



# Whitewater Township News

**Spring 2021**

This Newsletter can be found on the Township

Website: [whitewatertownship.org](http://whitewatertownship.org)

## Directory

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### ASSESSOR

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By Appointment  
[assessordawn@gmail.com](mailto:assessordawn@gmail.com)

### FIRE & AMBULANCE

911 Emergency  
Fire Hall 231-267-5969  
(Non-Emergency)

### PARKS & RECREATION

Ranger Station - 231-267-5091

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Kim Mangus, Chair  
231-631-2326

### 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/](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/)



## HIGH SPEED FIBER OPTICS COMING TO WHITEWATER!

Cherry Capital Communications (CCC) is a local family owned and operated telecommunications company based out of Elk Rapids with service centers in Whitewater Township. We have proudly serviced portions of the Whitewater Township community for over 20 years.

CCC has a technology plan to deliver gig level services via a wired connection (fiber optic cable) for Whitewater Township that has been vetted and approved by the engineering staff at the FCC. For information go to <https://rdof.cccfiber.com>

We are currently executing that plan in an area from M-72 down Williamsburg Road to Supply and extending to Rennie Lake Road. Our initial effort will focus on connecting the 329 households identified by the FCC along this route. We are exploring other funding options that can expand our efforts to include all of Whitewater Township.

**We want to hear from you!** Our goal is to connect all households with gig level high speed internet access providing unlimited data and local customer service.

One newest funding opportunity we are exploring is the American Recovery Plan. We will be inviting Whitewater Township and the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners to pass a referendum in support of our plan and begin doing business with CCC but . . . . .

**We need to hear from you!**

CCC is prepared to save the township and county money on their communications needs and will provide a fiber backbone allowing gig level communications between all defined participating government owned locations.

Their service level transaction with CCC will greatly impact the CCC plan for connecting all Grand Traverse County and Whitewater Township households and small businesses. Working from home or connecting with the school are the two issues we most frequently hear the most from consumers. Our plan will solve those problems. Additionally, the plan includes establishing multiple connection points throughout the county, opening up a Grand Traverse County service center and filling human resources positions using local talent to fill jobs associated with installation, construction, locating, maintenance, sales, support, accounting and design. These positions will include work from home and locally based opportunities.

To be included, sign our petition. **This is how we hear from you!**

There is no obligation. You are providing contact information and letting us know the level of service you want. We will keep you in the loop regarding our construction progress. Sign up at : <https://cccfiber.com> or email [sales@cccfiber.com](mailto:sales@cccfiber.com). Completing the petition is a way to participate in the present and create the future. Each address brings your community one step closer to better Internet. This petition demonstrates that this issue matters to you and you want to participate in the process

### THE VALUE OF FIBER-OPTIC INTERNET



Access to fiber can increase the value of your home by **3.1%**



Fiber customers spend less time waiting for content to load



Satisfaction with Fiber is **over 50%** higher than with DSL and cable services



Fiber is the most **reliable** and **fastest** connection to the Internet



Internet



TV



Phone



**CherryCapital**  
COMMUNICATIONS

231-264-9970 | [cherrycapitalcommunications.com](http://cherrycapitalcommunications.com)



Williamsburg Cemetery 2020



# Memorial Day



The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 of Williamsburg, Michigan, will honor our fallen on May 31, 2021

The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 of Williamsburg, Michigan will host the 2021 Williamsburg Memorial Day Parade – modified for Covid-19 pandemic protocols.

Ceremonies will be held at the Williamsburg Cemetery, Mill Creek, and Circle Hill Cemetery.

The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Monday, May 31, 2021. We will muster at the Fire Station on Old M-72 around 9:00 AM and “march” about 9:30 AM. Due to the pandemic, the luncheon is canceled, everyone must drive their personal car to maintain social distancing, bus service will not be available, and services at each cemetery may be scaled back depending on existing circumstances. This is a great event for our community and we welcome your attendance.

These changes were difficult to make but they are necessary to conduct the Williamsburg Memorial Day Parade to honor our Fallen under pandemic conditions. For 2021, please join your friends and neighbors for this Patriotic event in OUR community.



Mill Creek - 2020

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 31, 2021 at 9:00 AM



Whitewater Township Fire Department Serving Our Community



## TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

### APRIL 2021

- 4/12 Park & Rec Committee
- 4/13 Township Board Meeting
- 4/22 Planning Commission

### JUNE 2021

- 6/02 Planning Commission
- 6/08 Township Board Meeting
- 6/12 Annual Cleanup Day
- 6/14 Park & Rec Committee
- 6/24 Zoning Board of Appeals

### JULY 2021

- 7/04 Independence Day
- 7/07 Planning Commission
- 7/12 Park & Rec Committee
- 7/13 Township Board Meeting
- 7/22 Zoning Board of Appeals

### MAY 2021

- 5/05 Planning Commission
- 5/10 Park & Rec Committee
- 5/11 Township Board Meeting
- 5/27 Zoning Board of Appeals
- 5/31 Memorial Day Parade

### Zoom Meeting Rules



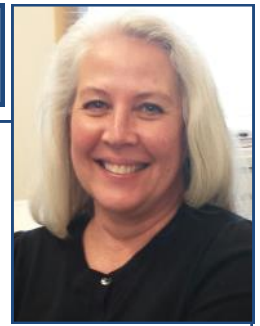
### AUGUST 2021

- 8/04 Planning Commission
- 8/09 Park & Rec Committee
- 8/10 Township Board Meeting
- 8/26 Zoning Board of Appeals





## “Details, Details” . . . From the Clerk



### **Spring 2021 greetings from the Clerk’s Office to all!**

I hope everyone had an opportunity to get outside in the sunshine and fresh air during the recent summer-like temps! It is always nice to feel the warmth of the sun in the spring, as well as to see tiny plants of all kinds popping out of the earth! With a little rain, things are greening up nicely all over Whitewater Township and our great State of Michigan, and I cannot think of a better place to be.

**2021/2022 Fiscal Year Budget and Millage/Special Assessment District Levies:** The township board recently completed the process of preparing and adopting the next fiscal year budget. Whitewater Township’s fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31. A budget for the upcoming fiscal year is required by law to be adopted by March 31 each year. Along with planning for revenues and expenditures, the township board must take into consideration the millage and special assessment district levies.

The millage levies for WWT Allocated (general funds which can be used for any lawful purpose) and the Ambulance Millage (used strictly for ambulance operations) are not set by the township board at budget time but are calculated each year based on the total taxable value in the township, the rate of inflation, and the amount by which maximum millage levies must be rolled back based on the Headlee Amendment.

**Did you know that,** of the 13 townships in Grand Traverse County, **Whitewater Township has the lowest rate of allocated millage?** For the December 2020 tax bills, 0.5912 per \$1,000 of taxable value was assessed. On a home with a \$100,000 taxable value, \$59.12 would be the annual assessment.

**The Fire Special Assessment District** was approved by voters in 1974 “to create a Township-wide Fire Assessment District for the purpose of providing money for the purchasing, operating, maintaining, equipping and housing of the Whitewater Township Fire Department.” Funds generated from this levy can only be used for those purposes. Every year at budget time, the township board sets the rate for the following December levy. Although a frighteningly high 10 mills can be assessed under this SAD, in all of its 47-year history, the levy has never been more than 1.5 mills. The township board has held the Fire Special Assessment District levy steady at 1 mill per \$1,000 of taxable value since December 2012.

**Township voters approved an Ambulance Millage twice, first in 2014 and again in 2018,** of up to 1.5 mills per \$1,000 of taxable value. This millage is also subject to recalculation each year pursuant to the Headlee Amendment. I believe we will see a downward change in the Ambulance Millage levy in December 2021. Mobile Medical Response, the township’s contracted ambulance service provider, is now also serving several other townships in Grand Traverse County. While specific numbers have not been discussed, early indications are that economy of scale will result in a reduction in the annual charge for these services for Whitewater Township taxpayers.

Speaking of money, a year or so ago, due to lack of space at both the township hall and emergency services building, I urged the board to set aside funds for a facility needs study. We know those facilities are in need of additional space, but what is the best way forward to meet these needs for the least cost? The board will engage the services of an engineering firm in the near future to help us with this planning process, including utilizing their expertise in finding and applying for alternative funding sources.

My office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Feel free to call or stop in with questions.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Whitewater Township Community!

**Cheryl Goss**

*Whitewater Township Clerk*



### **2021 Elections:**

A citizen petition is currently circulating in the township to put before the voters a prohibition on the issuance of recreational marijuana permits of any type in Whitewater Township. This petition may result in an August election. Also, the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners has been asked to place an Animal Control millage on the November ballot. If these measures are placed on the ballot, more information will be forthcoming.

### **Voter Registration:**

Since the passage of Proposal 18-3 in November 2018, which authorized automatic and Election Day voter registration, the number of registered voters in Whitewater Township has increased from 2,092 to 2,321. Without additional research, it is hard to tell what part of the increase is due to voters who were previously registered and moved into Whitewater Township. Voters regularly move out of the township as well. The net of all these factors is that the township added 229 registered voters in that 2-year time period.



## Spring Greetings from Whitewater Township Fire Department



In the past 30 years of my public safety experience, I have dealt with many challenges – nothing like the COVID Pandemic though. The shutdown has proven to be tricky for the fire service because we have to conduct business as usual, meaning we cannot work from home and maintain social distancing. To do that requires us to don & doff a lot of personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks, gowns, face shields and gloves. For much of 2020 we had to do this for every interaction with the public including medical emergencies, car accidents, fire alarms, and any other call for service. Although some of the restrictions have subsided, we still have to follow safety precautions for the health and wellbeing of the firefighters and EMS crews. My message to the citizens of Whitewater Township is that we will continue to provide the best service to our ability through these challenging times while maintaining a safe environment for all.

In keeping with spring tradition, I would like to remind everyone to practice safe open burning in our township. Our area has experienced a relatively short winter with little snowfall and snowpack, bringing an early wildfire season. This dry winter has been exaggerated by warmer temperatures, lower humidity and winds drying out the vegetation. And to make matters worse, we have plenty of dead standing and fallen fuels as a result of a few recent storms including August of 2015. For this reason, the DNR has been closing burn permits routinely, so make sure you check every day if an open burn is planned. The cost of extinguishing a fire that grows out of control will be the responsibility of the person who starts the fire and that includes damages to real property, so please be careful when conducting an open burn.

Whitewater Township follows the Michigan DNR and EGLE regulations for open burning. Small fires for recreation and cooking are allowed without a permit in an approved container. However, general open burning requires a permit which can be found online at [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit). On the Permission to Burn page, click on the “CAN I BURN TODAY?” link. This will take you to a map of Michigan; be sure to click on Grand Traverse County to see detailed information about each township. If the Burning Permits Issued column says YES next to Whitewater, then you may burn with the restrictions noted. If it says NO, then you may not burn. You may also obtain information by calling 866-922-BURN (2876). Please remember to use caution when burning on windy days and *never* leave your fire unattended.

Thank you and be safe!

*Brandon Flynn*  
**Fire Chief**



### **April Showers Bring May Flowers!**

Make a spring safety plan that works for home, camping and vacation. Remember, weather can change in seconds and knowing what to do can save a life. Always beware of your surroundings on land and the water. Taking shelter and preparing saves time and removes panic from an emergency.

**Know Your Tornado Terms** - Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a tornado hazard.

#### **Tornado Watch**

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information. Phone weather apps are now available, most free of charge.

#### **Tornado Warning**

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. **Take shelter immediately! If outside and your shelter is not secure, seek immediate safe and secure place to wait out the danger.**

#### **What to do before a Tornado** - Be alert to changing weather conditions

Listen to [NOAA Weather Radio](http://NOAA Weather Radio) or to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information.

- Look for approaching storms
- Look for the following danger signs:
  - Dark, often greenish sky
  - Large hail
  - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
  - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately. Positive planning promotes safety and protects lives. Know someone home bound or handicapped? Why not plan together and make your neighborhood safe together.



Together we can make Whitewater township a safer community.

Heidi Vollmuth - [heidivourtrustee@gmail.com](mailto:heidivourtrustee@gmail.com)



# PARKS & RECREATION

## Spring 2021 Updates

### ‘Hey Batter Batter...’

By Melissa Melton

We would like to invite our community, little league players, baseball players, softball players and their families to join in a **Grand Opening of the Hi Pray Park Batting Cage on May 8, 2021, from 10am to 3pm.**

We will have open time slots to sign up during the day to take some swings at baseballs or softballs. This day will be free of charge, but sign-in waivers and proper use of the batting cage will be required. We are also combining this day of celebration with community involvement by joining together to cleanup the baseball fields and surrounding area of debris, wild bushes and weeds.

Thanks again to the Rotary Good Works grant funds and all the many hours of community volunteers to help build this batting cage. Next up on projects at Hi Pray Park is replacing dugouts on the upper fields, which is scheduled for this spring.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has been working continually to move projects forward that improve our trails, parks, and natural areas.

Thank you to all who supported our 5-year planning process by responding to the survey - we had over 200 responses! See the full report on [www.whitewatertownship.org](http://www.whitewatertownship.org) website.

We continue to improve trail kiosks, signage and bench upgrades on Lossie, Battle Creek Natural Area and Whitewater Township Park nature trails.

Thank you to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and Rotary Good Works grant funds to support these trail upgrades. The signs have been installed at Whitewater Township Park and bench upgrades are scheduled for this spring. Thanks to the support of our local middle and high school student volunteers, Devin Melton and Brett Bruner. We will have trail signage upgrades continue at Lossie and BCNA trails this summer/fall.



### WHAT'S NEW

#### 5-YEAR RECREATION PLAN

A Draft of the Parks and Recreation 5-year plan is underway. We will be sending out for public input in the next few months

#### BOAT LAUNCH EXPANSION

Whitewater Township Board continues to work on boat launch expansion project details. Thanks to all who participated in the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### ONLINE CAMPING RESERVATIONS

The website is now live for online camping reservations at [www.whitewatertownshippark.org](http://www.whitewatertownshippark.org)



### SCRAP TIRE GRANT - FREE TIRE DISPOSAL

The Township applied to the State Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for a scrap tire grant and was awarded a \$2,000 Grant. What does this mean to Whitewater Township citizens? **FREE tire drop off at our Annual Clean-up Day on June 12, 2021. ONLY passenger and truck tires will be accepted. NO tractor tires or large equipment tires. Snowmobile tracks are not being accepted!**

“Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.”

- James Cash Penney



## 2021/2022 Fiscal Year Township Board Meetings

**The township board has moved its meeting time to 9:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.**

(Meetings were formerly held at 7:00 p.m. on the same day.) Change of time was motivated by board meetings lasting three hours or longer. Some meetings not ending until 11pm. Good decision making rarely happens that late at night. All meeting dates of the Township Board (and all other boards, commissions, and committees) are posted in a notice document and in the Google calendar on the township website.

The agenda/packet documents also contain the link to **join meetings via Zoom** on your computer, or a special number to call for joining the meeting. Once you have clicked on the link or called the phone number, you will need to enter a Meeting ID and a Passcode. These numbers are shown on the agenda. Be sure to join "with audio" if you wish to speak during public comment. When it is your turn, you will need to "unmute" yourself and then re-mute after speaking so that background noise from your location does not interfere with the meeting. You can also "join with video" in order that others can see you. If you have the Zoom app on your PC, you can simply open the app and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode.

**Public body members are again required to be present in person at their meetings** (unless they fit one of three exceptions), but members of the public can use the Zoom function to be present remotely. If you haven't joined a meeting yet, seek out the Zoom meeting information on the township website and give it a try, even if you don't plan to comment!



## Meeting Agendas/Packets

A good way to stay informed on what is going on in your township is to receive links to Township Board meeting agendas and packets through e-mail. Large documents are not sent through e-mail, only **links** to access those documents on the township website. If you wish to receive e-mail reminders of upcoming meetings, send your name and e-mail address to: [clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:clerk@whitewatertownship.org) with Board Packets Group in the subject line.

All agenda/packet links are sent blind carbon copy 5 business days before a meeting. You will not see anyone else's name or e-mail address, and no one else will see yours. Your e-mail address will only be utilized for the sending of meeting agenda/packet links.

## Stimulus Funds For the Township

The same federal legislation that brought the third round of Economic Impact Payments to Americans has allocated \$350 billion to the "State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund." According to a U.S. Department of Treasury Fact Sheet, "The Rescue Plan will provide needed relief to state, local, and tribal governments to enable them to continue to support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery."

**How does this affect Whitewater Township?** Early projections *estimate* that Whitewater Township will receive approximately \$280,000.

**How can this money be spent?** According to the Michigan Townships Association, "local governments can use the funds to cover costs incurred through December 31, 2024, for the following purposes:

- **Respond** to the COVID-19 emergency and address its negative economic impacts.
- **Provide** premium pay up to \$13 an hour or \$25,000 per worker in additional wages for workers performing an essential function in the pandemic.
- **Provide** government services affected by a revenue reduction during the pandemic (relative to revenues collected by the local government in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency).

The legislation also provides that 50% of the funds will be distributed in 2021 and 50% one year later.

The Whitewater Township Board will have decisions to make regarding how these funds are ultimately expended. Keep an eye out for further information as it becomes available.



## Happy Spring to all!

Some of you may have noticed that there are no Historical Society meetings scheduled for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. With the recent passing of one of the members, meetings are temporarily on hold. We will soon be accepting new members, and that will be posted when we are.

Thank You,  
Luann Snider  
Historical Society Director



## YEAR AT A GLANCE



- ◆ 2/5/2020 Grant award for \$7,125.00 from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for fire department snowmobile trailer
- ◆ 2/5/2020 Grant award for \$18,069 from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for bathhouse tiling at Whitewater Township Park.
- ◆ 2/11/2020 Municode selected to codify the township's general and zoning ordinances
- ◆ 3/24/2020 Adopted the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year Budget with no increases in general, fire or ambulance levies
- ◆ 3/24/2020 Closure of Township Hall to foot traffic due to the declared covid pandemic
- ◆ 4/14/2020 Fire Department request to purchase enclosed trailer approved
- ◆ 6/9/2020 Public comment period set for the Whitewater Township Park Boat Launch/ Entryway Improvements Preliminary Plan from July 1 to August 15
- ◆ 6/9/2020 Internal Security Solutions to install a four camera video monitoring system with network NVR device to monitor the recycle bins and incoming and outgoing township hall traffic
- ◆ 6/10/2020 Reopening of the Township Hall to foot traffic
- ◆ 6/13/2020 Township Cleanup Day held at Mill Creek Elementary
- ◆ 7/14/2020 Welcome Samuel Rojewski as a probationary firefighter for the Whitewater Township Fire Department
- ◆ 7/14/2020 Approval of parking lot maintenance, repairs and striping at the Township Hall
- ◆ 7/14/2020 Approval to initiate a local road improvement project with the Grand Traverse County Road Commission agreement to address Skegemog Point Road.
- ◆ 7/14/2020 Agreement to continue zoning services with Robert Hall through Certified Zoning Services
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Approved a letter of support to the Village of Kalkaska for the MITTIN project for looking at utilizing existing MDOT-owned rail and improving it to handle freight and passenger traffic and other transportation.
- ◆ 8/11/2020 "Stay on Trail" and "Trail End" signs installed at the Battle Creek Natural Area
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Hi Pray Park batting cage is open for business. Reservation and use information available on the website.
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Parks and Rec Plan 5 year review has begun
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Miami Beach Sewer System - Termination of Maintenance Agreement with Grand Traverse County DPW approved
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Miami Beach Sewer System Receiving Funds turned over to Miami Beach Road Association
- ◆ 8/11/2020 New Planning Commission Appointment - Carl Wroubel
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Approval of Supply Road, Island Lake Road signs
- ◆ 8/11/2020 Adopt Ordinance No. 57, Fire Prevention Ordinance
- ◆ 9/8/2020 Adopt Ordinance No. 58, repealing Ordinance No. 28, Whitewater Township Sewage Disposal System Miami Beach Rate Ordinance
- ◆ 9/8/2020 Halloween Party 2020 Event Contract approved to be held at Whitewater Township Park
- ◆ 9/16/2020 Sold 2000 Chevy Tanker for \$12,500.00
- ◆ 9/22/2020 Special meeting held regarding Marijuana Grow and/or Processing Establishments
- ◆ 9/28/2020 Approved COLI expansion of fiber network, providing broadband service to a limited area of the township, specifically on Baggs and Skegemog Pt. Roads
- ◆ 10/13/2020 Extended the Mobile Medical Response (MMR) contract for one year
- ◆ 10/13/2020 Accepted bid from 365 Outdoor for snow removal services for the 2020/2021 season
- ◆ 10/20/2020 Donation to place a bench at the pond at BCNA and Hi Pray Park upgrades in memory of Denny Leach and Ingrid Ashmore
- ◆ 11/10/2020 Fire Chief Flynn applied for and received an AAA Traffic Safety Grant for \$12,000 toward eDrainic extrication equipment
- ◆ 11/23/2020 Sale of old snowmobile trailer for \$3,226.25
- ◆ November public hearing and December adoption of Ordinances 59, Authorizing and Permitting Commercial Medical Marihuana Facilities and 60, Authorizing and Permitting Adult-Use Marihuana Grow and Process Establishments
- ◆ 12/8/2020 Set public hearing on the Whitewater Township Park Boat Launch/Entryway Improvement Plans for 1/12/2021



**GROW  
TOGETHER**

"Act as if  
what you  
do makes a  
difference.  
It does."

- William James





**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR - Bob Hall**  
**Office Hours: Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

## Condominium Development Regulations



Whitewater Township recently amended the Zoning Ordinance to effectively permit and regulate higher density development. Whereas traditional land divisions limit the number of new parcels that can be created based upon the size of the 'parent' parcel on December 31, 1997, establishing a condominium development can afford substantial flexibility in growth and community design as long as the underlying zoning district standards are maintained.

There are many online resources that the public can access to make themselves more aware regarding local planning and zoning issues. Whitewater Township encourages public participation – all meetings are open to the public.

If you have any questions or concerns about planning and zoning topics in general, please contact me (Bob) at 231-267-5141 x 21. I am usually in the office on Thursday from 8:30-4:30 or you can email [zoning@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:zoning@whitwatertownship.org) at any time.



**Building Ordinance - What's It All About?**



At the April 13, 2021 Township Board meeting, the Township Board by a vote of 5/0 voted to support the placement of banners on the outfield fence located at Hi Pray Park Ballfield. The proposed advertising banners are to help support the Elk Rapids Youth Baseball Association. Local sponsors provide the league with funds to keep pricing low for the players' registration fees. The banners are 5' x 3' and will be hung from Memorial Day through July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### The 2021 Team/League Sponsorship is as follows:

- Team Sponsorship Fee - \$225, Company name or organization logo on the front of the team jersey, team photo, community goodwill and advertisement.
- League Sponsorship Fee - \$200, Community goodwill and 5'x3' advertisement banner.
- Combo Sponsorship Fee - \$400, Company name or organization logo on front of team jersey, team photo, community goodwill and a 5'x3' advertisement banner.
- Individual/Family Sponsor Fee - \$50, Family/Individual can donate to the league any amount. Names will be placed on a banner for donations of \$50 or more.

If you have interest in sponsorship, please contact Amber Voice. She can be reached through email at: [amber.voice@northernhealth.org](mailto:amber.voice@northernhealth.org)







# PARKS & RECREATION NEWS SPRING 2021



With the arrival of warmer weather, township residents and visitors are getting outside and enjoying the great outdoors in Whitewater Township, and we really have a lot of “great outdoors” to enjoy!

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee conducted a park improvement survey in December 2020 (results at the township hall and on the township website). One of the interesting findings was that there are people who have lived here a very long time who are not aware of all of the recreational opportunities which exist in Whitewater Township. That means we need to get more information out to the public about those recreational opportunities, because these days, it is more important than ever to breathe fresh air and get moving! And if you can do it close to home, all the better!

A good place to start is the Whitewater Township Recreation Plan. This plan is posted on the township website under the Parks & Recreation menu and it lists all of the “great outdoors” opportunities in Whitewater Township. The following link will take you to one of the appendix maps in the plan, [https://www.whitewatertownship.org/uploads/2/1/9/6/21966412/appendix\\_9\\_-\\_white-water\\_township\\_recreational\\_properties\\_map\\_revised\\_02.14.2019\\_.pdf](https://www.whitewatertownship.org/uploads/2/1/9/6/21966412/appendix_9_-_white-water_township_recreational_properties_map_revised_02.14.2019_.pdf), where you will find that, from north to south and east to west, there is lots to do outdoors in Whitewater Township! Other pages of the Recreation Plan provide further detail about the parks and other recreational properties. You will also see trail maps posted on the website for Battle Creek Natural Area, Lossie Road Nature Trail, and Whitewater Township Park.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee is in the process of updating the Recreation Plan. Once they complete the update, the township board will hold a public hearing to receive comment on the plan.

### [Update on Whitewater Township Park Boat Launch/Entryway Improvement Project](#)

The project is in the permitting stage at this point. There is no firm date yet on which construction will begin. **In the meantime, the Whitewater Township Board extends a sincere thank you to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for awarding a 2% grant in the amount of \$20,000 toward the costs of the project!**



Footbridge on Lossie Road Nature Trail

While you are out enjoying the “great outdoors” in Whitewater Township, if you happen to catch a good snapshot or two at one or more of the recreational properties, feel free to share them at [clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:clerk@whitewatertownship.org) with a note describing the location. We’d love to see them!

Happy Spring and Summer 2021!

*Cheryl A. Goss*  
Parks & Recreation Administrator  
(231) 267-5141 x24  
[clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:clerk@whitewatertownship.org)



Battle Creek



## Whitewater Township Park



The campground at Whitewater Township Park will open for the 2021 season on May 7, 2021. The reservation site, [www.whitewatertownshippark.org](http://www.whitewatertownshippark.org), has been activated.

Pavilion rental for graduation parties, reunions, weddings, etc. is available at both Hi Pray Park Pavilion and Whitewater Township Park Pavilion. The rental fee at Hi Pray Park is \$75. Rental fee at Whitewater Township Park is \$100.

**Please call 231-267-5141, ext 24, for further information about pavilion rental.**



**To Book Campground Reservations go to**

[www.whitewatertownshippark.org](http://www.whitewatertownshippark.org)

A Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card is needed to complete the transaction.



Welcome Friends and Neighbors to Spring 2021!

Fire Danger this time of year is a major threat to our area, especially during spring lawn clean ups.

With snowfall totals off nearly 80 inches in the last two years, soil moisture levels are low making options like the recycling center on Keystone Road ([Click Here for directions](#)) more attractive. If, you must burn, visit the DNR's website at ([Click Here](#)) before doing so to determine if burning is allowed. As always, **Thank you to the men and women who serve on Emergency Services teams. You make our neighborhoods better!**

Another side effect of reduced soil moisture level is the impact on our gravel roads. Whitewater Township has almost 20 miles of them and for anyone living or traveling on them, the dust is often unbearable. In collaboration with the Grand Traverse County Road Commission, brine applications will begin in early spring. The 2021/2022 budget includes up to \$100,000 funding for road repairs and replacement. When leveraged with Road Commissions matching funds, we can accomplish much more. Proposed reconstruction of Skegemog Point Road is in the planning phase. Property owners along the north one mile of the road worked hard to save to the tree canopy this road section is noted for. A revised project work scope is awaited.

Thank you to everyone who has helped keep our recycling bin area clean. Your efforts are appreciated! Summertime will see increased use of the facility and overstuffed bins. If the bins are full, we ask folks to never leave articles outside of them. Instead, visit another location or simply stop back. The bins are normally emptied on Monday and Thursday mornings. We are reminded that too many trash items are being placed in the recycling bins. Please **DO NOT** place **bagged** items in the recycle bins. Instead, empty the bag contents into the recycle bin, then recycle the bag. Banding materials, ropes and cords are considered entanglements and create numerous issues in the recycling process and are trash.

**American Waste** and **Melissa Smith of 9 and 10 News** fame have teamed up to produce several educational video segments called "Talking Trash". These segments help us understand the **DO's** and **DON'T's** of recycling. Please take a few minutes to watch the segments at <https://www.9and10news.com/2020/02/11/talking-trash-the-recycling-frontlines/> For other recycling information including household hazardous waste, please visit the Grand Traverse County Solid waste website at <http://www.co.grand-traverse.mi.us/2208/Resource-Recovery-Recycling>

The Planning Commission will be working on several important topics, Master Plan review, locations for Marijuana Facilities and Establishments, amendments to minimum 5-acre RC-1 District Lot Sizes, and a proposed Event Barn Use. If you have interest in how your community is designed and looks, stop by their webpage ([Here](#)) or sign up to have the group's agenda emailed directly to you. If you would like more information about serving on the Planning Commission, send an email to [supervisor@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:supervisor@whitewatertownship.org) to begin the journey.

**Cherry Capital Communications of Elk Rapids** ([Here](#)) and **186 Networks of Rapid City** ([Here](#)) are working in the Township to expand Fiber Optic Internet Service to our community. Use the links to see if your area can be served. We appreciate all of our local businesses!

Enjoy the planting season!

*Ron Popp*

**Whitewater Township Supervisor**



## PLANNING COMMISSION DECISION-MAKING



Whitewater SEEKS applicants for two  
Planning Commission Vacancies - Contact:  
[Supervisor@Whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Supervisor@Whitewatertownship.org)  
for an application

### *What's Happening at the Planning Commission*

The main topic of the recent regular and special meetings has been the Marijuana Zoning Ordinance addressing the General Ordinances #59 and #60 which permits grow and process of medical and recreational marijuana.

All inquiries regarding marijuana should be directed to the zoning administrator

Recently there were two public hearing site-plan reviews, one for a "Glamping" type campground off Moore Road and one for a farm market on Elk Lake Road. Both projects were approved and are hoping to be in operation in 2021.

On the agenda for review is the Master Plan update, regulation of Event Barns and the 5-acre RC-1 District Lot Sizes.

In 2020 the Planning Commission reviewed Article 28, Condominium Regulations. After holding a public hearing it was sent to the board for final approval.







# Treasurer's Corner - *Ardella (Della) Benak*



**Normal Office Hours at the Township Hall:**

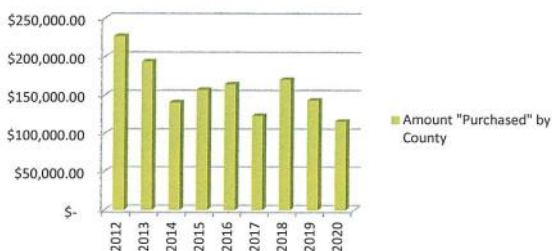
Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, other days by appointment.

Treasurer@Whitewatertownship.org - 231-267-5141 ext. 22

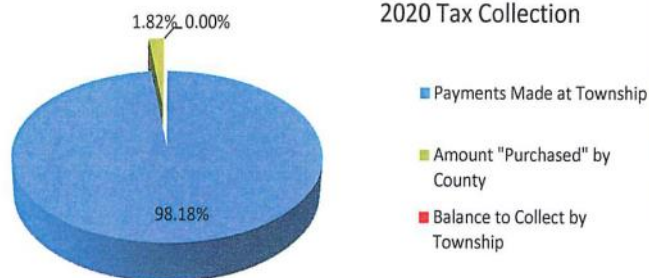
## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SETTLEMENT HISTORY FOR WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

Year	Total Adjusted Levy	Payments Made at Township	Amount "Purchased" by County	Balance to Collect by Township	Purchase % of Total
2012	\$ 5,549,486.39	\$ 5,321,881.48	\$ 226,976.81	\$ 628.10	4.09%
2013	\$ 5,761,007.06	\$ 5,531,654.57	\$ 193,662.92	\$ 35,689.57	3.36%
2014	\$ 6,037,254.06	\$ 5,895,143.88	\$ 140,730.38	\$ 1,379.80	2.33%
2015	\$ 6,045,767.87	\$ 5,886,313.28	\$ 157,363.44	\$ 2,091.15	2.60%
2016	\$ 6,005,085.51	\$ 5,840,029.17	\$ 164,501.13	\$ 555.21	2.74%
2017	\$ 6,046,104.81	\$ 5,922,354.58	\$ 123,604.08	\$ 146.15	2.04%
2018	\$ 6,343,803.74	\$ 6,173,262.62	\$ 170,409.86	\$ 131.26	2.69%
2019	\$ 6,579,278.30	\$ 6,435,669.25	\$ 143,535.91	\$ 73.14	2.18%
2020	\$ 6,401,249.56	\$ 6,284,665.03	\$ 116,461.98	\$ 122.55	1.82%

Amount "Purchased" by County



2020 Tax Collection



**98.18% of the payments were made at the Township and not turned over to county for collection.**

**2020 tax season is at a close.** Settlement with the County went very well with no corrections or adjustments for our Township! The above graph shows where all the money went that we collected for the 2020 tax year.

**The 2021/2022 budget has been completed.** The budget process is a lengthy process involving all board members. It is done once a year to plan ahead for the financial well-being and stability of the Township as mandated by state law.

**Preparations** for the upcoming tax season are underway in the Treasurer's office. We are looking forward to a busy and productive summer and hoping to see many of you at the Annual Cleanup Day on June 12th. My deputy, Lois MacLean, and I will be the ones greeting you and checking ID's as always.

I am available by phone or through email to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

### IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION TO REMEMBER

**Summer Deferment Applications** can be found on the Township webpage, or a copy can be obtained from the Treasurer's office. If you have had a deferment in the past, one will automatically be mailed to you in May.

**Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavits (Homestead Exemptions) and Request to Rescind** are due **NO later than June 1, 2021.** They can both be found on the Treasurer and Assessing webpage tabs and can be picked up here at the township hall.

**Important:** When you receive your July 1st summer tax bill, please open your envelope even if your taxes are being paid by a mortgage company. The July newsletter will be in with your tax bill and will have important information you are going to want to see. If you receive a tax bill that is not yours, please call us so that we can make sure the correct people get their tax bill. We appreciate your help in this.

**Hope to see you at Cleanup Day!**

*Ardella M. Benak - Treasurer*

*Lois MacLean - Deputy Treasurer*





## Whitewater Township

P.O. Box 159  
Williamsburg, MI 49690

**Saturday, June 12, 2021**

# WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm**  
**at Mill Creek Elementary School on Old M-72**



**PLEASE BRING HELP  
FOR LARGE ITEMS**

### ITEMS TO BE ACCEPTED

Wood & Construction Debris (limit of 2 cubic yards)  
Household Furniture • Metals • Plastics  
Water Heaters • Large Appliances  
Titled Junk Vehicles • Batteries  
**FREE Passenger & Truck Tires !!!!!**

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Hazardous Waste • Household Garbage • Brush  
Leaves & Other Yard Waste • Concrete  
Car Batteries • **Tractor Tires \***

***Volunteers are always Appreciated***

**Resident  
ID Is Required!**

**Fire & Ambulance Vehicles will be there.  
Bring the kids for a tour !  
Coffee, Donuts & OJ will be  
provided by the Whitewater Emergency  
Services Auxiliary**

