



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

WINTER 2017

Garfield

Charter Township

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

TOWNSHIP HOURS

Monday —Thursday

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

CLOSED FRIDAYS

HOLIDAY HOURS

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

Christmas — Dec. 25th & 26th

New Years — Jan. 1st

Martin Luther King Jr. — Jan. 15th

Presidents' Day — Feb. 19th

Memorial Day — May 28th

ELECTED OFFICIALS

CHUCK KORN.....SUPERVISOR

JEANE BLOOD LAW.....TREASURER

LANIE McMANUS.....CLERK

MOLLY AGOSTINELLI.....TRUSTEE

STEVE DUELL.....TRUSTEE

DENISE SCHMUCKAL.....TRUSTEE

DAN WALTERS.....TRUSTEE

STAFF

HILARY ALPERS.....APPRAISER

JUDY BATTLE.....ADMIN. ASSISTANT

AMY DEHAAN.....ASSESSOR

RICH DERKS.....BUILDING INSPECTOR

MICHAEL GREEN.....ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

BRAD HEIKKILA.....APPRAISER

ROB LARREA.....PLANNING DIRECTOR

CHLOE MACOMBER.....DEPUTY TREASURER

BILL MOUSER.....FACILITIES MANAGER

ERIK PERDONIK.....DEPUTY PLANNER

DOROTHY PETROSKY...PLANNING/BUILDING ASST.

THOM SCHMUCKAL.....CODE ENFORCEMENT

AMY SIMON.....OFFICE COORDINATOR

CARL STUDZINSKI.....BUILDING OFFICIAL

BETTY TEZAK.....DEPUTY CLERK

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

Just as a reminder, if the true cash value of your business' personal property is under \$80,000, you may qualify for a personal property tax exemption. If you meet the requirements and complete the affidavit (form #5076) you will be exempt from paying 2018 personal property taxes. This affidavit will be mailed to you from our assessing department in January and will need to be returned to our office no later than February 10th, 2018. If you do not receive it in the mail you can obtain a copy on our website or through our assessing department. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact our assessing department at 941-1620 Ext 211.

Also, to get this exemption you must complete the affidavit each year.

PARKS & RECREATION

Things have been very busy in the Garfield Township Planning Department as we have just finalized draft versions of two important plans: a new Township Comprehensive (Master) Plan to guide growth and development in the Township for the next five years and beyond, and an updated Township Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide parkland acquisition and development in the Township's parks system. The Parks and Recreation Plan contains two new sections that are particularly exciting. The first is a development plan for a new community park called River East Recreation Area on the east side of the Township along Keystone Road between Hammond and South Airport Roads. A walking loop, picnic pavilions, a playground, and a dog park are planned for this park among other facilities. The second is a development plan for a property at the northernmost part of the Commons Natural Area off of Long Lake Road. A paved pump track, picnic areas, open space, among other facilities are planned for this deed restricted property.

As the Planning Department moves forward with formally adopting the two plans, the draft versions will be available on the Township's website. As the process proceeds, there will be public hearings coming up discussing the plans at the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and Township Board that residents are free to attend and offer their input. Please visit the Township website for meeting dates and agendas.

PARTNERING FOR PARKS-FROM THE REC AUTHORITY

It's hard to believe, but the joint Recreational Authority formed by the township and the City of Traverse City celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2018! The two governments collaborated to create the Recreational Authority in 2003 with an eye on turning three private properties into public parks. After a successful millage in 2004 — passed 3-to-1 by voters in both jurisdictions — those three lands became Historic Barns Park, Hickory Meadows, and part of the Open Space on West Grand Traverse Bay (the former Smith Barney property). A lot has happened with the three parks since 2004, and there is a lot more to come. The Recreational Authority's Board of Directors is taking a little time to look back and look ahead. Upcoming editions of this newsletter will feature some history, current updates and future plans for the Recreational Authority, including ways in which you can get involved. In the meantime, get out and enjoy all of the great parks in our community!

WELCOME AMY

We would like to **WELCOME AMY SIMON** to Garfield Township's staff. Amy is our new Office Coordinator. She is married and has three children. Amy previously worked for Smith, Haughey, Rice and Roegge for many years. Stop in and meet Amy and welcome her to Garfield Township.

FROM METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT - SAFETY FIRST

As we know, each season brings with it new risks. Though some of us may not want to admit it, winter gave us a preview on Halloween morning when our lawns were blanketed with snow! This prompted many to turn on the furnace for the first time (while some of us just cranked it up a notch), some hauled in and started the first load of fire wood, while still others made sure that their generators were in working order before winter hits us hard. **Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department** wants all our residents to skate through winter with no inconveniences other than having to occasionally shovel the walk or scrape some ice off the windshields! That's why we ask that you share and discuss the following safety reminders with your household members, family and friends. And now... Let it snow!

HEATING:

Have your furnace inspected each year and keep all combustibles at a safe distance. Make sure space heaters are turned off before you go to bed or leave the room. Ensure that the space heater has an auto shut off in case it tips over. Nothing that is flammable/combustible should be within 3 feet of the heater. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year, keep your wood stove doors closed unless tending to the fire, and keep anything that can burn a minimum of 3 feet away.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO):

Make sure all vents (dryer, furnace, stove, fireplace) are clear of snow or other blocking materials. Use portable generators outdoors in ventilated areas away from all home doors, windows and vents. Have your furnace inspected each year. Install CO alarms in your home in a central location, outside of all sleeping areas and on all levels for early detection. Warm your vehicle outside of the garage and be sure there is no snow blocking the exhaust.

ELECTRICAL:

Plug only one heat producing appliance (space heater, coffee maker, curling iron, etc...) into a wall outlet at a time. Never use an extension cord with a heat producing appliance. Do not tuck cords under carpets or rugs. Be sure light bulbs are the proper wattage for the appliance in which you are using them.

Do you need your smoke alarms checked or the batteries changed? Request help from our duty crews here: <https://www.gtmetrofire.org/public-education/safe-neighborhood-campaign/>

FROM YOUR CLERK - NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT!

There is excitement in the Clerk's office, with the arrival of our new election equipment. Following extensive study and testing, Grand Traverse County chose the equipment offered by Election Systems & Software, INC.; one of three options provided by the State of Michigan. The equipment was delivered the end of September and was tested locally at that time. Clerks from Grand Traverse County will all receive further training in the next couple of months, after which we will hold trainings for our election workers. The new equipment will be used in the next election held in Garfield Township, and we hope that all of our voters will be as excited about the new equipment as we are.

Be sure to check www.garfield-tvp.com for opportunities to see the new tabulator and how it works.

RESOURCE RECOVERY - GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Garfield Township Residents! Have we got a scoop for you! Go to the Grand Traverse County Website and find the Recycle Smart Page. Residents of Grand Traverse County can learn where and how to reuse, recycle, compost or properly dispose of just about anything with the new, easy to use format for the RecycleSmart **Take It Back Recycling Directory**. You can type in any item and they will tell you who takes what and where! Make it your bookmark today!

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Before placing or replacing signs, please contact the Zoning Department or review the Garfield Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 630. In addition, did you know that temporary signs that are placed in the ground (i.e., Help Wanted, Special events, Sales) are not allowed in Garfield Township? These signs will be removed by the township. Visit our website to access our zoning ordinance. If you have any questions please call Mike Green at 231.941.1620.

The Township Board is always looking for residents to serve on various boards and commissions. Please send a letter of interest to the Township Supervisor at the township hall if this is something you might be interested in. Get involved in your community!

PARK RESERVATIONS

It's not too early to book your park reservations for 2018.

Applications can be downloaded from our website or picked up from the reception desk at the Township

We would like to Congratulate Cherry Capital Foods, North Bay Produce, and Ridges 45 for receiving the Outstanding Development Award from Grand Traverse County Planning and the Grand Traverse County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association, at the 32nd annual awards Banquet. Congratulations to Carol Hale who accepted the placemaking award on behalf of the Joint Planning Commission for the Grand Traverse Commons Zoning Ordinance.

The Township Board meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

The Planning Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on an as needed basis on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meet the first Monday of each Month at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings take place at the Garfield Township Hall unless stated otherwise on the agenda.