



Whitewater Township Newsletter



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

Directory



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

SUPERVISOR

Ron Popp ext. 23
Supervisor@whitwatertownship.org

CLERK

Cheryl Goss ext. 24
Mon thru Thurs 9 am - 5 pm
Clerk@whitwatertownship.org

TREASURER

Ardella Benak ext. 22
P.O. Box 100
Hours: M-W-F 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

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

TRUSTEE

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

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

ext. 21
Thursdays 8:30 - 4:30
Zoning@whitwatertownship.org

ASSESSOR

Dawn Kuhns - 231-409-1827
By Appointment
assessordawn@gmail.com

FIRE & AMBULANCE

911 Emergency
Fire Hall 231-267-5969

PLANNING COMMISSION

Kim Mangus, Chair
231-631-2326

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Director
231-883-3193

GT COUNTY RD COMM

231-922-4848



December Board of Review (BOR)



The Whitewater Township Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, December 10th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm for the purpose of correcting clerical errors or mutual mistake of fact. They will **NOT** be hearing valuation appeals at this meeting. If there is a clerical error on your tax bill, please contact Dawn Kuhns, Assessor at 231-409-1827.

- ◆ The deadline for qualifying for the Principal Residence Exemption is June 1st of each year.
- ◆ Veteran exemptions are granted by the Board of Review each year for 100% totally and permanently disabled veterans or veterans who are determined unemployable by the Veterans Administration. Applications for the 2020 tax year may be turned in starting January 1, 2020.

Please contact Township Assessor Dawn Kuhns at 231-409-1827 with any questions.



The Census 2020 - How Important is it Really?

The Census is mandated by the US Constitution. By law, the Federal Government must complete the Census every 10 years. So what's the big deal? Why is it so important?

What most people do not realize is that the outcome/results of the census has far-reaching impact on all communities. Undercounts would mean loss of critical federal funding that support programs and services, including rural development, veterans services and much more.

During the 2010 census, the age group that was missed most was the under 5. Because of this, Michigan lost an estimated \$9.7 million a year. Programs impacted that benefit children are, Special Education, SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program), Foster Care system and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed based on census data. For every resident who is not counted, Michigan could lose \$1,800 per person per year. A low count has far reaching effects on funding for roads, schools and hospitals.

Not only does the census determine federal money, it also determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries.

Sooooo..... YES, completing the Census is important!



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 12/04 Planning Commission
- 12/09 Park & Rec. Advisory
- 12/10 Township Board
- 12/10 Dec. Board of Review
- 12/11 Historical Society
- 12/19 ZBA
- 12/25 Christmas



JANUARY

- 1/01 New Year's Day
- 1/08 Planning Commission
- 1/08 Historical Society
- 1/13 Park & Rec. Advisory
- 1/14 Township Board
- 1/23 ZBA



FEBRUARY

- 2/05 Planning Commission
- 2/10 Park & Rec. Advisory
- 2/11 Township Board
- 2/12 Historical Society
- 2/14 Valentines
- 2/27 ZBA

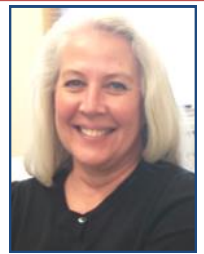


MARCH

- 3/04 Planning Commission
- 3/10 Presidential Primary
- 3/11 Historical Society
- 3/16 Park & Rec. Advisory
- 3/17 Township Board
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 2/26 ZBA



“Details, Details” . . . From the Clerk



Greetings!

Just a quick 2020 Elections update and a couple reminders! Here are the election dates for 2020; put these on your calendar now!

March 10 – Presidential Primary
May 5 – (if an issue is added)
August 4 – State/Local Primary
November 3 – General Election

Remember, too, that a reason is no longer required in order to obtain an absent voter ballot. Voters still have to fill out an Application for Absent Voter Ballot for every election prior to being issued a ballot, but they do not have to state a reason. If you want to ensure that an Application for Absent Voter Ballot is mailed to you prior to every election, we can add your name to our Permanent Absent Voter List. Stop by my office to fill out this form, or print one from the Clerk’s page on the township website and mail it to Whitewater Township, P.O. Box 159, Williamsburg, MI 49690, or e-mail it to clerk@whitewatertownship.org.

Have you ever thought about becoming an Election Inspector? We could use a couple more people to help with elections. If you are registered to vote, have decent computer skills, and some extra time, consider joining the team! Guys are welcome, too! Training is provided and inspectors are paid an hourly wage. Call my office at (231) 267-5141 x 24 for more information.

Census 2020 is also looking for census workers. There is paid training, great pay, flexible hours, and they pay weekly. Stop by the township hall for information on where to apply, or find it on the home page at www.whitewatertownship.org.

That’s all for now! Hope everyone has a Beautiful Holiday Season!

Cheryl Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk



Whitewater Township - ALL PARK ALL THE TIME



It was a very busy season at Whitewater Township Park and Hi Pray Park this year! We had a record number of campers and boaters at Whitewater Township Park, and the cars of youth ball players and their parents nearly filled the parking lot on game nights at Hi Pray Park! It was a wonderful sight to see!

An update on the \$200,000 grant awarded to the township this year from the DNR is that the township board is currently in the process of approving a Professional Services Agreement with Fleis & VandenBrink, the firm which created the conceptual plan for boat launch and entry way improvements. This firm will do surveying and testing at the site and then work on the final plan for these improvements. The public will be invited to have input. Keep an eye out for new information on this topic!

As funding allows, improvements are made every year at the parks to provide better recreational opportunities right here in the township. Township residents pitch in, too, and here are a couple of recently completed improvements that deserve recognition and praise.

Through the efforts of many, there is **a brand new batting cage at Hi Pray Park!** Late fall code office approval meant it could not be used this year, but once the net is hung in the spring, it will be ready to go! Grateful appreciation is extended to Rotary Good Works and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for providing grant funds toward this project. Grateful appreciation is also extended to the following township residents who collectively donated over 150 man hours to erect this new addition to Hi Pray Park, saving the township approximately \$10,000 in labor costs. Those individuals are **Lynn Peterson (licensed builder), Leif Peterson, Josh Melton, Melissa Melton, Caleb Melton, Devin Melton, Brandon Hubbell, Lin Marolf, Joe Huhn, Ethan Huhn, Isaac Huhn, Seth Webster, Rick Pike, Evan Pike, Trey Savage, and Hal Deal.** Thank you all for making a big difference in your community!

This fall, **township resident Emma Eckerdt, an 8th grader at Cherryland Middle School, undertook an ambitious community service project at Hi Pray Park to refurbish the dugouts at the lower field.** Emma’s project included cleaning and repainting both dugouts inside and out, installing helmet hooks, and doing some weed removal around the dugouts. Emma raised all the funds herself for paint and other materials, resulting in no cost to the township. Emma did a fabulous job and the dugouts and benches look like new! Cheers to Emma for giving back to her community! (And thank you to parents Chris and Melissa for helping to facilitate Emma’s project!)

We don’t very often mention other parks in the township, but we should, because a lot of our residents are not aware of them. These are all non-motorized parks, so they are great for hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife watching, etc. They are also open for hunting. Battle Creek Natural Area is 255 acres at the south end of Elk Lake (entrance on Skegemog Point Road), Lossie Road Nature Trail, a linear park with entrances off Cook Road and Skegemog Point Road, and the Petobego Natural Area on Angell Road. For more information about these parks, go to www.whitewatertownship.org, click on Parks & Recreation, and then on Recreation Plan.

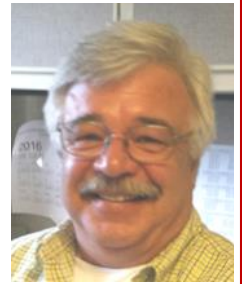
As always, feel free to call or e-mail my office with questions or suggestions about the parks!

Cheryl Goss - Parks & Recreation Administrator

Supervisor's - Update

Neighbors and Friends

As we bring 2019 to a close, I am reminded of the folks who serve Township needs in different capacities. Thank you to the people that work on the Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, Board of Review, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Emergency Services Staff. Because of their commitment, we have a great place to call home!



The Fire Department is expecting delivery of a new Pumper/Tanker in the first half of 2020. The new truck complies with National Fire Protection Association Standards and fulfills the requirement each Department operates a backup Engine (pumper).

With the completion of expansion efforts at the Emergency Services Building, Fire Chief Brandon Flynn and the Township Board began addressing issues with the apparatus bay and driveway portions of the parcel which were outside of the expansion work scope. Insulation and ventilation concerns were addressed to reduce roof ice buildup. The driveway and front paddock areas were reviewed to insure proper drainage of roof melt and storm water runoff. A new driveway design has been created and installation is planned for the spring of 2020.

If you would like to explore joining the Fire Department, contact any member of the Department or call Chief Flynn at 231-267-5969 Email at FireChief@whitewatertownship.org.

The Event Barn Survey results are post on the Township's Webpage. This proposed property use is new to the Township and will likely be a topic of discussion in 2020. If you have interests in this topic please watch the Website for upcoming agendas.

This fall the Township Board held a meeting to hear comments regarding the proposed repeal of General Ordinance #32 – Private Road Ordinance. The resulting decision to repeal the Ordinance completes a lengthy review and recommendation from the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission is currently reviewing the Zoning Ordinance Article that requires minimum 5 acre lot sizes in the RC-1 District. If you have interests in this topic the group meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Township Hall beginning at 7:00 PM.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) began installation of a traffic light at the intersection of M-72, Williamsburg and Elk Lake Roads. With early snow, the project completion date is now likely 2020. The Township Board cut funding for the Road Repair/ Replacement Fund in half for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. These reductions will inhibit our ability to apply for Road Commission matching dollars delaying future road work.

As always, the Township has openings on various boards and committees. To learn more about these opportunities, or for an application, please stop by my office or email me at supervisor@whitewatertownship.org or simply call me at 231-409-5059.

Respectfully,



Ron Popp
Whitewater Township Supervisor



IMPORTANT M-72 Signal Update: Work will continue December 9. The signal is expected to be fully operational in Febru-



LET'S END 2019 WITH A HELPING HAND AND START 2020 WITH GENEROSITY

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY

And make a difference in the life of a shelter pet!

ACTS
Acme Christian Thrift Store
& Food Pantry

Merry Christmas

Feeding the Hungry this Christmas Season

8925 M72 East

Williamsburg, Michigan 49690

231 938-2990



Email our Volunteer Coordinator, Deane Widgren, at dwidgren@cherrylandhumane.org or call 231-946-5116

Cherryland
Humane Society

1750 Ahlberg Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49696



Treasurer's Corner - Ardella Benak

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
From my family to yours, here's wishing you a safe and joyous holiday season.

Ardella M. Benak



Dates to Remember.....

- ⇒ Winter Tax bills due without interest by 2/14/2020
- ⇒ A 1% interest each month for delinquent Winter Taxes starting 2/15/2020
- ⇒ **Summer 2019 Deferment** must be paid by 2/14/2020
- ⇒ A 3% penalty will be assessed on delinquent taxes starting 2/15/2020
- ⇒ Last day to pay your property taxes at Whitewater Township Hall 3/02/2020
- ⇒ Delinquent 2019 Real Property taxes are turned over to GT County 3/03/2020
- ⇒ A 4% penalty plus a 1% interest fee will be assessed by GTC starting 3/03/2020



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.

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. The township does not accept credit card payments. After March 3, 2020, please call Grand Traverse County Treasurer's office for the correct payoff amount due at 231-922-4535.

*We do accept the postmark date as paid on time. **HOWEVER**, if payment is received after the tax due date with a late or missing postmark, the payment will be considered late. Interest and penalties will be applied to the bill. FYI: "On-line bill pay" payments do **NOT** come in with postmarks. Without a postmark, we will consider it received the date it physically comes to our office.*



What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?

Anything you want. He can't hear you!



New Fitness Offerings

Dr. Angie Keas of InMotion Center for Chiropractic Care and Exercise Therapy, has coordinated some new fitness offerings in Williamsburg!

Beginning Yoga classes will take place every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, led by Susan Walters and Dr. Angie Keas. Suggested cost \$5.



Movin' on Mondays will take place every Monday night 6 to 7 p.m. at Mill Creek Elementary, led by Dr. Angie Keas. This will consist of group balance and flexibility exercises and walking time in the school. Suggested cost \$5.



If you're looking for somewhere close by to stay active now that the cold weather is here, come and participate in these opportunities! If you have questions, send them to inmotionforhealth@gmail.com.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Whitewater Township Fire Department is always looking for part-time paid firefighters to join our family.



If you have what it takes and enjoy a sense of community, please contact Fire Chief Brandon Flynn for details.

firechief@whitwatertownship.org

Not quite ready for the commitment? You can always follow the excitement on our FB page.



facebook.com/whitewaterFD