



## Whitewater Township July 2011

Questions, comments, ideas for future stories or to be added or removed from future mailings?

Contact:

Leslie at [Zoning@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:Zoning@whitwatertownship.org) or  
Della at [Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org)

### Monthly Calendar

7/06 Planning Commission  
7/12 Township Board  
7/19 Road Committee  
7/26 Township Board  
7/27 Historical Society

#### **Reminder - Deferment of Summer Taxes**

Applications for deferment are available at [whitwatertownship.org](http://whitwatertownship.org) or the Township Hall and must be returned by September 14<sup>th</sup> *annually*. The law provides that beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>, a 1% interest be paid. However, these taxes may be deferred without interest until February 14<sup>th</sup> one of two ways:

- 1) Any tax payer whose household income does not exceed \$40,000 *and* qualify under one of the classifications listed here: 62 years or older, paraplegic/quadruplegic, blind, totally and permanently disabled, eligible veteran/service person or surviving spouse of eligible veteran/service person.
- 2) If you own property, which is classified or used as *agricultural* real property. To see if you qualify for a Summer Deferment, please call my office @ 231-267-5141 ext. 22 or you can go to the above listed website for more information.
- 3)

**Winter Deferments through Grand Traverse County** - The basis to qualify for the Winter tax deferment are as follows:

You must file a MI-1040CR or MI-1040CR-2 *and* be eligible to receive a refund from the State of Michigan in order to qualify. The qualifications are 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death, Paraplegic, Quadriplegic, Eligible Serviceperson, Veteran, Widow and Widower, Blind Person, totally and Permanently Disabled. This deferment allows you time to pay your Winter taxes between March 1st and April 30th without penalty or interest. You can obtain an Application for Deferment of Winter Taxes from the County Treasurer's Office or on their website at [co.grand-traverse.mi.us](http://co.grand-traverse.mi.us)

#### **Emergency Services Advisory Committee**

The Board recently appointed the following to the newly created Advisory Committee: Rod Kuncaitis, Pat Miller, Fran Butler, Glenn Savage and Mike Conlan. The Committee held their first meeting on June 20. They began the process of information gathering. The Committee will review and advise the Township Board regarding the formation and turnover from the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Authority to our own Township Department. They will meet most Monday's at 6:00 PM. Check our website.

#### **RecycleSmart—Grand Traverse County**

**Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection:** July 28, 2011, 1:00-6:45 PM There is NO CHARGE (up to 150 lbs.) to Grand Traverse County households and businesses for this service. An appointment is required and can be made starting June 28. It's easy to make an appointment.

**RecycleSmart Kids Garage Sale & More:** August 20, 2011 Grand Traverse County Civic Center, 9:00 AM to Noon.

**Brush Drop-Off Site is OPEN:** Acceptable materials include: brush, branches, grass clippings and leaves. Tuesday from noon to 7 PM; Thursday and Saturday, 9 - 3 PM.

Additional information on all of the above is posted on their website. Visit [www.recyclesmart.info](http://www.recyclesmart.info) or call 941-5555.

#### **SCRAP TIRE ROUND-UP**

The Township has received a scrap tire clean-up grant in the amount of \$3000. The State of Michigan will reimburse the Township \$1 for every tire we collect not to exceed 3000 tires.

- Township Property Owners may dispose of tires at Erickson Salvage, 8130 Erickson Road (east of Moore Road) Monday through Friday from 8-4:30 PM for \$1 per tire.
- Tires will be accepted at our next clean-up day, August 27 from 8-Noon for \$1 each.
- The Williamsburg Welfare Wheelers ( a local 4-wheel club) has volunteered to remove tires that have been dumped in the State Forest.
- Are you aware of a improperly discarded tires in your area? Contact Leslie for information on utilizing the grant to clean them up.

#### **Park and Recreation Advisory Commission**

The Whitewater Township Board is in the process of forming a commission to oversee and guide the operation and future of our Township parks and recreational facilities. You as a member of this newly developed commission would have a direct impact on the future development, beautification and preservation of our current and future Parks and Recreations not only for our current citizens, but for generations to come. That's why we are putting the call out for people within our community to step forward and volunteer your time and expertise to this commission. The appointments to the commission will start this summer. Those who would be interested in serving on the commission can forward a letter of interest to the Supervisor's office at the Township Hall, or call 267-5141 ext. 23 to get more details. We need five to seven interested citizens for this important committee.

## Supervisors Update

By Larry Lake, Township Supervisor

**Township Clean up Day News - Cleanup** day, May 7<sup>th</sup>, went very well this spring. We had several volunteers helped with the events and work. I want to thank everyone that showed up and made this one of our most successful community clean ups ever. Scrap steel was up in volume and the normal amount of household trash came in. It was nice to see the turnout for the breakfast provided by the Emergency Services Auxiliary too. The next clean up day is to be on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 Am- 12:00 Noon.

**Water Service Main** - The water main line to Mill Creek Elementary School is being installed as I write this. It is going very well and for those on the route who may be interested in hooking up, you may call Joe Huhn at 231-499-4235. There is no obligation to hook up; however, it is an economical solution to well-water problems.

**Independent Emergency Services** - Whitewater Township will be leaving the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department on December 31, 2011. Once we leave that fire service group we will be an independent fire department. Plans are being made for the new structure and new operating procedure. There will be no interruption of service and all the responders are in place and ready to respond to emergencies as normal.

**Scrap Tire Collection Grant** - Thanks to a grant applied for and received by Planning and Zoning Administer Leslie Meyers, a scrap tire collection round up is planned for our township. I will leave the details of this event to be revealed by Leslie Meyers in this issue. I do want to thank Leslie for her efforts towards this valued undertaking.

## Fire Department Grilling Safety Tips

**Only use propane and charcoal grills outside of the home—never use them indoors.**

- Make sure the grill is positioned well away from the home and/or deck railings, and that it is not underneath any eaves or overhanging branches. It should also be far from any lawn games, play areas, or foot traffic.
- Establish a child- and pet-free zone around the grill of at least three feet.
- Use grilling tools that have long handles, which will allow more clearance from the flames.
- Remember to clean fat and grease off the grill and from trays underneath it regularly in order to reduce the risk of it igniting.
- Never leave the grill unattended.

### Gas Grills

- Before using the grill for the first time each year, check the gas tank hoses for leaks. To do this, apply a light soap and water solution to the hose and turn the tank on. If the hose releases bubbles, this indicates a propane leak. If you find a leak:
  - ⇒ Turn the gas tank off.
  - ⇒ If the leak stops, bring your grill to a professional to be serviced before further use.
  - ⇒ If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while using the grill, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department.
- Do not store propane tanks indoors in houses or garage. If storing your grill indoors during the winter months, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

### Charcoal Grills

- If using a “charcoal chimney” to light charcoal for grilling, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers while lighting the paper.
- Never add starter fluid to coals or kindling that have already been ignited—and use only charcoal starter fluid. Never use gasoline.
- Keep charcoal fluid away from heat sources and out of reach of children.
- When finished grilling, wait for the coals to cool completely and then dispose of them in a metal container.

For more safety tips, videos, facts and figures, visit [www.nfpa.org/grilling](http://www.nfpa.org/grilling)

## CLEAN-UP DAY AUGUST 27, 2011 SAVE THE DATE!

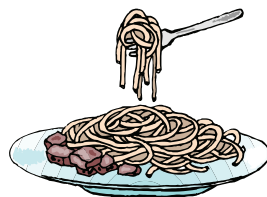
New this clean-up day: **Paper Recycling for Documents at no charge.** Tires will be accepted for \$1 each as will wood and construction debris (limit of 2 cubic yards), household furniture, metals, plastics, water heaters, large appliances and titled junk vehicles.

## Mark your Calendars - Community Event

Emergency Services Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner!

September 10th from 4-8 PM at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Proceeds will be used to purchase vehicle stabilization equipment for the Whitewater's Emergency Services Department.

Bring your family and enjoy an evening out while supporting our Emergency Services personnel. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Website and Services

All previous newsletters, agendas, minutes and most backup information for boards, commissions and committees can be found posted on the Townships website. You can also find most ordinances, contact information and so much more.

In April, the Township began an agenda subscription service. Provide us with your email and we will send out the agendas for all meetings. This allows you to 1) be reminded of the upcoming meeting and 2) determine if the agenda items are of interest to you.

Interested in seeing complete Township Board Information Packets posted on the website? Let us know.

Visit our website at [whitewatertownship.org](http://whitewatertownship.org)