

Whitewater Township

News

Spring 2014

This Newsletter can be found on the
Township Website:
whitewatertownship.org

Directory

Supervisor - Ron Popp Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org

5777 Vinton Road * P.O. Box 159
Williamsburg, MI 49690
Phone 231-267-5141
Fax 231-267-9020
www.whitewatertownship.org

SUPERVISOR

Ron Popp ext. 23
Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org

CLERK

Cheryl Goss ext. 24
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Clerk@whitewatertownship.org

TREASURER

Ardella Benak ext. 22
P.O. Box 100
Hours: M-W-F 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Treasurer@whitewatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

Paul Hubbell
Message 231-267-5141
Trustee02@whitewatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

Lloyd Lawson
Message 231-267-5141
Trustee01@whitewatertownship.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Zoning@whitewatertownship.org

ASSESSOR

Dawn Kuhns - 231-409-1827
1st & 3rd Tuesdays 9-Noon
assessordawn@gmail.com

FIRE & AMBULANCE

Fire Hall 231-267-5969
Non-Emergency

PARKS & RECREATION

Township Park - 231-267-5091

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mickey Dean, Chair
231-409-1293
mickeydean@att.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Chair
231-883-3193

GT COUNTY RD COMM

231-922-4848

BURN PERMITS - MDNR

866-922-2876
www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits

Greetings Residents,

What a winter! I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the last eight months!

With the 2013/2014 fiscal year complete, it looks like we were again successful at maintaining a balanced budget. Final numbers are still a few weeks away; however, early indicators are positive.

The New Year is full of opportunity for the Township Board to roll up their sleeves and tackle the big issues. The first issue under review is the ambulance service. Volunteer fire and ambulance departments are struggling to survive. Reality is, the demands of everyday family life are shrinking the number of volunteer hours available to organizations that count on them. Recently, through job relocations, medical issues, retirements, and other restrictions, Whitewater Township Ambulance Service has lost up to 55% of its emergency services personnel during certain times of the day. This significant change has resulted in longer response times, calls answered with less than the required number of personnel for ambulance transports, and even unanswered calls. Because of the importance of this issue, the Township Board took immediate action during 2014/2015 budget discussions to temporarily fund a modified duty crew from the general fund, thus maintaining EMS services to township residents. A community wide discussion on permanent funding will take place soon.

Another topic that has been discussed for many years is a new fire station. Having studied hundreds of pages of documents from three previous subcommittees, and receiving help from several residents, a basic outline of a new Township Owned Fire Station has arrived. More recently, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian Tribe has forwarded a draft copy of an intergovernmental agreement and lease for an emergency services building they plan to build on the reservation. The agreement/lease is an invitation to Whitewater Township to combine our efforts with theirs to make the community a safer place for all.

The next matter we need to address are township roads. With the second budget cycle now behind us, a clear pattern of Township expenditures can be presented detailing the money available, from township funds, for summertime repair/replacement. The recently adopted Grand Traverse County Road Millage uses factors such as: General road condition, traffic volume, safety, corridor continuity, and economic development in the area to create a road repair plan. In short, it may be difficult for Whitewater Township roads to qualify.

Your involvement is important to the Township Board! In April we will set the date for a "Town Hall" meeting. The meeting will be an opportunity for Board members to listen while you share your ideas about these issues.

Have a great planting season!

Ron Popp - Whitewater Township Supervisor



Treasurer's Corner - *Ardella (Della) Benak*

Normal Office Hours at the Township Hall:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, other days by appointment.

Treasurer@Whitewatertownship.org * 231-267-5141 ext. 22

2013 tax season is at a close. Settlement with the County went very well with no corrections or adjustments for our Township. The **2014/2015 Budget** has been completed and a public hearing was held on March 20, 2014 at the Township Hall. The budget process is a lengthy process involving all board members. It is done once a year to plan ahead for the financial well-being and stability of the Township as mandated by state law.

Summer Deferment applications can be found on the Township web page. If you have no internet access, a copy can be obtained from the Treasurer's office. The Summer Deferment is due before taxes are due for the 2014 summer tax season, September 14, 2014. Summer deferments allow you to pay your summer taxes after the September 14th due date without interest. For more information on qualifying for the deferment, contact the Treasurer's office.

Principal Residence Exemptions (PRE) Affidavits (Homestead Exemptions) and **Request to Rescind** are due no later than June 1, 2014. They can both be found on the Treasurer and Assessing web page tabs.

Treasurer's office **accepts postmarks**. **Partial payments** are accepted. When paying by **CASH**, please have the **exact amount** of your tax bill. Remember to mark your return stub if you want a receipt mailed to you. If you do not receive your Summer Tax bill by July 15, 2014, please notify the Treasurer's office so we may send another.

Dates to Remember

Summer Deferments (on File) will be mailed

June 1, 2014

Summer 2014 Tax bills will be mailed

July 1, 2014

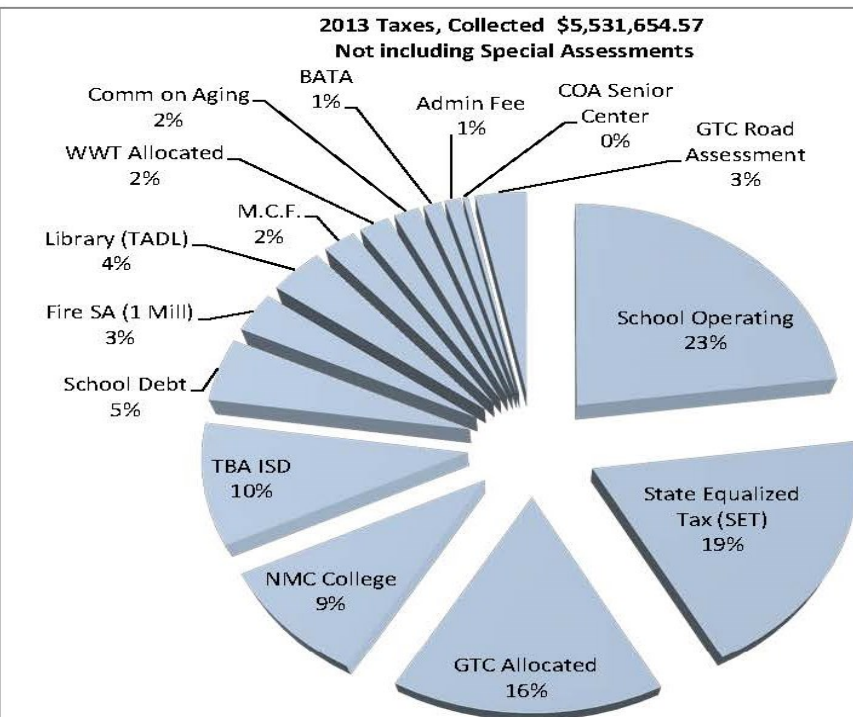
Summer Tax bills are due without interest by

September 14, 2014

Summer 2014 Deferment Forms due back to the township by

September 14, 2014

Please contact me if you should have any questions, I am always happy to help. *Ardella M. Benak*



2013 Total Taxes Levied	\$ 5,761,007.06
2013 Taxes (not Incl SA)	\$ 5,608,751.65
2013 Total Taxes Collected	\$ 5,531,654.57
School Operating	\$ 1,235,495.26
State Equalized Tax (SET)	\$ 1,037,374.71
GTC Allocated	\$ 871,190.06
NMC College	\$ 508,083.95
TBA ISD	\$ 512,382.64
School Debt	\$ 259,672.63
Fire SA (1 Mill)	\$ 164,371.40
Library (TADL)	\$ 191,390.38
MCF (Medical Care)	\$ 114,229.72
WWT Allocated	\$ 104,287.27
Commission on Aging	\$ 86,604.82
BATA	\$ 60,368.52
Admin Fee	\$ 53,346.43
COA Senior Center	\$ 17,316.00
GTC Road Special Assessm.	\$ 173,215.25
CFR (Commercial Forest)	\$ 514.99

Delinquent 2013 Assessed Taxes Turned Over GT County Treasurer 3/1/14

WMDLS Road Assessment	\$ 9,382.23
Miami Beach Sewer S/A	\$ 497.65
Real Property Taxes	\$ 183,733.04
CFR (Commercial Forest)	\$ 50.00

Delinquent 2013 Personal Property Taxes

Personal Property Taxes	\$ 35,689.57
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Township Special Assessments Collected

WMDLS Roads	\$131,160.85
Miami Beach Sewer	\$ 10,649.69

Personal Property Taxes Collected \$299,082.91

Penalties & Interest Collected 2013

Interest paid to taxing units	\$ 4,337.90
Penalties paid to WWT	\$ 1,038.78

"Details, Details" . . . From the Clerk

Greetings to All and Happy Spring!

Brrr! The thermometer indicates 36 degrees today. I don't know about you, but it won't OFFICIALLY be spring for me until it warms up and the ice goes off the lakes! Let's hope that happens soon.

Elections: I'm happy to report that there is no election in May this year. The next time voters will be asked to go to the polls is August 5th.

Whitewater Township Park: Preparations are under way for the opening of Whitewater Township Park on Friday, May 9th. The first weekend is a free camping weekend! We offer two nights of free camping in exchange for raking and picking up debris on your site. To request a site for the weekend of May 9th, please call 633-0170.

The new online camping reservation system went live on April 8th and there was extremely heavy volume of use on that day, nearly 500 bookings! We had a couple glitches, which we are working through. All in all, it is an easier and quicker way for campers to make reservations. Also, we now take VISA, MasterCard, and Discover online for camping reservations. This payment method will also be accepted at the park when it opens.

Township Board Information: If you are interested in receiving Township Board meeting agendas and packets electronically, send an e-mail to clerk@whitewatertownship.org requesting to be added to the Board Packets Group. All agendas/packets are sent blind carbon copy.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Whitewater Township Community!

Cheryl Goss - Whitewater Township Clerk

Elk River Chain of Lakes Fishing is About to Get BETTER!

Natural Fish Shelters Installed in Five Lakes in the Chain of Lakes

Intermediate Lake * Lake Bellaire * Clam Lake * Torch Lake * Elk Lake

The Elk River Chain of Lakes Fish Shelters Project is an effort to improve fish habitat and is a collaborative effort of the Three Lakes Association, The Watershed Center, Antrim Conservation District, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Elk-Skegemog Lake Association, Intermediate Lake Association & Friends of Chain Lakes.

The project began in 2012. The project is intended to provide places where smaller forage fish will have protection from larger predators and help to increase fish numbers and diversity to provide better fishing on the Chain of Lakes. The idea is to provide better opportunities for families to introduce their children to fishing. These shelters compensate for the lack of important shallow water habitat which is absent from many lakes due to shoreline development. Many of our lakes are already devoid of rocks, woody debris and other natural habitat, making the fish population low and the fishing generally poor.



Installation of 15 sites have been completed on Elk Lake. Ultimately, the goal is to install a set of three fish shelters at each of 80 locations on these five lakes over the next five years. For more information on locations of fish shelters, please visit:

www.3lakes.com or www.elk-skegemog.org.

ATTENTION - NO CLEAN-UP DAY FOR 2014

Elimination of the Annual Clean-up Day is only for 2014! Plan for a 2015 Clean-up Day to be announced in the April of 2015 Spring Newsletter.



An alternative for disposal of unwanted recyclable items is Clean Up and Green Up, a comprehensive recycling event held twice per year on Daylight Saving Day. The next event date is November 2, 2014



Visit their website for a listing of accepted items. www.mgconline.org

CLEAN SWEEP IS COMING - MAY 2014

Grand Traverse County Residents may dispose of 150 lbs. of hazardous materials at no charge. Beyond that amount there's is a charged of \$1.30 per pound.

Accepted Hazardous Materials

Automotive Products & Fuels * Cleaners * Paint Products * Miscellaneous

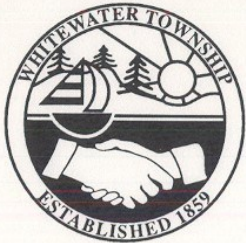
Fire Extinguishers at Northern Fire & Safety 1798 Northern Star Drive Traverse City MI 49686 (231) 947-6035

Propane Tanks at Tri-Gas Distributing 1660 Barlow Street Traverse City MI 49686 (231) 946-9011

Latex paints ARE accepted at the 2013-2014 HHW collections...do not dry paint out. Reuse!

We accept in liquid form and paint will be mixed for reuse!

WATCH FOR THE FLIER FROM GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY



Whitewater Township

P.O. Box 159

Williamsburg, MI 49690

Spring is Finally Here, and So Is Your Master Plan.

The Whitewater Township Planning Commission has completed the rewrite of the draft Master Plan addressing zoning in our Township. A formal adoption process is underway. This process includes review by the Township Board, notification to neighboring townships, review and comment by our citizens and public hearings. There will be a steady stream of communication on the current status of the plan and next steps throughout the summer. We will be using this newsletter, the township website, newspapers, email and direct mailings for this communication.

Currently, the plan is being reviewed by the Township Board, and the Planning Commission is finalizing the format for publishing. We hope to have the Board's approval to release the plan in the coming months. If you are new to the concept of a Master Plan or its purpose for our local government, I have provided a brief summary below.

The intent of the Master Plan is to guide long-term growth and development for the betterment of our community. It provides an outline for township officials, current or future residents, developers, and businesses. The Whitewater Township Zoning Ordinance regulates all zoning matters. The Master Plan only provides guidance for future zoning matters.

Have a great spring. Talk to you soon.

Mickey Dean

Chairman - Planning Commission



2014 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 of Williamsburg, Michigan invites our community to march with us in the Annual Whitewater Township Memorial Day Parade.

The Ceremony is briefly described as follows:

- Conducted on Memorial Day, May 26, 2014**
- Approximate time: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM**

Start at Williamsburg Cemetery (Old M72 next to the Williamsburg Fire Station), proceed to Mill Creek (Church Street near the Methodist Church), and finally proceed to Circle Hill Cemetery. Taps are played at each ceremony.

The Williamsburg Fire Department and EMS Personnel assist with road blockages and safety.

After the ceremony, refreshments are served at the American Legion Post located on the east side of Skegemog Point Road just south of M72.

We know that there are larger parades in the area. We also know that there are professional Honor Guards in the area. But, we also know that if we don't provide a ceremony in Whitewater Township, then our Township Veterans will be forgotten. We will not allow that to happen on our watch.

We hope that Boy Scout Troop #30 will join this year as we rebuild our Honor Guard.

Please join us on Monday, May 26, 2014 at 9:30 AM.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

APRIL 2014

4/22 Township Board Meeting

MAY 2014

5/7 Planning Commission

5/12 Parks & Rec Committee

5/13 Township Board Meeting

5/14 Historical Society Meeting

5/22 Zoning Board of Appeals

5/26 Memorial Day Parade

5/27 Township Board Meeting 2nd

JUNE 2014

6/4 Planning Commission

6/9 Park & Rec Committee

6/10 Township Board Meeting

6/11 Historical Society Meeting

6/24 Township Board Meeting 2nd

6/26 Zoning Board Meeting

SPRING IS HERE - LET'S TAKE A WALK

With spring comes outdoor activities that we all enjoy. Here in Whitewater Township, we are fortunate enough to have beautiful parks to utilize while we work out our cabin fever.

While we always welcome the furry members of your family, we request that all dog owners please clean up after your pet. It is a courtesy to others who come after you. Let's all do our part to keep our Township clean.

A few concerned citizens have reported that with the melting snow an abundance of trash is showing up on the road sides. When you're out taking your springtime walk, could you please take a plastic bag along and pick up any trash you may see along the roadway.

There has been an interest in starting an adopt a road/street program here in Whitewater. If you are interested in helping to organize such an event, please contact Ron Popp, Supervisor, at 231-267-5141 ext. 23. Let's all work together to keep our Township as beautiful as possible.

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PARK

Opening weekend at Whitewater Township Park will be May 9th & 10th.

Campers camp free in exchange for raking their sites. Reservations for the 2014 camping season began April 8th. Daily rates are \$22.00 offseason and \$27.00 peak season per night plus an \$8.00 Reservation fee.

Reservations are also being taken for the pavilion at Whitewater Township Park and for Hi Pray Park. These are great places for your family reunion or company parties.

To request a site for the weekend of May 9th, please call 633-0170.

For reservations for camping and pavilion rentals call (231) 267-5141 ext. 25

SAVE THE DATE! - May 18th, 2014 at 2:00 pm

An engraved stone in memory of Edra "Mickey" Galligan, who served as Whitewater Township Supervisor from 1985 to 1992, will be dedicated at the west entrance (Cook Road) to the Lossie Road Nature Trail. Mickey's contributions helped preserve this land for all Township residents to enjoy. Please come share this important day with the Galligan family and your community neighbors.

WILLIAMSBURG AMERICAN LEGION POST 289 MOURNS THE PASSING OF

MSgt. Thomas “Tommy” Baggs
May 28, 1932 - April 2, 2014



The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 Williamsburg, Michigan lost a soldier, a patriot, a fellow Legionnaire, and a friend on April 2, 2014. Tommy passed peacefully after suffering a stroke. Tommy was born and raised in Barker Creek, Michigan where he worked on a farm until he enlisted in the Military in 1948. He spent 23 years in the Army rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. As a fellow Legionnaire, we knew Tommy was a decorated soldier, and it was no surprise when we learned that he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star during the Tet Offensive in Vietnam. Tommy was a very modest man. Tommy was a giver.



Tommy was legally blind, but he continued to serve his Country through the American Legion. He was our Sgt. of Arms and presided at our charitable donation ceremonies and the annual Williamsburg Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade. Whenever we asked for Tommy's help, he was there for us. And, since

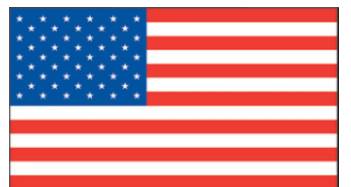
Tommy was legally blind, his wife, Mary Lou Baggs, was his driver. She was always there for him. They were a team that served their community with outstanding dedication.

Tommy's memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 am at the New Hope Community Church, 5100 Bethesda Court, Williamsburg, MI 49690. There will be a candle lighting service at Elk Rapids Masonic Lodge #275, 126 River St. (2nd Floor), Elk Rapids, on April 30, 2014, at 6:00pm. Light lunch to follow after service.

You can also share your fond memories of Tommy at www.CovellFuneralHomes.com.



MSgt. Baggs, you will be missed.



Tim Shaffer - Retires After 44 Years of Service to Whitewater Township Emergency Services



Tim Shaffer has retired after 40 years of service to Whitewater Township as a Rural Firefighter and 44 years with the Ambulance Service as a certified EMT. If you've ever had an emergency and 911 needed to be called, chances are you've met Tim. His care and compassion for each patient and at every emergency scene was something all the members and citizens of this township could depend on. Tim's motivation to join the Fire Department came with the 1973 gas eruptions. He felt he could be doing more to help the community, or as he put it "his neighbors and friends." He has seen 6 Chiefs/Captains serve in Whitewater and was there when the original Fire Barn and now the current Fire Station was built. Tim has earned the rank of Safety Officer & Water Officer during his time with the Fire Department. Tim is proud to say that his youngest son, Adam, is following in his footsteps and has joined Rural Fire to serve in Station #3, Whitewater Township. Tim is still an active member in the Auxiliary so he will still be participating in community events. Tim would tell you that it is his wife who deserves praise for all her patience, caring and understanding over the many years, for the calls at all hours of the night, and the many training sessions that took him away from his family. So if you should see Tim or Rosile out and about, stop and tell them thank you for his many years of service to our community and for her love and support that made it possible.

Retirement Party - May 17th, 2014 1:00 pm * New Hope Church Community Center 5100 Bethesda Court, Williamsburg, MI 49690

Join

Do you have what it takes to answer the call? Joining Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department will equip you with the knowledge and tools to handle nearly any situation. You will be equipped with \$7,500 in training and education. Help your neighbors across the street or a family across the county.

Ready to take the next step? Download and fill out an application
(you can fill it out on your computer and then print it, or print and fill by hand)
Please return completed form in person to our Administrative Office located at 4123 Vance Road, Traverse City, MI 49684 Or you may drop it off at the Whitewater Township Fire Station with Captain Tim Arbenowske.

Explorers Wanted

Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department accepts young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21 for the Explorer program. This is a nationwide joint operation between fire departments and [The Boy Scouts of America](#).

**Grand Traverse Rural Fire
Explorer Post #911**

Prepare for your future.

Accepting young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21.

Train with firefighters from your community.
Learn life long skills.

Whitewater Township Emergency Services Auxiliary (WESA)

PURPOSE: To Promote Public Awareness and Provide Support to the Fire and Ambulance Emergency Services

The auxiliary is looking for people who are willing to help with community events and fundraisers such as the Halloween Party, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dinners, Bake Sales, etc., especially the "behind the scenes" type help that makes events successful. Please contact Lois MacLean at wwtfireaux@gmail.com or 231-267-5244 with any questions, ideas, or if you would like to help with upcoming events.