



WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

To remove or add your name to our contact list please e-mail Planning/Zoning Administrator Leslie Meyers at zoning@whitewatertownship.org

E-LETTER FEBRUARY 2011

Township Board Highlights

- ◆ A six (6) month ban on medical marijuana related uses in the Township was adopted. The Planning Commission will address proposed language over the next several months for presentation back to the Board. (*See related article*)
- ◆ Clean-Up dates have been set! May 7 and August 27.
- ◆ Modifications to the Land Division Ordinance were approved. A copy of the modified ordinance can be found on the Township website under the Zoning Administrator tab. Please note that the Township now allows for a width to depth ratio of 4:1 and provisions for exceeding that ration under certain conditions.
- ◆ Meeting Dates for the 2011-2012 fiscal year have been set. The Board will hold a regular meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and a work session on the 4th Tuesday of each month, with an exception made for November. There will be only one meeting, November 10.
- ◆ In conjunction with the Township's consideration of pulling out of the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department has prompted the Rural Fire Board to prepare a presentation showing the value of the Township's membership. The first presentation will be made on March 10, 2011 at Paradise Township Hall at 7:00 PM. More meetings will be scheduled.
- ◆ Budget preparations for the 2011-2012 fiscal year continue. A public hearing on the completed budget will be scheduled for late March.
- ◆ 2010 Property Taxes will be accepted at the Town Hall until Feb 28th. Starting March 1st all payment are to be sent to Grand Traverse Co. Treasurer. Call 231-922-5735 for balance due. Personal Property taxes continue to be paid in Whitewater Township.

Marijuana Moratorium

In November of 2008, the residents of Michigan passed proposal 08-1, a legislative initiative to permit the use and cultivation of marijuana for specified medical conditions. The proposal passed with over 63% approval. In Whitewater Township the proposal passed by a lesser margin of 57%.

Whitewater Township's Medical Marijuana Moratorium took effect February 12, 2011 and will expire on August 12, 2011. The purpose of the moratorium is to allow the Planning Commission to review the proposal and recent case law to formulate an ordinance recommendation to the Township Board for adoption.

We have found that the use and cultivation of medical marijuana takes many shapes and sizes. For example, you may be a medical marijuana patient (allows for the possession of up to 2.5 ounces), a caregiver (allows for the growing of 12 plants per patient with a maximum of five patients including yourself or 72 plants), a collective (a medical marijuana drug store) or a compassion club (a private club for medical marijuana patients). Should this be allowed as a home occupation? Only in our commercial and/or industrial district? Both? At this time the one thing we know for sure is that we cannot disallow it.

The Planning Commission would greatly appreciate your input. What do you think? Please forward your comments via fax, phone, mail or the internet. Their next meeting will be March 2.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness Tip #8

Teach your children how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services number for help. Post these and other emergency telephone numbers by telephones.

Preparedness Tip #9

Practice. Conduct fire drills and practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on a map in case main roads are blocked or gridlocked. Practice earthquake and tornado drills at home, school and work. Commit a weekend to update telephone numbers, emergency supplies and review your plan with everyone.

Preparedness Tip #10

A community working together during an emergency makes sense.

- Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together during an emergency.
- Find out if anyone has specialized equipment like a power generator, or expertise such as medical knowledge, that might help in a crisis.
- Decide who will check on elderly or disabled neighbors.
- Make back-up plans for children in case you can't get home in an emergency. Sharing plans and communicating in advance is a good strategy.

Tips 1-7 on the website in the October, December and January newsletters. Look for more tips in March.