



Treasurer's Corner - Ardella Benak

Normal Office Hours at the Township Hall:

Mon, Wed & Fridays from 10:00 am—5:00 pm, other days by appointment.
Treasurer@Whitewatertownship.org * 231-267-5141 ext. 22

Dates to Remember

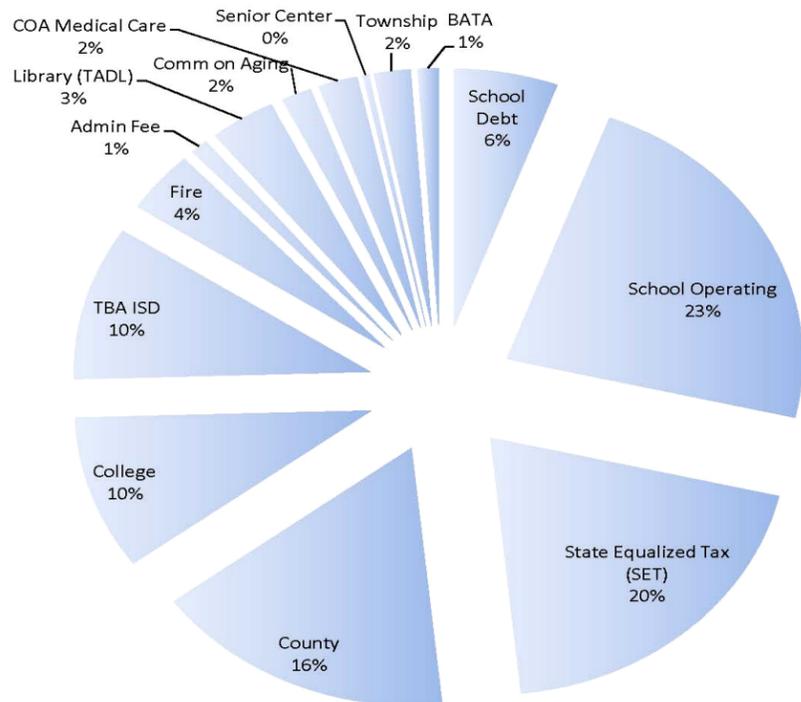
Summer Tax bills are due without interest by	September 14, 2012
A 1% interest fee is charged each month for delinquent Summer Taxes starting	September 15, 2012
Summer 2012 Deferment Forms due back to the township by	September 14, 2012
Winter 2012 Tax bills mailed	December 1, 2012
Summer 2012 Deferments must be paid by (interest will be applied if not paid)	February 14, 2013
Winter 2012 Tax bills due by (without penalty)	February 14, 2013
A 3% penalty will be assessed on delinquent property taxes starting	February 15, 2013
Last day to pay your property taxes here at Whitewater Township Hall	February 28, 2013
Delinquent 2012 Real Property taxes are turned over to GT County for collection on	March 1, 2013
A 4% penalty plus a 1% interest fee will be assessed by GTC starting on	March 1, 2013

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.

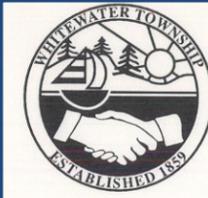
Treasurer's office **accepts postmarks**. Payments mailed must be postmarked by February 14, 2013 to not incur penalty & interest fees. **Partial payments** are accepted. When paying by **CASH**, please have the **exact amount** of your tax bill. I thank you for your understanding in this matter. After March 1, 2013, 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*

WHERE DID MY 2011 TAX MONEY GO ?



2011 Total Taxes Levied	\$ 5,359,857.47
2011 Taxes Collected	\$ 5,112,954.84
School Debt	\$ 288,774.42
School Operating	\$ 1,176,318.79
State Equalized Tax (SET)	\$ 1,006,949.16
County	\$ 844,251.02
College	\$ 495,124.70
TBA ISD	\$ 496,538.79
Fire	\$ 198,893.70
Admin Fee	\$ 50,610.03
Library (TADL)	\$ 185,307.97
Comm on Aging	\$ 83,716.94
COA Medical Care	\$ 110,419.88
Senior Center	\$ 16,739.49
Township	\$ 100,808.36
BATA	\$ 58,501.59



Whitewater Township News

Summer 2012

This Newsletter can be found on the Township Web-site: whitewatertownship.org

Directory

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

SUPERVISOR

Larry Lake ext. 23
Hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:30 am—Noon
Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org

CLERK

Carol Hockin ext. 24
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

Arnell Boyd - Message 231-267-5141
Trustee01@whitewatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

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

PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Leslie Meyers ext. 21
Monday through Wednesday
Zoning@whitewatertownship.org

ASSESSOR

Dawn Plude - 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

Patrick Miller, Chair
231-313-0020
millerp4146@gmail.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/burn permits/](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/burn%20permits/)

New Brush and Rescue Trucks for Whitewater Township

Two former DNR/Camp Grayling Armory vehicles were purchased early last year by the Township for \$1 each. Fire Fighter Tom Emerson and Whitewater Emergency Services Auxiliary President, Pat Miller, have been



hard at work ever since. After over 700 man hours of volunteer labor and financial assistance from Rural Fire and the Township, the vehicles are now road ready. Special thanks also goes out to Heights Machinery for storing the skid this past winter until it was ready for installation on the Brush Truck.

The Rescue Truck required about 200 hours of time to complete. A Rescue Truck is primarily designed to provide the specialized equipment necessary for support with auto accidents requiring vehicle extraction, building collapses, confined space rescue, water rescue and forest fires. They carry an array of special equipment such as the Jaws of Life, cribbing, generators, winches, jacks, cutting torches, and our Kubota.

The Brush Truck required about 500 hours alone as it required the most work and modification. A Brush Truck is a combination of an all-terrain vehicle, mini pumper and a wilderness rescue vehicle. It is often used to fight wildfires. The role of our Brush truck is simply to get in where the main apparatus cannot go, such as narrow roads and driveways, fields or in very swampy areas.

These types of projects that involve multiple agencies and committed volunteers help keep costs down and your fire millage rates low.



Williamsburg School Bi-Annual Reunion

Date: September 22, 2012

Time: 6:00 PM Social Hour, 7:00 PM Dinner

Place: Mill Creek Elementary School

Theme: Autumn

For more information:

Gay Bannon Scott - 231-879-3375



Provide us with your email address and receive Township Updates through the E-Letter monthly.

Keep Whitewater Clean

In the 2009 Whitewater Township Community Survey, 79% of respondents stated that Junk/Trash should be a priority for the Township. The Board agreed and took steps to move toward accomplishing the wishes of the residents. They began the clean-up process by filing suit against a highly visible property in the Williamsburg Village area. In December 2011 the Township also developed a policy and process for code violations.

On Friday, May 4, 2012, Judge Thomas Power granted in favor of Whitewater Township with respect to the property located in the Village. The property owners have 90 days in which to complete the clean-up or the Township is authorized to perform the work needed for compliance at the property owner's expense.

Each year, Whitewater Township offers at least one clean-up day, free of charge for items other than tires, to Township property owners. The Township is committed to keeping Whitewater Township clean.

Please take the time to review Township General Ordinance #38 and Section 16 of the Zoning Ordinance as they address junk and nuisances. You can review them at Township Hall or on the web.

MAY CLEAN-UP DAY UPDATE - On May 5, 2012, property owners were able to dispose of 143 cubic yards of junk/trash and 66 tires. That trash would fill almost 4 recycling bins behind Township Hall. It is important to note that Erickson's Salvage removed over 3 flat bed trailers of scrap at no charge to the Township. Hats off to all that participated.

Ordinance Updates

1) The Township Board recently adopted modifications for the Zoning Ordinance to formally address campgrounds. Two types of campgrounds are now permitted, commercial and private family campgrounds.

CAMPGROUND, COMMERCIAL: A campground owned and operated expressly for the purpose of renting space in the campground on a transient basis for profit to the general public. A campground owned and operated by a non-profit organization for the exclusive temporary use and enjoyment of its members shall also be considered a commercial campground.

CAMPGROUND, PRIVATE FAMILY: Parcels of land owned and operated exclusively for the temporary use and enjoyment of those sharing in the ownership of the parcel, their invited guests and are not for remuneration. For more information, visit Township Hall or our website (Sections 25.22 (D) and 37.50 of the Zoning Ordinance)

2) **Abandoned Buildings Ordinance** - June 12, 2012, the Township Board adopted an Abandoned Buildings Ordinance. After several years of discussion, the Board was able to address the issue of dilapidated buildings in a fair and reasonable manner. Most communities deal with the issue with a dangerous buildings ordinance. The Board was concerned that this approach could lead to over-enforcement. The abridged version calls for enforcement when buildings have been abandoned and are in a severe state of disrepair. A complete copy of the ordinance is available for review at Township Hall or our website.

CITIZENS NEEDED

The Whitewater Township Board is accepting applications from residents who would be interested in serving on the following Township Boards and Commissions:

Planning Commission - an advisory body to the Township Board on land use planning; three-year term of office; meets on the first Wednesday of the month with limited special meetings.

Zoning Board of Appeals - a body that provides the first step in the zoning appeal process; three-year term of office; meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

Board of Review - a body that reviews the assessment of real property; two-year term of office; meets March, July and December.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission - an advisory body to the Township Board on parks and recreation related issues; meets on the second Monday of the month with limited special meetings.

Interested? Please submit a letter of interest to Supervisor Lake.



From the Desk of — Clerk Carol Hockin



ELECTIONS

- Absentee ballots are currently available for the August 7, 2012 Primary Election
- July 9th is the last day of voter registration to be eligible to vote in the August 7th Primary Election
- August 7, 2012 Primary Election, polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm
- A picture ID must be presented to vote in the election or an affidavit needs to be signed in lieu of the Picture ID
- Whitewater Township will be using the Electronic Poll book for the first time in the August 7th Primary
- October 9th is the last day of voter registration to be eligible to vote in the November 6th General Election
- November 6, 2012 General Election, polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm
- November 20th, newly elected Township officials take Oath of Office

If you are a registered voter 60 years of age or older you qualify to be on the permanent absent voter list maintained by the clerk's office. This entitles you to receive an absent voter application for each election. The clerk's office has a form that must be signed to put you on the permanent absent voter list.

WHAT IS THE ELECTRONIC POLLBOOK ?

The E-Poll book is custom software developed by the Bureau of Elections. It runs on a laptop computer and eliminates many of the time-consuming processes that result in long lines at the polls.

The E-Poll book works like a paper poll book, which has been used in Michigan precincts for decades. Under E-Poll book, voters will have their driver's license or state identification card swiped electronically. The precinct worker is quickly able to verify eligibility to vote, assign a ballot, update voting history and create all the documentation required when the precinct closes. If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the E-Poll book can also identify the location of the voter's correct precinct.

WESA—Scheduled Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars you won't want to miss a thing!

Whitewater Emergency Services Auxiliary Happenings:

Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, September 15, 2012, 4 - 8 p.m. at the Williamsburg Church. Excellent food, door prizes and more! This is our main fund raiser to cover the expenses of the community Halloween Party, Community Tree Lighting and other events.

Plus we are working to help the Emergency Services get some needed equipment.

Halloween Party - Saturday, October 27, 2012, 6 - 8:30 p.m. Costumes, treats, haunted hay ride and much more! Come join the fun!

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony, Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 6 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be there! We will have ribbons that you can hang on the tree for the Veteran's in your life.

We are looking for people to help with these events so if you are interested in getting involved in some very fun and worth while activities please call Lois MacLean at 231-735-3987.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee has been working on revision of the Recreation Plan; most recently they visited "Hi" Pray Park, Petobego Natural Area and Whitewater Township Park. Visits to each of the park/recreation areas will assist the committee in preparing the Capital Improvement Plan that is a part of the Recreation Plan.

The committee has also been identifying some areas where volunteer groups may be able to assist in projects. Look for more information on these projects in future e-letters.

Brush Fires Consume Est. 45 Acres

Few things can be as frightening to residents and dangerous to our first responders as out-of-control forest fires. The economic cost and potential loss of life, timber, wildlife habitats, and human dwellings can prove devastating.

Recently an estimated 10 acres burned off **Bunker Hill Rd.** just west of Whitewater in Acme Township. The fire was caught early and was contained within 3 to 5 hours. A combined effort from several departments (DNR, Rural Fire & Metro Fire), a total of 20+ Fire Fighters worked together to quickly extinguish the fire.

Most recent & largest wildfire this fire season happened on **Samels Rd. & Broomhead Rd.** 35+ acres of forest was lost. It could have been much worse if not for the quick responds & evaluation from our Fire Captain Tim Arbenowske. He assessed the situation and quickly called in the needed backup. 5 Rural stations, 3 DNR Post & 2 Metro stations was needed to contain this fire. EMS personnel was on both scenes, providing rehab for our Fire Fighters. Both fires were reported by residents.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our Emergency Service personnel for all your hard work in these dangerous situations.

Check burn restrictions before you start that campfire or light fireworks.

