



# Whitewater Township News

Summer 2014

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

## Directory

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### SUPERVISOR

Ron Popp ext. 23  
[Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org)

### CLERK

Cheryl (Walton) Goss ext. 24  
Monday thru Friday 9 am - 5 pm  
[Clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto: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](mailto:Treasurer@whitewatertownship.org)

### TRUSTEE

Paul Hubbell  
Message 231-267-5141  
[Trustee02@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Trustee02@whitewatertownship.org)

### TRUSTEE

Lloyd Lawson  
Message 231-267-5141  
[Trustee01@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Trustee01@whitewatertownship.org)

### ASSESSOR

Dawn Plude - 231-409-1827  
1st & 3rd Tuesdays 9-Noon  
[assessordawn@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://Www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/)

## TOWN HALL MEETING HELD JUNE 12TH 2014

The Township Board held a special town hall meeting at Mill Creek Elementary School regarding two very important issues in our township. New Emergency Services Building and Ambulance service proposals were on the agenda.

1. **EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING:** Two proposals were presented, Options 1 and 2 from the mailer.

*The overwhelming consensus of the people in attendance indicated an interest in pursuing an agreement with the Tribe which includes building an Emergency Services facility on Tribal land located in Whitewater Township, lease it to the township for \$1 per year and have Whitewater Township run the fire and ambulance services.*

*The Tribe will be building a facility whether we participate or not and are working diligently to get the processes moving along quickly.*

2. **AMBULANCE SERVICE:** Two proposals were brought to the table, Options 3 and 4 from the mailer, to address the loss of more than half of our volunteer responders. The Township Board took prompt action to bridge the personnel void. This temporary plan can only be maintained for a very limited time until a permanently funded plan can be voter approved. Many in attendance at the meeting were not aware of this dire situation, and now understand if no changes are made to the current program and unanswered calls continue, we could lose our license to operate.

*Most people in attendance who spoke indicated a want for 24/7 service availability (Option 4)*

**When seconds count, how far away do you want your ambulance to be?**



**EMS - Summertime Safety**  
Keeping Kids Safe in the Heat

Children adjust more slowly than adults do to changes in heat. They also produce more heat with activity than adults and they sweat less. Sweating is one of the body's normal cooling mechanisms. Heat exhaustion results from a loss of water and salt in the body and if left untreated, can progress to heat stroke.

#### **Signs of heat exhaustion in children are:**

Profuse sweating, pale skin that's cool & damp to the touch, rapid & shallow breathing, headache, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, weakness, fainting, muscle cramps and below normal body temperature.

#### **Treatment for heat exhaustion are:**

Move them to a cool place, let them rest, remove extra clothing, apply cool cloths, fan their skin, give them cool sports drinks such as Gatorade.

If such measures fail to provide relief within 30 minutes, call your doctor or go to the emergency room. Untreated heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke.



**FIRE News**  
Welcome New Members

**Please join us in welcoming the newest members of Rural Fire Station 3**

**Applications are in to Rural Fire Dave Tilley - Status Approved**

**Drew Jeurink - Waiting on physical**

**Adam Shaffer - Status Approved, currently in driving school.**

**Eric Arbenowske - Status Approved, currently in driving school. Eric was a Junior Explorer with Station 3 before joining after he turned 18.**

**Nick Carpenter - Approved and is already a Certified Firefighter I & II with the Elk Rapids Fire Department**

**Don't Light That Fire Without Checking the Burn Permit Status**



## *"Details, Details" . . . From the Clerk*

Greetings, All!

Did you know there was a bass tournament at Whitewater Township Park on June 1st? Indeed, there was! Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation organized the tournament and registered 40+ teams, some of whom camped at the park. The tournament ran from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The fish were all released after weigh-in and there were money prizes. Park staff relayed to the Board that participants were continually commenting on the beauty of the park and their desire to come back. We hope they do!

Speaking of the park, some of you have registered complaints that, even though you are a taxpayer in the township, you are being charged the \$5 fee to launch your boat. Did you know that the park maintains itself solely on user fees? No tax money is being funneled to the park. Because of this, we need every user to pay their share so that we can perform necessary maintenance and upgrade of the facilities.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, please find information about the upcoming August 5th primary election. The last day to register to vote in the primary is July 7th.

That's it for now. Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe summer!

*Cheryl Goss*

## *2014 Temporary Camping Permits*

***You CAN camp on your property nearly all summer long or all hunting season long without having a home on it.***

Camping Permits can be obtained from the Zoning Administrator whose office is located in the Township Hall. Permits can be issued Monday, Wednesday and Friday between the hours of 9AM and 4PM and the cost of the permit is \$10.00.

***A property owner shall be entitled to a camping permit for temporary recreational use when conforming to the following:***

- ⇒ *The structure shall not be permanently connected to a water supply, electrical supply, septic system, natural gas supply, nor permanently attached to a foundation.*
- ⇒ *No "gray water" or sewage shall be drained or dumped from the structure, except into such collection vehicles, or septic disposal systems as may be approved by the Grand Traverse County Environmental Health Department.*
- ⇒ *The maximum duration of stay shall not exceed **one hundred-twenty (120) days** per year.*
- ⇒ *All camping activities shall be kept fifty (50) feet from the ordinary high water mark.*

*Remember, camping activities shall not be a nuisance to the surrounding property owners. Being neighborly is a part of camping.*



### **WILLIAMSBURG AMERICAN LEGION POST #289 CONDUCTS MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY WITH CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS AND BOY SCOUT TROOP #30**

The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 of Williamsburg, Michigan notified the community of the Memorial Day Parade in the Spring Township Newsletter. Knowing that we were short of manning a complete Color Guard, we contacted the Elk Rapids Amvets, the Elk Rapids American Legion, and a National Guard Unit in Grayling. They were busy with their local communities.

We asked our Fire Department if they could spare two men for the Honor Guard. Captain Arbenowske and his son, Eric, responded and attended a practice session several days before the parade. We now were manned, but we had no idea what was about to happen.

As we assembled for the Parade, Captain Arbenowske and the Fire Department showed up with a trailer borrowed from New Hope Church and fitted it with chairs from the Fire Station. Boy Scout Troop #30 from Traverse City showed up with three scouts and volunteered to carry the Colors. Four veterans volunteered for the Color Guard – one on active duty and home on leave.

Navy Commander, James E. Neibauer conducted the Ceremony at Williamsburg Cemetery with a non-tested PA system just purchased by Post #289 with donated funds from our members. Taps were played via a boom-box donated by Steve Donkers. The Ceremony was beautiful!

The largest procession in three years proceeded to Mill Creek. After the Ceremony all parade participants were treated to water and refreshments provided by a local resident.

The procession then started toward Circle Hill Cemetery. Residents along the route waved American Flags and little boys saluted the parade participants. One little boy yelled thank you as the procession passed him. Young girls waved enthusiastically. Our Township remembers!

After all the Ceremonies were complete, many participants came to Post #289's Hall and enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by Jan Donkers and the Ladies Auxiliary.



L to R: Eagle Scout Donovan Ochs, Eagle Scout Charlie Rogers, and Life Scout Eddie Rogers

**And, that's how Williamsburg honors our Veterans!**



# ELECTION UPDATE



## PRIMARY ELECTION – AUGUST 5, 2014

Voters will be asked to go to the polls (or vote by absentee ballot) on August 5th to cast their vote for Governor, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, County Commissioner, and Precinct Delegates. One statewide proposal also appears on the ballot. A sample ballot has been placed on the township website for informational purposes. **If you are not registered to vote, you will need to register on or before July 7 in order to vote in the August primary.** The Township Clerk's office is generally open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Whitewater Township Park Fees 2014 Season

#### Camping Fees & Rental Rates

Camping Sites	\$ 27.00
Reservation Fees	\$ 8.00
Dump Station Fees	\$ 5.00
Pavilion Rental	\$100.00
Pavilion Hi-Pray Park	\$ 75.00

#### Boat Launch Fees

Daily Rate	\$ 5.00
Annual - Resident	\$ 20.00
Annual - Non Resident	\$ 40.00



RecycleSmart

#### Resource Recovery

2650 LaFranier Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
RecycleSmart Hotline:  
941-5555



#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The summer Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection will be held on **August 14**. An appointment is required and can be made by calling the RecycleSmart Hotline at (231) 941-5555 beginning July 28, 2014.

Note: Now accepting Latex Paint and Motor Oil

### Grilling Safety Tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

### District Forester Provides Free Landowner Assistance



MICHIGAN  
FORESTRY  
Assistance Program

Kama Ross, District Forester for the Grand Traverse Conservation District provides in-office and on-site assistance to county landowners at no charge. This position is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The goal of the Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is to encourage and enable landowners to more actively manage their woodlands. Services include:

identification of forest diseases and insects and their control options, advice on the selection and planting of trees and shrubs for reforestation, windbreaks, and wildlife habitat enhancement, information on state and federal forestry cost-share and tax incentive programs (Commercial Forest Act and Qualified Forest Program), and recommendations for improving woodlots for timber production, wildlife habitat or recreation.

Referrals to qualified forestry consultants, industry foresters and other natural resource professionals help landowners take the next step in implementing sound forest management practices.

To find out more about these **free services**, contact:  
Kama at the **Leelanau Conservation District office at (231) 256-9783, ext. 15,**  
or email her at [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

### Proposed Shooting Range in Whitewater Township

#### Whitewater Township, T27N R9W Section 33

*Of all sites reviewed, the committee felt this was the best choice based on access, limiting potential conflict with other uses, and overall site condition and location.*

The range would replace the informal Hoosier Valley shooting range in Blair Township. Bill Sterrett the DNR's forest resources division district supervisor said *"the increased use prompted noise complaints and safety concerns from neighbors."*

This location is more in the middle of a large block of State owned land. This area is upland that consists mainly of natural red, white and jack pine as well as oak and aspen.

The site offers seclusion from residential areas and is still fairly close to Traverse City and population centers as well as offering year-round access. There are recreational trails in the vicinity.

Access will be off of Williamsburg Road which is plowed in the winter months.

Sterrett said *"We heard quite clearly that there is interest in having a place for the public to shoot and that there are a variety of shooting interests, from traditional sighting-in to handguns to automatic weapon platforms. A new shooting area will not occur overnight and will take many months of careful planning to provide a safe, compatible experience."*

For more information, please contact:

Bill Sterrett - 231-775-9727 & [Sterrettw@michigan.gov](mailto:Sterrettw@michigan.gov) or  
Dave Lemmien - 231-922-5280





## Treasurer's Corner - Ardella 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

## For Dates to Remember - Please read the back of your TAX BILL for

**Personal Property Taxes** starting with the numbers: 28-13-900 will continue to be collected at the Township Treasurer's office as they do not get turned over to the County.

Treasurer's office **accepts postmarks**. Payments mailed must be postmarked by February 16, 2015 to not incur penalty & interest fees. **Partial payments** are accepted. When paying by **CASH**, please have the **exact amount** of your tax bill. I thank you for your understanding in this matter. After March 2, 2015, please call Grand Traverse County Treasurer's office for the correct payoff amount due at 231-922-4535.

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



## FREE PRESCHOOL

**NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE FOUR FOR THE 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

Elk Rapids Great Start Readiness Program at Mill Creek Elementary. Call **NOW** for an application appointment  
**231-947-3780 or 1-800-632-7334**

### Meetings Calendar

#### July 2014

- 7/02 Planning Commission
- 7/08 Township Board
- 7/09 Historical Society
- 7/14 Parks & Rec.
- 7/22 Township Board
- 7/23 July Board of Review
- 7/24 ZBA

#### August 2014

- 8/05 Primary Election Day
- 8/06 Planning Commission
- 8/11 Parks & Rec.
- 8/12 Township Board
- 8/13 Historical Society
- 8/26 Township Board
- 8/28 ZBA

### DEAL-RIDGEWAY AMERICAN LEGION POST 289 OF WILLIAMSBURG

#### *AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ERHS SENIORS*



Commander Stephen Donkers explains the American Legion 2014 Scholarship criteria to Elk Rapids High School Winners Zachary Floyd, Megan Henige, and Emma Kinery.

The scholarship program is open to children and grandchildren of military personnel who have served honorably in the United States Military and who are seniors at Elk Rapids High School. Three one-time scholarships were awarded: One scholarship for \$1000.00 and two scholarships for \$500.00 each. These scholarships have two major objectives. The first is to mitigate a student's need to work during their first year at college. And the second is to honor each student's Grandfather for serving honorably in the United States Military.

Selecting scholarship winners is a very difficult undertaking. Applicants are judged on academic accomplishments, financial need, school and community activities, leadership skills, and their overall capability of succeeding at the college level. Sound easy? Every student had at least one first place vote, and several votes were taken to determine the first place winner.

Post 289 thanks our community for making these scholarships possible through the sale of Poppies, and we wish all ERHS Seniors the very best as they pursue their dreams.



L to R: Zachary Floyd, Megan Henige, Emma Kinery, Post 289 Commander Stephen Donkers