



# Whitewater Township News

**Summer 2022**

This Newsletter can be found on the Township

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

## Directory

5777 Vinton Road \* P.O. Box 159  
Williamsburg, MI 49690  
Phone 231-267-5141  
Fax 231-267-9020  
[www.whitwatertownship.org](http://www.whitwatertownship.org)

### SUPERVISOR

Ron Popp ext. 23  
[Supervisor@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:Supervisor@whitwatertownship.org)

### CLERK

Cheryl Goss ext. 24  
Mon thru Thur 9 am - 5 pm  
[Clerk@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:Clerk@whitwatertownship.org)

### TREASURER

Ardella Benak ext. 22  
P.O. Box 100  
Hours: T-W-Th 10:00 - 4:00 pm  
[Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:Treasurer@whitwatertownship.org)

### TRUSTEE

Don Glenn  
231-267-5141  
[dglenn6542@yahoo.com](mailto:dglenn6542@yahoo.com)

### TRUSTEE

Heidi Vollmuth  
231-633-9468  
[heidivourtrustee@gmail.com](mailto:heidivourtrustee@gmail.com)

### ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Bob Hall ext. 21  
Thursdays 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
[Zoning@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:Zoning@whitwatertownship.org)

### ASSESSOR

Dawn Kuhns - 231-409-1827  
By Appointment  
[assessordawn@gmail.com](mailto:assessordawn@gmail.com)

### FIRE & AMBULANCE

911 Emergency  
Fire Hall 231-267-5969  
[FireChief@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:FireChief@whitwatertownship.org)

### PARKS & RECREATION

Ranger Station - 231-267-5091

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Kim Mangus, Chair  
231-631-2326  
[manguspc@yahoo.com](mailto:manguspc@yahoo.com)

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Luann Snider, Chair  
231-883-3193  
[historical@whitwatertownship.org](mailto:historical@whitwatertownship.org)

### GT COUNTY RD COMM

231-922-4848

## Whitewater Township Fire Department News

It has been a very busy first half of 2022 for the Whitewater Township Fire Department. Our incidents are up 58% from this time last year and sadly our staffing level is down 28%. Many of the incidents this spring have been wildfire related due to the extremely dry conditions. Another reason is the fact that Whitewater Township is 54 square miles in size with 82% categorized as agricultural, open space and undeveloped State recreation land which increases our chances dramatically. In April and May of this year we have responded to 10 wildfires, 3 of which required the help of the DNR Fire Control Division. Please remember to check the burn permit status on the DNR website prior to burning. MDNR 866-922-2876 - [www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/)

On a positive note, we have been able to continue with updating and replacing older equipment. The Township has recently replaced the 13-year-old fire chief's vehicle with a new Ford F150 and also two new rescue snowmobiles that have replaced our existing 25-year-old sleds. This has been a combined effort of Township Board support along with overall fiscal responsibility as well as some grant funding.

Work still needs to be done though and budgeting has become very difficult lately. This fall the Fire Department and Township Board will be discussing some funding options which may include increasing the Fire Department SAD. In the meantime, we will continue to write grants to help fund some of the smaller projects. Below is a summary of a few local, state & federal grants that the fire department has been awarded since 2018.

Thank you for your continued support and be safe.

*Brandon Flynn* - Fire Chief



1	Fall 2018	GTB 2%	Extrication Equipment	\$27,600.00
2	Spring 2019	GTB 2%	Apparatus, Tanker	\$15,161.04
3	Fall 2019	GTB 2%	Cargo Trailer	\$7,125.00
4	Year 2019	DNR	Wildland Gear	\$3,360.00
5	Mar-2020	AAA	Extrication Equipment	\$12,000.00
6	Spring 2020	GTB 2%	CPR Training Equipment	\$1,805.52
7	Fall 2020	GTB 2%	Snowmobile X2	\$14,700.00
8	Jan- 2021	AFG	Regional-SCBA Air Pack	\$75,600.00
9	Spring 2021	GTB 2%	Thermal Imaging Camera	\$7,300.00
10	Jun- 2021	DNR	Two hose reels, Brush Truck	\$3,000.00
11	Fall 2021	GTB 2%	SCBA Air Compressor	\$20,000.00
12	Fall 2021	MTPP	Dash-Cams (4)	\$3,595.00
			TOTAL	\$191,246.56

**THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU!!!**

A hearty thank-you is in order to two great community minded organizations. Shoreline Power Services who completed the repair of the stadium lights at Hi Pray Park recently, saving the township \$3,767! And North West Arbor 809 of the Gleaner Life Insurance Company for their recent \$800 donation for beach sand at the playground area at Hi Pray Park! And thank you, also, to Melissa Melton for coordinating this donation! The township is very fortunate to have so many great community partners! Their investment in our community is very much appreciated.

**JULY 19, 2021 4:00 pm**

**BOARD OF  
REVIEW (JBOR)  
By Appointment**



***October 1st, Halloween Party in the Park***

Make your plans now for the Annual Halloween Campground Trick or Treating Party!

**Hosted by Whitewater Township Park,  
Fire Department and WESA**



## TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

### JULY 2022

7/04 Independence Day  
 7/06 Planning Commission  
 7/11 Park & Rec Committee  
 7/12 Township Board Meeting  
 7/19 July Board of Review (4pm)  
 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

### SEPTEMBER 2022

9/05 Labor Day  
 9/07 Planning Commission  
 9/12 Park & Rec Committee  
 9/13 Township Board Meeting  
 9/22 Zoning Board of Appeals

### OCTOBER 2022

10/01 Annual Halloween Party  
 10/05 Planning Commission  
 10/10 Park & Rec Committee  
 10/11 Township Board Meeting  
 10/27 Zoning Board of Appeals

### NOVEMBER 2022

11/02 Planning Commission  
 11/08 Election  
 11/14 Park & Rec Committee  
 11/15 Township Board Meeting  
 11/17 Zoning Board of Appeals  
 11/24 Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER 2022

12/07 Planning Commission  
 12/12 Park & Rec Committee  
 12/13 Township Board Meeting  
 12/15 Zoning Board of Appeals  
 12/25 Christmas Day

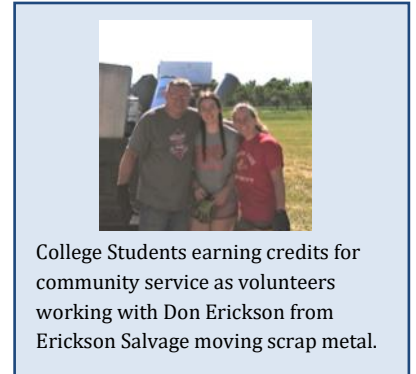
## 2022 Clean-Up Day - What A Success!



June 11th was Cleanup Day in Whitewater Township. From 8:00am to 12:00pm trucks and trailers were lined up waiting their turn as early as 7am. The Auxiliary provided refreshments for the early morning risers. Erickson Salvage hauled away 10 trailer loads of scrap metal and 81 tires were collected. Bay Area Disposal (BAD) compacted and

hauled away 33.05 tons of waste! This was our first year using Bay Area Disposal with containers vs trucks. As it turned out, everything went very well thanks to BAD's awesome crew! Thank you to all the volunteers that helped and citizens who participated in making this a successful event. These efforts by all are what help to

keep Whitewater Township clean! **Thank YOU!**



College Students earning credits for community service as volunteers working with Don Erickson from Erickson Salvage moving scrap metal.

## Parks & Recreation Update

**Thank you to all the volunteers and Gleaner** who sponsored our Hi Pray Park Clean-up Day on May 14<sup>th</sup>. We had many community members, Gleaner members, as well as the local Young Marines all working hard to fix fencing, weed, clean up fallen trees around the ball fields, spread sand for the playground, and spruce up the flower bed. The Parks & Rec Advisory Committee submitted a new 5-year plan earlier this spring, which was approved by the DNR, and will allow us to request grants for future projects. We continue to work on ways we can help improve our parks and trails. We wish you and your family a safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! **God Bless America!**

**You are encouraged to complete and return the enclosed survey created by the ARPA Survey Team led by Trustee Vollmuth**



Ardella M. Benak  
Treasurer



# Treasurer's Corner

## Normal Office Hours at the Township Hall:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, other days by appointment.

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



Lois MacLean  
Deputy Treasurer

**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, your 2022 application was mailed to you in May. If you would like a deferment form, please contact the Treasurer's office and we will be happy to provide one to you.

**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 with this.

*Ardella M. Benak*



## *Details, Details . . . from the Clerk/Parks & Recreation Administrator*

**Elections:** Reminder of the upcoming **August 2<sup>nd</sup> State and Local Primary**. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg. There is a sample ballot on the website.

If you wish to vote by absent voter ballot, you may request an application for a ballot by calling or emailing the clerk's office, 231-267-5141 x24 or [clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:clerk@whitewatertownship.org). Note: The application you will receive is for both the **August AND November** elections. If you wish to receive both ballots, you will need to **check both boxes on the form**.

If you are not on the Permanent Absent Voter list but would like to be, send an e-mail to [clerk@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:clerk@whitewatertownship.org). You can also request an absent voter ballot online through the state's Michigan Voter Information Center at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>. During the online process, you can request to be on the Permanent Absent Voter list. However, remember that even if you receive an AV application, if you decide you'd rather vote in person, simply destroy the application and show up at the polls on Election Day to cast your vote.

**Parks:** We find out every year that some of our residents are not aware of all the parks and other recreational opportunities available in Whitewater Township. Township-owned parks include Hi Pray Park, Whitewater Township Park, Battle Creek Natural Area, Lossie Road Nature Trail, and Petobego Natural Area, but there are many other opportunities available also. A great resource to find all recreational opportunities in the township is the Whitewater Township Recreation Plan 2021-2025. Find the plan on the township website at [https://www.whitewatertownship.org/uploads/2/1/9/6/21966412/whitewater\\_township\\_recreation\\_plan\\_2021-2025\\_final\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](https://www.whitewatertownship.org/uploads/2/1/9/6/21966412/whitewater_township_recreation_plan_2021-2025_final_with_appendices.pdf)

Happy Summer! Stay safe!

*Cheryl Goss*



## Supervisor - Ron Popp [Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org](mailto:Supervisor@whitewatertownship.org)

Happy Summer All,

We are working with GFL Environmental (the folks who service the recycling bins located at the Township Hall) once again this year to add a third collection day per week for the summer months. Currently the bins are emptied on Mondays, and Thursdays by late afternoon. This added collection day helps address the increase of usage during the summer months.

You should soon see a survey show up in your inbox or US Mail box regarding the ARPA funds the Township received. I hope you will take a few minutes to complete survey helping us understand what is important to you.

A new dust control vendor and product was used this year on the gravel roads. We hope this vendor and product will perform better than what has been used in the past. It is very expensive. Please send any comments regarding the application and effectiveness to [supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com](mailto:supervisorwhitewater@gmail.com) Your input will be used in future brining decisions.

Here is to a happy safe summer!

*Ron Popp*

Whitewater Township Supervisor





## Boating and fishing laws help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and make boat inspection for volunteers easier at boat launch sites.

When loading a boat onto a trailer, after spending a day on the water, it is the law that before trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull drain plugs, drain bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells and remove plants and debris from all watercraft and trailers. The DEQ also reminds anglers that it is unlawful to release baitfish in any waters of the state. Collecting fish as bait can only be done on an inland lake and used where it is caught. We all have a responsibility to help stop the spread of invasive species in our lakes.



### Remember After Each Outing:

- ◆ **INSPECT and CLEAN** your boats, trailers, and watersport gear
- ◆ **DRAIN** live wells, bilges, and compartments - pull all drain plugs
- ◆ **DRY** boats and gear to catch the unseen hitchhikers
- ◆ **DISPOSE** of plants and bait properly with every use, and remember anything caught and released goes back where you caught it

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer boat inspector at your lake, you can learn more about it from the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters website at [www.micbcw.org](http://www.micbcw.org).

### Fun Facts About the Elk River Chain of Lakes

- Elk Lake received its name from an elk skull with antlers attached found in the Elk River.
- "Skegemog" is an Algonquin word meaning "meeting of the waters."
- Elk Lake has a surface area of 8,088 acres and includes 25.8 miles of shoreline. The lake has a maximum depth of 192 feet and an average depth of 67 feet.
- Skegemog Lake (formerly known as Round Lake) has a surface area of 2,755 acres and includes 15 miles of shoreline. The lake has a maximum depth of 29 feet and an average depth of 11 feet.
- Elk and Skegemog Lakes are at the bottom of the Elk River watershed. The watershed extends from close to Lake Charlevoix all the way to Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Elk River in Elk Rapids.
- The Elk River watershed covers 320,000 acres and contains 54 lakes, 220 streams and tributaries, as well as 110 miles of connecting waterways. It is the largest watershed in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed.
- The Elk-Skegemog watershed is a 402 square mile portion of Antrim County, Grand Traverse County and Kalkaska County.
- The Elk Rapids area was first home to Native Americans known as the Anishinabek, who lived and played on its white sand beaches long before the first European settlers appeared.

### Nature Preserves On Our Lakes and Rivers

Many preserves exist on Elk and Skegemog Lakes. These were created over the years by the hard work and generosity of many donors. Large or small in size, each one represents a piece of our shoreline that will remain forever as it exists today. Many are best viewed by boat. Listed below are the existing natural areas on our lakes.

- \* Battle Creek Natural Area – 255 acres located at the south end of Elk Lake
- \* Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area – 3300 acres with 5.5 miles of shoreline along Skegemog Lake
- \* Palastra-Holm Nature Preserve – 19 acres on Elk Lake, just south of Whitewater Township Park
- \* North Skegemog Natural Preserve – 37 acres at the northwestern tip of the Elk/Skegemog narrows



## BE WISE



## DON'T FERTILIZE!

### *Fertilizers and a Slimy, Weedy Lakeshore Go Hand in Hand*

Consistent chemical fertilizer use virtually guarantees algae growth. If you feel you must fertilize, apply only what is needed based on your soil analysis and stay back at least 30' from the water's edge. There are no lake friendly fertilizers. Fertilizer means nutrients and excess nutrients are bad for all lakes. This year, try irrigating with lake water and mulching the lawn with grass clippings.

# FACT SHEET - AUGUST 2, 2022, BALLOT PROPOSAL

## INITIATION OF ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT ADULT-USE MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

### FACTS RELATED TO THE BALLOT PROPOSAL

- If successful, the ballot proposal would implement an ordinance that prohibits adult-use (“recreational”) marihuana establishments within the Township, overriding the current Township ordinance that allows such establishments.
- Ordinance No. 60 was adopted by the Whitewater Township Board on 12/08/2020, allowing certain recreational marihuana establishments in the township. Recreational marihuana became legal in Michigan with the passage of statewide Proposal 18-1 on November 6, 2018. Ordinance No. 60 is available online.
- The Township Board also adopted Ordinance No. 59 which allows medical marihuana facilities under the same regulations as Ordinance 60. The ballot proposal does not impact Ordinance 59 or medical marihuana.
- Per Ordinance No. 60, “*Marihuana Establishment*” or “*Establishment*” is a marihuana grower, marihuana safety compliance facility, marihuana processor, marihuana microbusiness, marihuana retailer, marihuana secure transporter, designated consumption establishment, excess marihuana grower, marihuana event organizer, temporary marihuana event license, or any other type of marihuana-related business licensed by the Cannabis Regulatory Agency of the State of Michigan.
- In order for a person or entity to operate a recreational marihuana establishment in Whitewater Township, they must obtain a license from the State of Michigan. They also must obtain a permit from the township.
- With the adoption of Ordinance No. 60, Whitewater Township allowed only two types of permits to be issued, marihuana grower and marihuana processor.
- The maximum number of recreational marihuana grower and processor permits allowed is:
  - ◆ a. Marihuana Grower Class A (not more than 100 plants): 20
  - ◆ b. Marihuana Grower Class B (not more than 500 plants): 20
  - ◆ c. Marihuana Grower Class C (not more than 2000 plants): 20
  - ◆ d. Marihuana processor: 5
  - ◆ e. All other types of recreational marihuana permits: Zero
- By “stacking” permits, a person or entity may apply for and receive more than one permit at a single location. For example, a person could have four Class A Growers, as well as a processor, at one location. The operator would have to pay for state licenses and local permits, but it would only be one location in the township.
- Recreational Grow and Process Establishments are generally located in agricultural and industrial zoning districts and Whitewater Township is in the process of adopting specific zoning regulations.
- Ordinance No. 60 requires that all growing and processing of recreational marihuana must take place indoors. No outside growing or processing is allowed.
- Applicants for recreational marihuana licenses must go through an extensive application process before being issued a license by the State of Michigan.
- Applicants for recreational marihuana permits must also go through an extensive application process at the township level and comply with all local ordinances and the special use permit process.
- Applicants must be re-licensed and re-permitted annually, and risk losing their license and/or permit if they are found to be in violation.

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

#### Initiation of Ordinance to Prohibit Adult-Use Marihuana Establishments

Shall Whitewater Township adopt a proposed initiated ordinance that completely prohibits adult-use (also known as “recreational”) marihuana establishments within the boundaries of Whitewater Township?

Yes

No

## FACT SHEET - AUGUST 2, 2022, BALLOT PROPOSAL

### AMBULANCE MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSED

#### FACTS RELATED TO THE BALLOT PROPOSAL

- ◆ Beginning in November 2015, Whitewater Township contracted with Mobile Medical Response (MMR) to provide Advanced Life Support ambulance service to the township, staffed at the paramedic level, stationed in the township 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- ◆ In November 2021, Whitewater Township negotiated a 2-year contract renewal with MMR, which called for no increase in the annual cost to provide Advanced Life Support service to Whitewater Township. In exchange for no cost increase, Whitewater Township now partners with Acme Township and MMR to provide ALS service, and the ambulance unit is shared between the two townships on a 50/50 basis, i.e., 12 hours per day in Acme, 12 hours per day in Whitewater.
- ◆ With the new contract, there was no change in the contractual response time (12:59 minutes on 80% of the calls).
- ◆ MMR continues to provide other services in the township on request, i.e., community CPR training, medical standby services for events happening in Whitewater Township, such as the Iceman and VASA races, etc.
- ◆ In calendar year 2021, MMR transported 164 patients, with an 89.39% contractual response time compliance.
- ◆ In the same time period, MMR achieved a 93.86% patient satisfaction score on surveys sent by an independent company to persons receiving service (total of 54 surveys returned).
- ◆ Through shared resources for billing, fleet maintenance and compliance, MMR is able to pass on cost savings to communities they serve and reduce administrative burdens to townships. A sustainable model of operation has been achieved through cooperation with Acme Township.
- ◆ Whitewater Township continues to be held harmless and indemnified by MMR from any and all claims of liability arising from MMR's performance or non-performance.
- ◆ MMR is a non-profit organization operating since 1994.

### OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

#### Ambulance Millage Proposed – August 2, 2022 Ballot

Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Whitewater Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan, of 1.4929 mills (\$1.4929 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 1.4544 mills (\$1.4544 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed and levied at 1.4346 mills (\$1.4346 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of four (4) years, 2022 through 2025, inclusive, for operating and maintaining ambulance service, raising an estimated \$355,496 in 2022?

Yes

No