



Whitewater Township News

Spring 2022

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
Supervisorwhitwatertownship@gmail.com

CLERK

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

TREASURER

Ardella Benak ext. 22
P.O. Box 100
Hours: T-W-Th 10:00 - 4:00
Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

Vacant
Message 231-267-5141
Trustee02@whitwatertownship.org

TRUSTEE

Heidi Vollmuth
Message 231-633-9468
heidivourtrustee@gmail.com

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Bob Hall ext. 21
Thursdays 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Zoning@whitwatertownship.org

ASSESSOR

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

FIRE & AMBULANCE

911 Emergency
Fire Hall 231-267-5969
firechief@whitwatertownship.org

PARKS & RECREATION

Ranger Station - 231-267-5091

PLANNING COMMISSION

Kim Mangus, Chair
231-631-2326
manguspc@yahoo.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Chair
231-883-3193
historical@whitwatertownship.org

GT COUNTY RD COMM

231-922-4848

BURN PERMITS - MDNR

866-922-2876
www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/

Planning Commission News



Recently, our township has had a lot of questions about who, when, where, and how land can be developed within our jurisdiction. While this can be a very complicated issue, I would like to provide information on how our township addresses two forms of development, Site Condominiums and Planned Unit Developments.

A Site Condominium is a development in which a parcel of land is divided into units/lots for the construction of **residential homes** under the Condominium Act. This development must meet all of the zoning rules for residential housing without adjustments. It will typically have some shared ownership of land including but not limited to the roadway or potential open spaces which are eventually managed by a condominium association. It will be reviewed by many state and local agencies, by the Planning Commission under the site plan review process, and eventually by the Township Board for compliance with all of the above. This type of development is discussed in Article 28 of our Zoning Ordinance.

A Planned Unit Development is most often referred to as a PUD. This type of development goes through all the same reviews as a standard site condo but is also evaluated through the Special Use Permit (SUP) process which requires neighbor notification and a public hearing. It allows for the consideration of specific adjustments to zoning standards within the district and is not necessarily residential in nature. Alterations may include mixed uses but are most often used to increase density. When the PUD process is used, the applicant often dedicates a significant portion of land to open space in exchange for increased density known as cluster development. The SUP process is used to ensure that the adjustments will not be incompatible with the surrounding area. This process is addressed in Article 31 of our Zoning Ordinance.

Zoning can be complicated and frustrating at times, but your Whitewater Township Planning Commission remains dedicated to listening to and addressing the concerns of citizens while also adhering to state law as well as our zoning ordinance in these matters.

Kimberly Mangus - Planning Commission Chair





Memorial Day



The Deal-Ridgeway American Legion Post #289 of Williamsburg, Michigan, will honor our fallen on May 30, 2022 with a Memorial Day Parade.

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

Williamsburg Cemetery

We will muster at the Fire Station on Old M-72 around 9:00 AM and “march” about 9:30 AM. Due to Covid considerations, the luncheon is canceled. Everyone must walk or drive their personal car to maintain social distancing. Bus service will not be available. This is a great event for our community and we welcome your attendance. Please join your friends and neighbors for this Patriotic event in OUR community.



Mill Creek

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 30, 2022 at 9:00 AM



Whitewater Township Fire Department
Serving Our Community

TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

May 2022

- 5/03 Special Election
- 5/04 Planning Commission
- 5/09 Parks & Rec Committee
- 5/10 Township Board Meeting
- 5/26 Zoning Board of Appeals

JUNE 2022

- 6/01 Planning Commission
- 6/11 Annual Cleanup Day
- 6/13 Parks & Rec Committee
- 6/14 Township Board Meeting
- 6/23 Zoning Board of Appeals

JULY 2022

- 7/04 Independence Day
- 7/06 Planning Commission
- 7/11 Park & Rec Committee
- 7/12 Township Board Meeting
- 7/19 Board of Review (4 p.m.)
- 7/28 Zoning Board of Appeals

August 2022

- 8/02 Election
- 8/03 Planning Commission
- 8/08 Park & Rec Committee
- 8/09 Township Board Meeting
- 8/25 Zoning Board of Appeals



Zoom . . . Zoom . . . Zoom . . .



Zoom access for the public has been extended until December 31, 2022 by board action. Zoom links and information are posted with the agendas and packets on the township website. The only reason a township board member can participate via Zoom according to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) MCL 15.263 is as an active member of the military away on duty. Exceptions are only allowed through the American Disability Act (ADA). All ADA rules must be followed.

TIPS FOR BEING A GOOD PARTICIPANT IN TOWNSHIP ZOOM MEETINGS:

To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking. Be mindful of background noise. Position your camera properly. Limit distractions, stay in one spot. Avoid multi-tasking if your camera is on. Be prepared if you are planning on speaking. Wait until you are called on before un-muting your microphone.

All Attendees will be muted when entering the Zoom meeting. To make a public comment, please use the “Raised Hand” icon and wait to be recognized. You will be asked to unmute when you are called upon to begin your public comment.

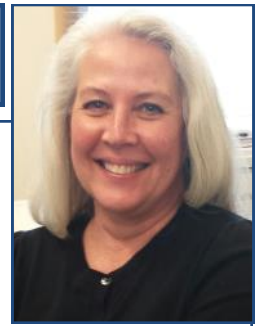
HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING

Buckets are on the porch at the township for proper battery disposal. **DO NOT** put them in the recycle bins. Please do not dispose of them with your regular trash.





"Details, Details" . . . From the Clerk



Happy Spring Greetings from the Clerk's Office to all!

Over halfway through April now, we know that warmer temps are in our immediate future! Winter is beautiful in its own way, but nothing beats the "revival" that takes place in nature every Spring when the migratory birds come back, the ground warms up, and greenery and flowers push their way to the sunshine! Hallelujah; it's that time of year!

May Election Details

It's also time for elections, starting with the May 3rd election to fill the vacant trustee position on the township board. Polls will be open on May 3rd from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., or you can receive and vote an absent voter ballot until 4 p.m. on Monday, May 2nd (including from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th). If you want to pick up a ballot in person, stop at the Clerk's office with your ID and fill out an absent voter ballot application; it only takes about five minutes. Sorry; election law does not permit us to give you someone else's ballot.

2022 Election Dates: Mark these dates on your calendar as a reminder to VOTE!

- Tuesday, May 3rd – Fill Trustee Position
- Tuesday, August 2nd – State and Local Primary
- Tuesday, November 8th – General Election

Election Results Modem Process Discontinued

In an effort to help restore voter confidence in election security, the process of sending election results after the polls close via tabulator modem to the county clerk's office has been discontinued. The modem process allowed the county clerk's office to get the precinct and absent voter counting board results earlier (and thereby provide them to candidates and the news media earlier) after the close of polls. It has always been the procedure that the pollbooks and flash drives were put under numbered seal and physically driven to the county clerk's office on election night after the results tapes are run, reports printed, closing paperwork prepared, and the tabulators put back in storage. Nothing about that detailed post-close of polls procedure is changing; only that the modem step has been eliminated entirely.

Do You Have Interest in Becoming an Election Inspector (a/k/a Poll Worker)?

Whitewater Township could use a couple more election inspectors for the August and November elections. Election inspectors must be certified and they receive their certification training through the County Clerk's office. This training is a 2-3 hour commitment and takes place in the summer of even years. Election inspectors must be recertified every two years. Training on the equipment used in elections, i.e., the tabulator, ExpressVote, and ePollbook devices, is handled by my office and takes place in the last couple weeks prior to an election, generally during the evenings. Inspectors must also be available in the afternoon on the Monday before the election to set up the precinct, and of course, must be available for their shift on Election Day. Election inspectors are paid for ALL training, setup, and Election Day time. If you are interested in working as an election inspector in August and/or November, please call or visit my office to obtain an election inspector application, (231) 267-5141 ext 24 or clerk@whitwatertownship.org.

Happy Spring! Enjoy the warmup ahead!

Cheryl Goss

Whitewater Township Clerk



2022 FEES at Whitewater Township Park and Hi Pray Park



Boat Launch Fees

- Daily Pass - \$8
- Annual Resident Pass - \$30
- Annual Non-Resident Pass - \$60
- Camper Boat Passes \$10-20 (depending on length of stay)



Ice, Garbage, Dump Station Fees

- Ice - \$4 per bag
- Garbage - \$5/bag
- Dump Station - \$20 (non-campers)

Pavilion/Batting Cage Rental Fees

- Whitewater Township Park Pavilion - \$100 per day
- Hi Pray Park Pavilion - \$75 per day
- Batting Cage – No Fee (\$10/hour donation suggested)



Pavilion reservations can be made by calling the Ranger Station (231-267-5091).

Camping at Whitewater Township Park
Go to www.whitwatertownshippark.org to check site availability and prices for 2022 camping.

Whitewater Township Park is funded and maintained strictly from fees paid by users of the park and does not receive property tax revenue.





Spring Greetings from Whitewater Township Fire Department



With 124 calls for service, 2021 was the busiest year the Whitewater Township Fire Department has seen in many years and 2022 is already looking like a banner year as our calls are up 107% from this time last year. To make matters worse, our staffing is down as well with two of our firefighters recently leaving the fire service. This trend is not specific to our small town; this is a nationwide issue with no real resolve. Myself and the Township Board routinely discuss options that will protect the firefighters yet provide an essential service. Look for some changes coming to the fire department in the next couple years as we navigate through these challenging times.

In keeping with spring tradition, I would like to remind everyone to practice safe open burning in our township. Our area again has experienced a relatively short winter with little snowfall and snowpack bringing an early wildfire season. According to the US Drought Monitor, our area is currently experiencing moderate to abnormally dry conditions which is predicted to improve later this spring.

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. 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, *never* leave your fire unattended, and of course burning trash and construction materials is strictly prohibited.

Please also remember to check your smoke alarms regularly. Last year in Michigan, 107 people died in 94 fires with only 40% of those homes having working smoke alarms. Working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are essential in every home. If you need help with either of these, please contact the Fire Chief.

Thank you and be safe!

Brandon Flynn
Fire Chief



**SIGN UP TO BECOME
A FIREFIGHTER
TODAY!**

**Township pays for your
training class & wages to
attend classes.**

Is there
a **FIRE** in
you?



It's back! Different Season - Same Great Event !!

The Whitewater Emergency Services Auxiliary (WESA) Spaghetti Dinner is back! We have all missed seeing everyone and are really looking forward to getting together!

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

at the Williamsburg Methodist Church, 5750 Williamsburg Rd.

Enjoy the very best spaghetti dinner served up by the very best servers (the fire department personnel) while visiting with the very best friends and family in the community!

Come on out and let these fine people know how much we appreciate their service and dedication to our community! The fire department will be on hand for questions, photo ops and demos!

There will be door prizes and an in-person silent auction fundraiser.

If you would like to donate door prizes or silent auction items please contact Lois: 231.735.3987



Other WESA Events

Saturday June 11, Cleanup day assistance & refreshments

Watch for info on the Halloween Party at the Campground!!

Bring your family! Bring your friends!!





Local Whitewater Township News SPRING 2022



We say goodbye to the Send Brother's Farm Market after 25 years serving the community. The final step was to take down the sign on April 17. The Sends will continue farming and filling orders of 20+ bags or bales. Smaller orders of the ever popular birdseeds are available at the Kalkaska Feed Mill in Kalkaska, McGough's on Lake Street in Traverse City, Lodi Trading Company in Lodi/South Boardman, and Hillside Feed in Suttons Bay. The family is wished the best in their future endeavors. Thank you for being an awesome part of the Williamsburg community. (We are still looking forward to beautiful fields of sunflowers!)

As we say goodbye to the Send's Market, we will be welcoming the Williamsburg Veterinary Hospital (WVH). The WVH will be converting the current building to fit the needs of a small animal clinic. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Fowler and the Williamsburg Veterinary Hospital when they open their doors to help us take the best care of our family pets.



Traverse City Horse Shows (Otherwise known as "Horse Shows by the Bay")

is a major player in Northern Michigan with events running June 8 - September 18. With the popularity of these events the area has seen an increase in equine related businesses. Classic Equine comes before the Whitewater Township Planning Commission on May 4 for public hearing for site plan approval of an equine veterinary clinic on the west end of the township off M72.



Annual Strawberry Social and Online Auction

Saturday, June 11, 2022 3:30-7:00

Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 5750 Williamsburg Road



Drive-up and take-out service only, by donation. There will be optional outdoor seating for individuals who would like to enjoy with the group. There will be light music and yard games to enjoy.

There is an on-line Auction at charityauction.bid/williamsburgumc or through the Facebook event, June 8 through June 15. And don't forget to purchase a ticket or two for the special live drawing at the event!



Did you know can check your property tax information on-line?



BS&A Online (no charge): click here or type into your browser:

<https://bsaonline.com/?uid=297>

This will take you directly to the Whitewater Township, Grand Traverse County section. Type in your address and select your parcel. Here you will create an account for your own parcel with access to the BS&A property information.

Grand Traverse County has online property records so you can look up your property, parcel and tax information:

<https://www.gtcountymi.gov/1411/Online-Records>

Select or type in the web address for Online Records.

Select Parcel Data

Select Parcel Tax Data Viewer

Search by parcel number, name or address.

Select your parcel.

The County updates this information.



Whitewater Township Board Requests Citizen input on Spending of ARPA Funds

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, also known as *COVID-19 Local Recovery Fund*, which have been received by Whitewater Township in the amount of \$294,000. These funds have broad flexibility for their use and are meant to help townships with funding of certain types of local services such as Recreation, Emergency Services, Township Facilities, Infrastructure such as Water, Sewer and Broadband.

We know that there will be a lot of questions concerning how the ARPA funds will be spent in Whitewater. Whitewater Township Board is committed to listening to your input and that is why, when your survey hits your mailbox, it is so important to respond. Your interactions matter!



Supervisor - Ron Popp Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org



Hello Readers! Welcome to April showers and hopefully soon, May flowers 2022 style!

Let's talk roads - The Grand Traverse County Road Commission (GTCRC) is responsible for the roads throughout the County. As such, when you see pot holes, broken shoulders or rough patches call them at 231.922.4848 or email <mailto:gtrc@gtrc.org> Pictures and an accurate location description are important. Once GTCRC has knowledge of a hazard they have a responsibility to respond to it. **The Township has no authority or influence to fix roads.** Send **ALL** comments to the entire **Road Commission Board of Commissioners** their email address can be found [here](#). Be sure to include Road Commission **Manager Brad Kluczynski** and the rest of the **Administration Staff** in your comments [here](#). For our friends on gravel roads, as of the middle of April, we do not have any brine pricing or application schedules for control dust. Use the above contacts to express your concerns on gravel roads.

The Planning Commission has been the focus of a lot of media attention as of late. Citizen concerns over the lack of density regulation and loopholes that can be exploited by developers top the list. Please watch for **Community Input Sessions** regarding the Master Plan. **We want your input!** 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 the rain does stop, **Wildland Fire Danger** will become a major threat to our area, especially during spring lawn clean ups. Before burning, please visit the DNR's website at [here](#) to determine if burning is allowed. As an alternative to burning check out the County's brush drop off site [here](#).

Thank you to all that pitch in keeping the area around the recycling bins neat and clean! Bins are emptied on **Mondays and Thursdays** if they are full, we ask folks to never leave articles outside of them. Instead, visit another location or simply stop back. We will try to schedule an additional weekly pick up beginning the middle of May to help offset the summer rush. For additional recycling **DO's** and **DON'T's**, visit 9 & 10 News 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>

Enjoy the planting season!

Ron Popp

Whitewater Township Supervisor



Straight talk from Heidi V

As stated in Whitewater Township Master Plan "Whitewater Township strives to maintain a rural character to enhance the quality of life" but this statement means something different to everyone. Our township is a very humble and peaceful community. It is important that we balance protecting our most sensitive natural resources and future growth, while also respecting existing properties and resident's property rights. Our rural community with silent hills, natural waters, nature trails and farmland is important to all of us. A large percentage of our township is zoned Agricultural but that does not mean that homes are not part of that area. As the community grows there will be changes and it is important to work new homes and development into the fabric of our rural landscape.

It is hard to trust government and the slow nature of writing, reviewing, and changing policies. Inconsistency can cause frustration and lead people to distrust the process. It is this slow process that allow each of us an opportunity to step up and get involved, speak up, and be heard. There are no rules that say you must be on a board to participate. Exactly the opposite. Let those who are on boards know exactly what you would like to see different, submit samples, gather input. Have at it. I'll be more than happy to assist anyone, let's fix it and move forward together. We can achieve this if everyone in our community comes forward and brings solutions, positive input, and new ideas to the table. I am your trustee, help me understand what your wants to see for our future. I am listening, Simple and humble.

Happy Thoughts of Spring,

Heidi V

Phone: 231-633-9468

Email: heidivourtrustee@gmail.com





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



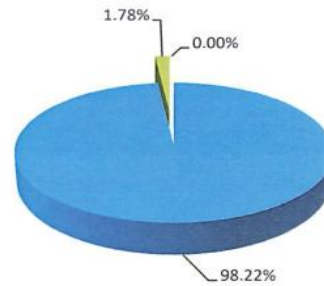
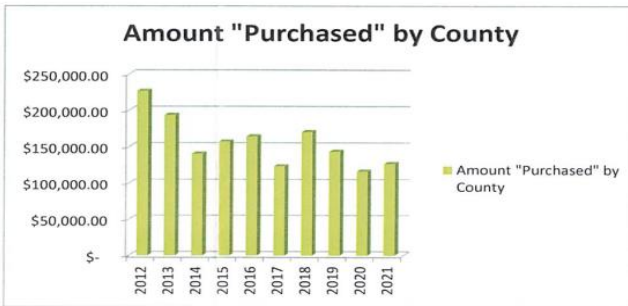
Normal Office Hours at the Township Hall:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10:00 - 4:00, other days & times 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%
2021	\$ 7,124,552.66	\$ 6,997,439.68	\$ 127,040.65	\$ 72.33	1.78%



98.22% of the payments were made at the Township and not turned over to county for collection.

2021 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 2021 tax year.

The 2022/2023 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 11th. My deputy, Lois MacLean, and I will be the ones greeting you and checking ID's as always.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION TO REMEMBER

Summer Deferral Applications can be found on the Township webpage, or a copy can be obtained from the Treasurer's office. If you have had a deferral 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, 2022.** They can both be found on the Treasurer and Assessing webpage tabs or can be picked up here at the township hall. Completed forms should be returned to Assessor Dawn Kuhns.

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 assistance with this.

Hope to see you at Cleanup Day!

Ardella M. Benak - Treasurer

Lois MacLean - Deputy Treasurer



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



Whitewater Township

P.O. Box 159
Williamsburg, MI 49690

Saturday, June 11, 2022

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
Passenger tires (\$3) and Truck tires (\$5)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

Hazardous Waste • Household Garbage • Brush
Leaves & Other Yard Waste • Concrete
Car Batteries

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 (WESA)

