

## Community Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for Whitewater Township's first annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

On November 16, 2010, a 12 foot Concolor Fir was planted at "Hi" Pray Park, located by the tennis and basketball courts and can be easily seen traveling down old M-72. Terry Bertrand, owner of Barker Creek Nursery, provided the tree at a drastically reduced price and Paul Tyrer of Expert Handyman Services has generously donated the lights and star for this beautiful tree. This community tree has already become an example of our townships citizenry. This event shows how a community working together can create a tradition in a township, for all to enjoy for many years to come. This event is the first of its' kind in Whitewater Township. Come be a part of history, celebrate this special event with your friends and neighbors.



The evening will start at 6:30 pm Tuesday night December 7th, with joyful music and light refreshments, followed by a countdown to light the new tree and it's highly possible that

there will be a visit from that "Special Someone" in a red suit to greet children of all ages. Please bring your camera, you won't want to miss this Kodak moment.

### DEDICATION

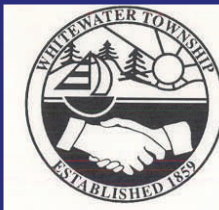
For this first year dedication, we would like to honor the Veterans. For all the men and women past and present and their families, who have made the sacrifices in service to our country, we would like to dedicate this Community Tree to them. At the time of the lighting, we would like to invite each family that would like to place a ribbon on the tree in honor of their Military family member to come forward. Ribbons will be available, however you may bring your own ribbons decorated anyway you would like. We would consider it a privilege to honor your loved ones during this very special occasion.



The Watershed Center - Grand Traverse Bay and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council recently formed a Stakeholder Group to focus on implementing the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan in the Elk River-Chain of Lakes sub-watershed. The Elk River-Chain of Lakes sub-watershed supplies 60% of the surface water flow to Grand Traverse Bay, making water quality protection in this area vital to the region's overall quality of life and economy. The Stakeholder Group is open to local elected officials, government agencies, lake associations, natural resource conservation groups and the public. The group is meeting bi-monthly.

To learn more please contact Andy Knott, Executive Director for the Watershed Center at 231-935-1514, ext. 1, or [aknott@gtbay.org](mailto:aknott@gtbay.org), or Grenetta Thomassey, Program Director for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, at 231-347-1181 or [grenetta@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:grenetta@watershedcouncil.org).

Visit us on our Web-site at [www.whitewatertownship.org](http://www.whitewatertownship.org) - Provide us with your email address and receive Township Updates through our E-Letters monthly



# Whitewater Township News

WINTER 2010

This Newsletter can be found on the Township Web-site: [whitewatertownship.org](http://whitewatertownship.org)

### Whitewater Township Directory

5777 Vinton Road  
P.O. Box 159  
Williamsburg, MI 49690  
Phone 231-267-5141  
Fax 231-267-9020  
[www.whitewatertownship.org](http://www.whitewatertownship.org)

#### SUPERVISOR

Larry Lake ext. 23  
[Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org)

#### CLERK

Carol Hockin ext. 24  
[Clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Clerk@whitewatertownship.org)

#### TREASURER

Ardella Benak ext. 22  
P.O. Box 100  
[Treasurer@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Treasurer@whitewatertownship.org)

#### TRUSTEE

Arnell Boyd - Message 231-267-5141

#### TRUSTEE

Paul Hubbell - Message 231-267-5141

#### PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Leslie Meyers ext. 21  
Monday through Wednesday  
[Zoning@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Zoning@whitewatertownship.org)

#### ASSESSOR

Amy Jenema - 231-632-3529  
Hours: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
9-Noon  
[assessoramy@gmail.com](mailto:assessoramy@gmail.com)

#### FIRE & AMBULANCE

Fire Hall 231-267-5969  
Non-Emergency

#### PARKS & RECREATION

Township Park - 231-267-5091

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Steve Zakrajsek, Chair  
231-267-9386

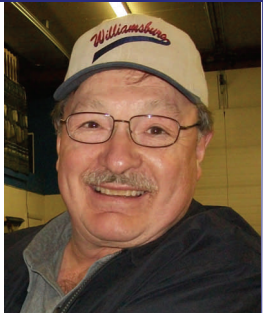
#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Chair  
231-883-3193

### Township News Updates: by Larry Lake, Supervisor

#### Outstanding Volunteer Contributions

As we look back at the summer and fall, it cannot go without notice, and appreciation for all the citizens who have stepped forward to help with our community events. Their efforts have made this a better place to live and raise our families.



It started with an upgraded and more frequent publication of the township newsletter. With the aid of email it allowed so much more news to get out to the community. Thanks to the Township Treasurer, Ardella Benak and our Planning/Zoning Administrator, Leslie Meyers for all their time and effort put into publishing the newsletter each month.

One additional township clean-up day late last summer removed some unsightly materials. Yes, it is a little more work. However, being there and watching the effort put forward by our local citizens was refreshing. The volunteers who helped make that day a success need to be thanked; Vaughn Harshfield, Pat Miller, Rod Kuncaitis, Arnell Boyd, Lois MacLean, Ardella Benak, Whitewater Fire Department & EMS personnel along with the Father Fred Foundation.

The newly energized Williamsburg Emergency Services Fire Auxiliary members have contributed to many community events. Anyone attending the recent Halloween party at the fire station would have been impressed with the number of youngsters enjoying the evening. It did not go without my notice the number of volunteers, countless hours of preparation and planning that made this event so successful. The addition of the haunted hayride was a big hit, it surely will be back for 2011's Halloween party plans. Remember, the auxiliary welcomes all who wish to participate in the fun.

The parks are as beautifully and nicely cared for as I have seen in my lifetime. The park administrator, Carol Hockin and her staff is to be commended for another great season. Plans are already started for next summer.

Thanks are also due to the Emergency Service Committee and the Emergency Services Facility Committee for their countless hours devoted to researching our Emergency Services and Facility needs. We have had a group of very dedicated citizens following both committees and they are also to be commended for all the time they have invested in coming to the meetings week after week. Thank you for being involved in this very important process.

It is a pleasure to imagine what might become of this community if the efforts that are voluntarily put forward continue into the future. Let it be said that from my perspective, the positive contributions by our many volunteers, has made this the year of "*THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER*". Thank you, I believe our community is heading in a great direction!

## Ordinance Updates

### Can You Be Found in an Emergency?

Unfortunately, emergencies can and do happen. When time is precious, would emergency personnel be able to find your house in a timely manner? Being able to find house numbers is crucial when seconds count. If your house number is not visible from the road, please consider purchasing a reflective address sign that can be mounted at the road. The signs are available from the Williamsburg Emergency Services Auxiliary for \$25.00. The Williamsburg Fire Department approved signs are 6" x 18" Reflective Blue background with white numbering. All proceeds will be used for support of our Emergency Services personnel and their equipment and training needs. Please contact the Williamsburg Emergency Services Auxiliary at (231) 264-5535, email [wwtfireaux@gmail.com](mailto:wwtfireaux@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 106, Williamsburg, MI 49690.



And because it's the law... Did you know that the Township has adopted **Ordinance # 44 - Property Identification Ordinance** on March 22, 2009 that states all properties shall have identification numbers visible from the roadway, and that a violation of this ordinance is subject to a civil fine not to exceed \$100.00.

### Financial Responsibility Ordinance

At their November 2010 meeting, the Township Board adopted General **Ordinance #45** – the Financial Responsibility Ordinance. The Financial Responsibility Ordinance is intended to ensure that any outstanding financial obligations to the Township including: real or personal property taxes, sewer or water system usage or connection fees, permit or hearing fees are paid prior to the issuance of new permits, hearings or land divisions.

### Under Consideration

The Planning Commission is currently working on Zoning Ordinance provisions that will allow for **temporary structures** to be utilized during new residential construction and **camping by private owners** on their vacant property.

Should you wish additional information, or to voice your opinions, you can contact the Planning/Zoning Administrator at [zoning@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:zoning@whitewatertownship.org) or join us for our Planning Commission Meetings the first Wednesday of every month. We want to hear from all our citizens.

### Treasurers Corner - Ardella Benak

Winter tax bills will be mailed the first of December and are due without penalty or interest by February 14, 2011. I will be in my office from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> to collect payments. If your payment is mailed, it must be postmarked by the 14<sup>th</sup> to incur no penalties. If you have deferred your summer tax bill, please remember to add the deferred amount due to the winter amount due when submitting your payment.



A 3% penalty is assessed on all unpaid balances starting February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Whitewater Township Treasurer's Office continues to receive all 2010 Summer and Winter tax payments through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

After March 1st, 2011 all 2010 real property taxes are payable to the Grand Traverse County Treasurer, 400 Boardman Ave., Traverse City, MI 49686. Personal Property Taxes are to be paid to the Township Treasurer, these are not turned over to the GT County. Please contact the Grand Traverse County Treasurers office at 231-922-4735 for the correct amount due with interest and penalties for real property taxes.

## Emergency Services Committee

Late last year, Supervisor Lake, recommended and received board authorization to create an Emergency Services Committee charged with reviewing current and future needs for Whitewater Township. The committee completed their work and reported the following back to the Township Board for consideration: In order of importance, our service needs are Ambulance, Fire and Police.

- A new ambulance is needed as the current vehicle is 13 years old.
- The Township may wish to consider a stand-alone fire/rescue operation as opposed to the current Grand Traverse County Rural Fire affiliation.
- A new facility will be needed, the current facility has been evaluated for upgrade/expansion. The land needed for the expansion is not available at this location. Fire Service and EMS should be housed in one facility. Further, the Committee recommended the establishment of a new committee to look at a new facility needs.

1The needs and the costs associated with Fire Safety and EMS must be communicated to our residents.  
2The committee consisted of the following members: Dave Galligan, Rod Kuncaitis, John Goss, Chuck Stewart, Pat Miller, Lois MacLean, Samantha Blakeslee, Tom Emerson and Arnell Boyd.

### ACTION TO DATE

1. The Township Board approved the purchase of a 2009 Ford 450 Demo Ambulance in late June at a cost of \$140,000. The money came from the General Fund and the Ambulance Replacement Fund. Delivery was scheduled for the fall. In early November it was determined that the paint on the ambulance was defective and could not be repaired. The company has offered us new 2010 model as a replacement at no additional charge. Assembly of the ambulance has begun and we expect shipment by late March.
2. The Township Board voted 5/0 to send a letter of dispute resolution to Grand Traverse County Rural Fire pending Township legal council review.
3. The Emergency Services Facility Committee has been established. (See related article for progress)

## Emergency Services Building Facility Committee

As a follow-up to the Emergency Services Committee, Supervisor Lake was given authorization by the Board for a committee to review the needs for a new emergency facility. The Committee was made up of Tom Emerson, Pat Miller, Ardella Benak, Steve Mangus, Arnell Boyd and Chuck Stewart. The Committee originally had a 7th member, resident Paul Tyrer. After the first meeting, Paul resigned as a member and offered his professional services pro bono as a general contractor/consultant. The Committee met August through October and made the following recommendations to the Township Board on October 26<sup>th</sup>:

- To meet the current and foreseeable future needs of Township Emergency Services, a 100' x 100' apparatus area with 5 bays and a 32' x 40' office/training space would be needed.
- Tyrer worked with contractors to determine an **estimated cost** of a structure and rough draft drawings of a facility - \$800,000. This represents almost a 67% reduction in cost, compared to the previous proposed facility plan.
- That the Township Board acquire an appraisal of all fire equipment owned by Rural Fire.
- Extend the job duties of the Committee to prepare for future Town Meetings to present the information gathered thus far for the Public.
- That the Township Board approach the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to discuss our common needs and determine actual costs for the recommended structure.

### ACTION TO DATE

1. The Township Board has requested an appraisal of all fire equipment owned by Rural Fire.
2. Supervisor Lake, Trustee Boyd and Chief Stites met with Grand Traverse Band representatives on November 9th to discuss our common emergency service needs..

**NEED MORE INFORMATION?** Go to [www.whitewatertownship.org](http://www.whitewatertownship.org) for all Township Board and Committee meeting minutes.