animals in residential districts. Whether the reason is health related or a financial one, requests are coming in from all areas of the Township.

Also under consideration is Medical Marijuana. This will be a tough issue for us as the State of Michigan has legalized its use in certain cases, the Federal Government has not.

The Planning Commission will also discuss the new Master Plan's goals.

Please forward your comments or plan to attend their next meeting

Maintaining Your Septic System

Whether you live on shoreline property or elsewhere, maintaining your septic system requires more care and work than maintaining similar systems located in other places. That's because soil and water conditions may make the system less efficient in treating waste, which could, in turn, cause harmful pollutants to get into our lakes, streams or wetlands.

This not only degrades the water quality in your yard, but can lead to problems throughout our watersheds. Contact Leslie at Township Hall as she has a number of resources that explain how your system works and tips for proper maintenance.

Don't Let Winter Wreak Havoc

With a modest expenditure of energy toward planning and prevention, you can stay ahead of the weather and avoid shelling out for serious repairs come spring. Invest some time developing your winterizing program checklist and log book, which can act as a quick reference guide as you prepare each year for the winter months. The trick is to plan ahead, so that liability concerns and emergency situations don't force hasty decisions. With the right preparation, winter maintenance can be simple, cost effective and efficient.

Tips for Winterizing

Freezing pipes: Frozen water pipes can cause water pressure build-up between the ice blockage and the closed faucet at the end of the pipe, which leads to pipes bursting.

- ◆ Set the heat in un-occupied buildings no lower than 55 degrees and perform periodic building checks
- ◆ Fit exposed pipes with insulation sleeves or wrapping to slow heat transfer
- ◆ Seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations near water pipes with caulking

Ice Dams: An ice dam is an accumulation of ice at the lower edge of a sloped roof, usually at the gutter. When interior heat melts the snow on the roof, the water will run down and refreeze at the roof's edge, where temperatures are much cooler.

- ◆ Keep roof/attic well ventilated
- ◆ Keep the attic floors well insulated to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the building
- ◆ Clean gutters—clogged drains can form ice dams

December 2010 - Township Board Highlights

- American Waste will provide the Township with the current recycling bin service for the 2011 year at no charge.
- Kim Mangus and Mickey Dean were appointed to the Planning Commission.
- Skip Lake and Kim Halstead were re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Connie Roundtree, DeWayne Kirkman and Paul Tyrer were appointed to the Board of Review.
- A grant application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians was made for \$405,000 to assist with the construction of a new Emergency Services Building.

January 2011 - Township Board Highlights

- Pat Miller and Julie Courtade were re-appointed to the Planning Commission.
- A new digital phone system was approved for Township Hall. Cost \$3570.
- A new planning and zoning fee schedule was adopted and will go into effect February 1.
- Township Cash Balance Reports are now available on our website.
- The Board will meet on 1/12 and 1/18 to discuss the 2011-2012 Budget. Additional meetings will be forthcoming in February and March.
- Water service bid initiations will be sent out. Look for a complete report on limited water service in the February issue of the E-Letter. A Vehicle Policy will be established for all Township Vehicles and personal vehicles used for Township business.