



3848 VETERANS DRIVE / TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684  
 (231) 941-1620 / FAX: (231) 941-1588  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com) ~ updated frequently!

SPRING 2016

# Garfield

## Charter Township

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

### TOWNSHIP HOURS

Monday —Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED FRIDAYS

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\***

Tax payment receipts will only be sent upon request or if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with payment.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

- CHUCK KORN.....SUPERVISOR
- LANIE McMANUS.....CLERK
- JEANE BLOOD LAW.....TREASURER
- BOB FEATHERSTONE.....TRUSTEE
- DENISE SCHMUCKAL.....TRUSTEE
- KIT WILSON.....TRUSTEE
- MOLLY AGOSTINELLI.....TRUSTEE

### STAFF

- HILARY ALPERS.....ASSESSING CLERK  
AND TREASURER'S ASSISTANT
- JUDY BATTLE.....ADMIN. ASSISTANT
- AMY DEHAAN.....ASSESSOR
- RICH DERKS.....BUILDING INSPECTOR
- SARA KOPRIVA.....ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
- ROB LARREA.....PLANNING DIRECTOR
- CHLOE MACOMBER.....DEPUTY TREASURER
- BILL MOUSER.....FACILITIES MANAGER
- SUE MUHA.....APPRAISER
- DOROTHY PETROSKEY.....OFFICE COORDINATOR
- THOM SCHMUCKAL.....ZONING CODE  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
- KRISTEN STEGER.....ASSISTANT ASSESSOR
- CARL STUDZINSKI.....BUILDING OFFICIAL
- BETTY TEZAK.....DEPUTY CLERK
- BRIAN VANDENBRAND.....DEPUTY PLANNER

### TOWNSHIP RECOGNITION

#### 2015 Roger Williams Planner Award

Garfield Township's Deputy Planner, Brian VanDenBrand, was the recipient of the 2015 Roger Williams Planner Award for his vision and achievements in park planning and non-motorized trails. Brian successfully collaborated with surrounding municipalities, TART and other entities to expand, connect, and implement non-motorized trails in and around our community. In addition to his trail planning efforts he has obtained over \$2,500,000.00 in grants for the expansion and improvements to our non-motorized trail and park system. Brian's efforts have increased our parks system by more than 120 acres of land since 2012, the majority of which is located along the Boardman River and Miller Creek and preserved for current and future anglers, kayakers and hikers to enjoy. Congratulations Brian and thank you for your efforts!

#### TART Trail

Garfield Township was named this year's TART Trails' Community Partner for our efforts in planning, developing, and maintaining non-motorized trails, including the Historic Barns Trail (grant funded and constructed in 2013), Buffalo Ridge Trail (grant funded and to be constructed in 2016), and the Boardman Lake and Boardman River Trail (recent recipient of Coastal Zone Management for planning and Trust Fund dollars for trailhead development). Each of these trails are part of a growing network of regional trails, and intended to provide recreation and alternate transportation opportunities to our residents, visitors, and workers.

#### eCities Recognition

Each year, the University of Michigan-Dearborn completes a survey of local governmental units across the State of Michigan. The purpose of the survey is to track economic development efforts and allow municipal governments to evaluate their performance relative to other communities. Communities that achieve high overall rankings, comprising the top 10% of Michigan communities for business, are awarded status as a Star Community. Garfield Township has been participating in the eCities survey and program since at least 2009.

The Township was recognized as a 4-Star Community by the Star Report based on the top six factors relative to business attraction and retention. It should be noted that many of the top six factors for business attraction and retention are policy driven decisions of the Township. Such factors continue to be at the forefront of our thoughts as we move forward with overall Township policy decisions, including zoning ordinance standards and regulations. Careful attention to the decisions we make as a Township, including the impacts those decisions have on our business community, will serve us well both now and into the future as economic conditions in this area and the State continue to evolve.

### FROM THE TREASURER

**JEANE BLOOD LAW**

It is the time of year to file income tax returns. Are you missing your property tax information? Look up your info on our website: [www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com) Click on the green box that says "Click Here for Property Info". If you still need to pay your 2015 property taxes, you can do that on the website too. Tax payments will be accepted at the Township until Monday February 29, 2016. After that date, all real property taxes still owing will be sent to the Grand Traverse County Treasurer and will need to be paid at their office on Boardman Ave. Our website is available to provide you with tax info 24 hours a day conveniently from the comfort of your home. Your first time accessing your information, you will need to create a user name and password. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.

## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. It can occur when a criminal steals personal identifying information such as name, birth date, Social Security number or your mother's maiden name and uses it for their own gain. These thefts can occur through lost or stolen credit or debit cards, non-secure online transactions, personal information recovered from your garbage and stolen mail from your mailbox. Please visit the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office website at [www.gtsheriff.org](http://www.gtsheriff.org) for important tips on how you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim to fraud.

## FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

LANIE MCMANUS

Attention Registered Voters: 2016 offers each registered voter an opportunity to vote three (3) times this year. The first election March 8, 2016 is the Presidential Primary. The State Primary is held on August 2, 2016 and the State General Election is held on November 8, 2016. Remember to bring your photo ID with you to the polls. If you would like to be placed on the permanent absentee voter list, register to vote, or are uncertain as to the location of your voting precinct, please access the Township website and visit the Clerk's page under Services and Departments—or contact the Clerk's office at 231.941.1620 and we will be happy to mail you the necessary forms. Lastly, we are always looking for Election Inspectors. If this is something that interests you, we can send you an Election Inspector Application.

## NO CHARGE YARD WASTE PASS

Garfield Township residents can pick up a no charge yard waste pass at the Township Hall during regular business hours. A valid ID is required to verify Garfield Township residence status. The pass is good for one trip with a load of up to three (3) cubic yards of acceptable material brought to the GT County Keystone Brush Drop-Off Site located at 2471 N. Keystone Rd. Acceptable material for this pass includes: brush, branches (up to 12 inches in diameter) leaves and grass clippings. The no charge pass is only valid for dropping off acceptable material at the Brush Drop-Off: **Dates and times have yet to be determined. Keep an eye on our website for these dates and times to be posted.**

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The property tax system was constitutionally instituted early in Michigan's Statehood history and provides funding for education and local government. This system relies on the determination of Fair Market Value. In order to maintain the integrity of the system, routine property visits are necessary. These visits may be made by any of three different agencies that provide a constitutional check-and-balance in the maintenance of our property tax system.

**The local Assessor** is responsible for making a value determination for each parcel every year. A mass appraisal system in which building values are based on a construction cost manual, and modified by similar sold properties, is used to accomplish this task. The costs that are used for the building values require an *outside* perimeter measurement of the buildings. This mass appraisal system relies on property visits that accurately catalog the property's land and building attributes (record card review).

**The County Equalization Department (CED)** is responsible for determining proper overall assessment levels for each unit in each class of property within the county. Equalization studies are used each year to make these determinations. These studies also require property visits, using sold properties, and/or Equalization appraisals on random samples selected each year. Value conclusions are made using the same cost manual and procedures that Assessors are required to use.

**The State Tax Commission (STC)** through the Property Services Division (PSD) monitors both the Assessor and the CED throughout the yearly assessment cycle. Random property visits may be conducted by PSD staff in the monitoring process that leads to the STC determination of State Equalized Value (SEV). Value conclusions are made using the same cost manual and procedures used by the Assessors and CED. These routine property visits by any of these agencies depend on the participation of the property owner. The property tax system relies on a three tiered check-and-balance process requiring routine property visits to maintain its integrity. As a property owner, you may choose whether to participate. Simply write or email us stating your request. We hope you will participate, because accurate cataloging of a property's land and building attributes for the record is beneficial to the property owner, and essential to the property tax system.

## BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Garfield Township is always looking for residents to serve on various Boards and Commissions. If this is something that interests you, please send a letter of interest to the Township office. These are paid positions and offer you an opportunity to serve your community.



## 2016 BOARD MEETINGS

March—8th & 22th  
 April—12th & 26th  
 May—10th & 24th  
 June—14th & 28th  
 July—12th & 26th  
 August—9th & 23rd

All meetings begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. upstairs in the Township Hall. Meeting agendas, minutes and video can be viewed on the Township website.



Now accepting VISA, MasterCard, Discover & American Express!

Make your Tax Payments with credit card OR debit card by going online to the Township website: [www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

All credit card or debit card payments are subject to a 3% convenience fee. Payment services provided by Point & Pay, LLC

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Township offices will be closed for the observance of the following holidays:

Memorial Day—May 30, 2016  
 Independence Day—July 4, 2016  
 Labor Day—Sept. 5, 2016  
 Veterans Day—Nov. 10, 2016  
 Thanksgiving Day—Nov. 24, 2016

## PARK RESERVATIONS

It's not too early to book your park reservations for the Summer. Applications can be downloaded from our website or picked up from the reception desk at the Township Hall.