



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

SUMMER 2013

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
KAY SCHUMACHER.....CLERK
JEANE BLOOD.....TREASURER
BOB FEATHERSTONE.....TRUSTEE
DENISE SCHMUCKAL.....TRUSTEE
KIT WILSON.....TRUSTEE
MOLLY AGOSTINELLI.....TRUSTEE

STAFF

THERESE O'BRIEN...DEPUTY TREASURER
LANIE MC MANUS.....DEPUTY CLERK
SUSAN YOUNKER.....RECEPTIONIST
JUDY BATTLE.....ADMIN. ASSISTANT
AMY DEHAAN.....ASSESSOR
KRISTEN STEGER.....ASST. ASSESSOR
SUE MUHA.....APPRAISER
HILARY ALPERS.....ASSESSING CLERK
AND TREASURER'S ASSISTANT
CARL STUDZINSKI.....BUILDING OFFICIAL
RICH DERKS.....BUILDING INSPECTOR
ROB LARREA.....PLANNING DIRECTOR
BRIAN VANDENBRAND....DEP. PLANNER
JIM REARDON...ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
THOM SCHMUCKAL.....ZONING CODE
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

STATE OF MICHIGAN CONDUCTING HOMESTEAD AUDITS



The MI Dept. of Treasury in conjunction with local municipalities, conducts yearly audits in accordance with State tax law to ensure that only those persons who are eligible for a PRE (Primary Residence Exemption or Homestead Exemption) receive the exemption. Your Primary Residence or Homestead is the place where you have your permanent home. It is the place to which you plan to return whenever you go away. You must be the owner AND occupant for at least six months out of the calendar year; it must be the address that shows on your driver's license; and you must file your income taxes from this address. If these conditions are met, you may qualify for an exemption of 18 school operating mills on your summer tax bill each year. Each tax bill you receive, and the assessment change notice you receive each March, shows what percentage of PRE you currently receive. For most homeowners, this is 100%. It is the homeowner's responsibility to verify that this percentage is correct. If you receive an audit letter from the State, the questionnaire must be completed and returned within 30 days, so do not delay. If you have general PRE questions or would like to verify the current PRE status of your property, call our Assessing Department.

ROAD MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Be it State, County or local Township, virtually everyone agrees that something needs to be done to fix our roads, but the Legislature has been struggling to find the right solution. Locally, the Grand Traverse County Road Commission has limited funds in the budget to maintain county roads. They meet on a regular basis with township officials to help determine road maintenance and construction priorities. Decisions are made on which road projects will be completed by using the asset management process, traffic patterns, network considerations and funding availability. In Garfield Township, we are currently working together on routine maintenance issues. These include crack sealing, pothole patching, pavement marking, and sign & signal upgrades.

The Road Commission will now match contributions up to 50% for local road improvement costs. Along with that, Garfield Township will contribute 25% of improvement costs, leaving the remaining 25% to be paid by property owners in the affected area. To assist property owners, the Township will offer to finance owner portions through a special assessment district at a low interest rate. Owners would then make payments to the Township over a period of time through annual installments. There are limited funds available for these projects and preference is given to roads in the poorest condition. Requests should be made to Township Supervisor, Chuck Korn. Contact him at (231) 941-1620 or by email to: ckorn@garfield-twp.com



The Chip Seal coating on this GT County road will extend the life of the pavement for several years.

SUMMER TAX DEFERMENTS AVAILABLE

If you are 62 years of age or older, and/or totally disabled, and your gross household income was not over \$40,000 during the preceding calendar year, you may qualify for a deferment of your summer taxes. This makes the summer taxes for your primary residence due on February 14, 2014, instead of September 14, 2013, which will give you more time to make payments with no late interest. If you think you may qualify, you must complete the application available at the Treasurer's office before Sept. 14th. If you have any questions, contact the Treasurer's office as soon as possible. Winter deferments may be obtained at the GT County Treasurer's office.

POSSIBLE NEW PRECINCT LOCATION

The large turnout for the 2012 presidential election and the long lines at the voting polls has prompted the township to investigate separating the larger precincts. Some residents have requested re-locating Precinct 1 from the current location at the First Congregational Church to the new Fire Station on East Silver Lake Road. If your voting precinct changes, you will receive notification by mail.

As a reminder to the residents who vote by Permanent Absentee Ballot, your application will not transfer to your new address when you move. If you have moved since the last time you voted, please call the Clerk's office and make sure you are on the permanent AV list, or fill out the application online at our website: www.garfield-twp.com

Your Clerk,
Kay Schumacher

RecycleSmart

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
RECYCLESMArt HOTLINE 941.5555

LEARN WHERE TO RECYCLE

Air Conditioners	Microwaves	Telephones
Appliances	Monitors	Televisions
Bicycles	Motor Oil	Tires
Brake Fluid	Pesticides	Typewriters
Cameras	Power Tools	VCR's
Carpeting	Printers	VHS Tapes and more...
Cell Phones	Propane Tanks	
CFL Bulbs	Radios	
Computers	Sharps	
Concrete	Stereos	
EyeGlasses		
Fax Machines		
Florescent Bulbs		
Flower Pots		
Ink Cartridges		
Medications		



VISIT THE TAKE IT BACK WEBSITE LINK

WWW.RECYCLESMArt.INFO

PARKS & RECREATION

Once spring finally came this year, crews got back to work at the Silver Lake Recreation Area to finish last year's projects, including an irrigation system, additional parking near the tennis courts, and a new multi-purpose sports field. The covered picnic pavilion nearest to the tennis courts will not be available for reservation use this year, due to construction involving and occurring around that area.

To keep the momentum going, we've applied for grant funding for the next improvements to the park. If successful, the grant would fund renovations to the playgrounds, t-ball field, a new "outdoor gym" for adults, sidewalks throughout the park, new nature trails, additional pavilions, a storage building, pickleball courts, lots of trees, and more! If approved, look for late 2014 or 2015 construction of these amenities.

We've also applied for grant funding to acquire property along Keystone Road, which would be developed as a community park to serve our residents on the east side of town.

ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

We would like to remind residents and businesses who are disposing of old or unwanted items, to please remember to place or store such items inside a building until they are properly removed. Per Junk Ordinance No. 46, items such as parts of machinery, appliances, unwanted building materials, or any other unwanted items are prohibited from being stored outdoors. Please contact the Zoning Dept. if you have any questions pertaining to storing junk material, as we want to help continue to protect people and our environment.

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

We are preparing for summer fieldwork. You may have received a postcard indicating that we will be visiting your home. This visit is to verify the information on the record card for your property. We are required to review 20% of each property class annually—that means your property should be visited at least once every five years.

Some properties will be visited more often, depending on if any building permits have been requested, or if you have recently purchased the property. Our job is to verify the property information, check dimensions and descriptions of each building, and ensure that the sketch in our files is accurate, as well as update the photographs. Our goal is to make sure your property's record card is correct. This will help us to make certain that the property is not over-assessed.

You may see Township staff walking around properties in your neighborhood. They will be carrying clipboards, measuring devices and cameras. Remember that they are from the Assessor's office. They are doing their jobs, ensuring that all properties in Garfield Township are listed correctly. If you are at home when they stop, please be willing to answer their questions. You can help to make sure that they have accurate information, so that your property will be valued correctly.



2013 BOARD MEETINGS

July—9th & 23rd
 August—13th & 27th
 September—10th & 24th
 October—8th & 22nd
 November—12th & 26th
 December—10th

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 make your Tax Payments by credit card OR debit card!

Pay online at the Township website:
www.garfield-twp.com

All credit card payments are subject to a 2.5% payment processing fee. All debit cards are subject to a \$3.95 payment processing fee per transaction.

Payment services provided by Fifth Third Processing Solutions

HOLIDAY HOURS

Township offices will be closed for the observance of the following federal holidays:
 Independence Day—July 4, 2013
 Labor Day—Sept. 2, 2013
 Veterans Day—Nov. 11, 2013
 Thanksgiving Day—Nov. 28 2013

SENIOR FOOT CARE

Comfort Keepers now provides monthly foot care at the Twp hall. It will be on the THIRD Tuesday each month from 9am to 12pm. You get the same great service from foot care specialist, Pat. An appointment is required. Call Susan at 941-1620.