



Whitewater Township News

Summer 2015

This Newsletter can be found
on the Township Website:
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

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

Josh Vey ext. 21
Hours: M & W 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
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

Ranger Station - 231-267-5091

PLANNING COMMISSION

Brad Link, Chair
231-499-9479
whitewatertownshipPC@gmail.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Chair
231-883-3193

Supervisor - Ron Popp Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org

Happy Summer All,

Business at the township is moving right along. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is busy making improvements to the Hi Pray Park baseball diamonds and generally sprucing up the property. Thank you to everyone who donated products and volunteered their time to make the improvements. The committee is also hard at work on the Recreation Master Plan. This document will be used over the next few years to direct the growth of the recreation assets in the township and provide access to grants to help fund the improvements.

Whitewater Township Planning Commission recently held an open house at the township hall so residents could learn more about the Draft Master Plan for the entire township. Similar to the Recreation Master Plan, this document will chart a course for the township as we experience growth over the next decade. You can download a copy of the plan from the website or, if you prefer, pick up a copy at the Township hall. The next action item for the PC is the Zoning Ordinance. The Commissioners will be reviewing the entire ordinance making sure it is up to date. If you would like to receive a Monthly Planning Commission Packet, please send me an email or phone call and I will make sure you get the information.

Last October, I submitted Skegemog Point, Cook, Crisp, and Broomhead Roads to the Grand Traverse County Road Commission as potential candidates for a cost share partnership maintenance project in 2015 or 2016. The results of that review and associated cost estimations were discussed at the May 26, 2015 meeting of the Whitewater Township Board. The Board's consensus was the proposals were unacceptable for the following reasons: First, cost; second, they required the removal of too many trees thus changing the 'feel' of the roads, and lastly, the proposed roadbeds were too wide in many cases. Tree trimming in the road right-of-way is delayed on account of the Northern Long Eared Bat. This endangered species is using Northern Michigan trees (dead or alive) as a nesting habit. GOOD NEWS! They move out October 1, 2015 so we can get back to insuring our safety on the roads.

The ambulance service has responded to more than 80 requests for assistance this year. Thank you to all of the members for your continued commitment. During the next few weeks, the Township Board will be reviewing quotes for ambulance service from private companies. The Board's goal is to provide you the best service value.

As seen on television, the Grand Traverse Fire Department-Rural Division, the department Whitewater Township belongs to, recently was notified by a couple of member townships that they are unhappy about a few things and intend to withdraw from the department. Simply put, Long Lake and Green Lake Townships believe the cost of services is too high and how those costs are apportioned is inequitable. The Rural Fire Board has until December 31, 2015 to find resolution to the claims.

We still need your help on several different committees and/or boards. If you have any desire to serve, please give me a call or drop me an email.

Enjoy the summer!

Ron Popp

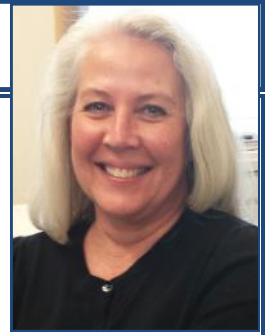
[BURN PERMITS](#) - - - [MDNR](#) - 866-922-2876 ** www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits

[GT COUNTY RD COMM](#) - 231-922-4848

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



"Details, Details" . . . From the Clerk



Greetings, All!

It's officially summer! It's already been too hot for some and not hot enough for others. Whatever the temps, at least we're not shoveling snow!

There will be no August election this year, and no word yet as to whether there will be a ballot proposal in November. Earlier this year, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 1 of 2015, which moved presidential primaries to the second Tuesday in March (formerly held on the 4th Tuesday in February). Snyder also signed Public Act 2 of 2015, which states that, in presidential election years, the February regular election date is moved to the second Tuesday in March. That means the earliest election date in 2016 will be March 8th.

If you are a snowbird and you have your mail held while you are gone, absentee ballots are also held. We had a number of "held" ballots for the May 2015 election. Upon discovering that this was happening, we had to really scramble to track down the voters, many of whom were still gone, to get their ballots to them in time. If you are a snowbird, please make sure we have your winter address before you leave this fall so that your March 2016 ballot is not delayed.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Whitewater Township Community. Please feel free to stop in anytime with your questions or concerns

Cheryl Goss

Welcome new members and thank you for your service to Whitewater Township



Park's & Rec Advisory Committee

Fran Butler and Tom Gosgrove

Planning Commission

Ted Hooper

PLEASE RECYCLE PROPERLY



Whitewater Township recycling bins located at the township hall are at risk of removal if proper guidelines are not followed!

If bins are full **DO NOT LEAVE** your recyclables on the ground. Bins are emptied on Wednesday.



WILLIAMSBURG AMERICAN LEGION POST #289 CONDUCTS 2015 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY WITH LOCAL VETERANS AND BOY SCOUT TROOP #30



Circle Hill Cemetery
Honor Guard, L to R:

Eagle Scouts Michael Wyers,
Donavan Ochs, Navy Commander
James Neibauer

The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 of Williamsburg, Michigan hosted the 2015 Memorial Day Parade with tremendous community support. The weather was extremely threatening, but our citizens showed up to honor America's fallen.

Captain Tim Arbenowske of our Fire Department and Ambulance Coordinator Dawn Martin provided security as we all marched through Whitewater Township. Ceremonies were held at Williamsburg Cemetery, Millbrook Creek, and Circle Hill Cemetery.

Navy Commander James E Neibauer conducted the Veteran Honor's Ceremony and Tom Jenkins of the John A Logan Camp 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, gave the benedictions. After each three-volley salute, Taps was played by Kristen Leach. The ceremonies were solemn and beautiful.



Mill Brook Creek - Wreath placement

This year, two trailers were available to transport the marchers to their cars at Williamsburg Cemetery or to the Methodist Church for a luncheon provided by the Williamsburg American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. After the Parade, and for the first time ever, the Memorial Day Luncheon was held at the Williamsburg Methodist Church. The centralized location was a success and we enjoyed the largest turnout ever for a Memorial Day Luncheon.

Williamsburg's Memorial Day Parade and Luncheon is growing. American Legion Post 289 encourages you to plan on attending the Williamsburg Memorial Day Parade next year.

WELCOME ! New Zoning Administrator - Josh Vey



Greetings Whitewater Township!

My name is Josh Vey and I am the new Zoning Administrator for Whitewater Township. I work part time here in Whitewater Township and I also work part time as the Zoning Administrator for Torch Lake Township. My hours are Monday and Wednesday 9am to 3 pm. I am also available by appointment if necessary. Please view the township website for changes to my hours. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

Josh Vey

MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

The Planning Commission (PC) has presented a Draft Master Plan for comments. Community wide invitations were sent out and on June 3rd an Open House was held where questions and comments were addressed. Approximately 30 people attended this meeting. Some good input and comments were provided to the Commission and we hope all your questions were answered. We are planning a second Open House to be held in August, stay tuned.

The Draft Master Plan can be found on the township website and at the Township hall at 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan. Comments about this draft Master Plan can be made on the website or by calling the Zoning Administrator at (231) 267-5141 ext. 21 or by emailing zoning@whitewatertownship.org.

Brad Link - Chairman

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

The Whitewater Township Planning Commission has recently begun working on recodification of the Township Zoning Ordinance. It is important for the Township to review these regulations from time to time in order to stay abreast of new or changing conditions and to address inconsistencies with other laws, procedures, administration and enforcement.

In this process we will consider rearrangement of where the Articles appear in the Ordinance, along with revising and amending each Article. The goal is to update the format, definitions and clarification for ease of interpretation, application and other purposes to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Township and to realize the community goals, policies and objectives expressed in the Township Master Plan.

As always, we encourage the participation of our residents and all stakeholders. The Planning Commission meeting schedule is posted at www.whitewatertownship.org. They are generally held on the first Wednesday of each month in the Township Hall at 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan. Special meetings are scheduled and posted on the website well in advance.

Our next meeting is July 1st at 7:00 pm.

Scrap Tire Drop-Off Event August 7 & 8, 2015

NOTE: This RecycleSmart event made possible through a grant obtained from the State of Michigan DEQ.

Event Dates, Hours, Location

- Two-day event: Friday, **August 7th** and Saturday, **August 8th**.
- Hours of event: **10am to 2pm** on both days
- Location Grand Traverse County Department of Public Works Garage - 361 E. Welch Court, Traverse City.

Participation Rules

- **MUST** be a resident of **Grand Traverse County**.
- Commercial businesses may **NOT** bring tires to event.
- Residents may bring a **MAXIMUM of seven (7) tires**.
- Tires must be generally clean
- Strict rules on accepted type and size – **Passenger tires ONLY !**



FREE DROP OFF



Resource Recovery

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE COLLECTION
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

2650 LaFranier Rd, Traverse City, MI
RecycleSmart Hotline: 231-941-5555

**Household Hazardous
Waste & Pesticide
Collection August 27, 2015**

An appointment is required and can be made by calling the RecycleSmart Hotline beginning **August 12, 2015**.

Note:

**Accepting Latex
Paint and Motor
Oil**





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

Summer Tax bills are due without interest by	September 14, 2015
Summer 2015 Deferment Forms due back to the township by	September 14, 2015
A 1% interest fee is charged each month for delinquent Summer Taxes starting	September 15, 2015
Winter 2015 Tax bills mailed by	December 01, 2015

Treasurer's office accepts postmarks and partial payments. Only the exact amount is accepted when paying with **CASH**.

Please contact me if you should have any questions. I am always happy to help.

Ardella M. Benak

Whitewater Township Park Rates	“Hi” Pray Park Improvements by: Cheryl Goss
<p>Camping & Pavilion Rates</p> <p>Campsites \$ 28.00</p> <p>Reservation Fee \$ 8.00</p> <p>Dump Station Fee \$ 5.00</p> <p>Pavilion Rental \$100.00</p> <p>Pavilion “Hi” Pray Park \$ 75.00</p> <p>Boat Launch Fee</p> <p>Daily Rate \$ 5.00</p> <p>Annual - Resident \$ 20.00</p> <p>Annual - Non Resident \$ 40.00</p>	<p>Many hands have joined together this year to make improvements at Hi Pray Park. Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee chairperson Melissa Melton organized a cleanup day on May 2nd at the park. PRAC committee members and other community volunteers showed up to spread 49 tons of new diamond dust on both ballfields. The dugouts were painted. Brush was trimmed. A broken piece of playground equipment was removed. Wood chips were spread. More recently, the Sweetwater Evening Garden Club completed their annual cleanup and planting of annuals at the memorial garden at Hi Pray Park.</p> <p>There is another person who has been putting in a lot of hours at Hi Pray Park. This lady walked into my office recently and told me she had just completed two hours of weeding at Hi Pray Park and wanted to know where to dispose of the weeds! Wow! No one had been asked to weed at the park, so this was a big surprise. This lady has now returned to the park on several occasions to do more weeding! She just shows up and goes to work on it!</p> <p>Please join me in thanking local resident Bonnie Hector, gardener extraordinaire, for donating so much time and effort to the beautification of Hi Pray! And a big thank you also to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, the Sweetwater Evening Garden Club members, and other community volunteers for all of the improvements at Hi Pray Park! (And, yes, replacement of the sign is on the to-do list!)</p>
<p>2015 Clean-Up Day Results</p> <p><i>June 13th was Cleanup day in Whitewater Township. From 7:30am through 12:00pm trucks and trailers was lined up waiting their turn. The Auxiliary provided coffee & donuts for the early morning risers. Erickson Salvage hauled away 4 trailer loads of scrap metal. TJ Tires collected 177 tires and American Waste compacted 165 yards of unwanted trash. Turned out to be a beautiful day in the neighborhood and a GREAT effort by all in keeping Whitewater Township clean! Thank YOU!</i></p>	<p>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.</p>



DEAL-RIDGEWAY AMERICAN LEGION POST 289 OF WILLIAMSBURG AWARDS 2015 SCHOLARSHIPS TO ERHS SENIORS

Commander Stephen Donkers explains the American Legion 2015 Scholarship criteria to Elk Rapids High School Winner Kole Douglas.

In 2015, Post 289 received seven applications for the \$1,000 scholarship which requires a sponsoring relative who served honorably in the United States Military. Five of Kole's relatives served in WWII, one in Korea, and we honor his Grandfather who served during the Vietnam War Era.

This one-time \$1,000 scholarship award has two major objectives. The first is to help mitigate a student's need to work during their first year at college. And the second is to honor each student's relative for serving honorably in the United States Military.

All applicants are judged on academic accomplishments, financial need, school and community activities, leadership skills, and their overall capability of succeeding at the college level.

The Deal-Ridgeway 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: Kole Douglas, recipient and Post 289 Commander Stephen Donkers