



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

SUMMER 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:

Independence Day — July. 4th

Labor Day — Sept. 4th

Veterans Day — Nov. 9th

Thanksgiving — Nov. 23rd

Christmas — Dec. 25th & 26th

New Years — Jan. 1st

ELECTED OFFICIALS

CHUCK KORN.....SUPERVISOR

LANIE McMANUS.....CLERK

JEANE BLOOD LAW.....TREASURER

MOLLY AGOSTINELLI.....TRUSTEE

STEVE DUELL.....TRUSTEE

DENISE SCHMUCKAL.....TRUSTEE

DAN WALTERS.....TRUSTEE

STAFF

HILARY ALPERS.....INTER DEPT ASSISTANT

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.....OFFICE COORDINATOR

THOM SCHMUCKAL.....CODE ENFORCEMENT

CARL STUDZINSKI.....BUILDING OFFICIAL

BETTY TEZAK.....DEPUTY CLERK

FROM THE TREASURER

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, 2018, instead of September 14, 2017, which will give you more time to make payments with no late interest. If you have qualified in the past you will be receiving an application in the mail around July 1st, 2017. If you think you may qualify and did not receive an application in the mail, applications are available at the Treasurer's office. If you have any questions, contact the Treasurer's Office as soon as possible at 231.225-3168 or 231.225-3043. Winter deferments may be obtained at the GT County Treasurer's office.

PARKS & RECREATION

It is that time of year again to dust off the hiking boots and hit the parks! The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) will be updating the Master Plan this year with emphasis on the Silver Lake Recreational Area (SLRA), Boardman Valley Nature Preserve, Miller Creek and more.

The PRC will be updating the SLRA plan this spring/summer so be ready to bring us your vision for our most active park!

The Boardman Valley Nature Preserve (located behind the YMCA at Logan's Landing) will begin construction this fall on the new pickle ball courts, pathways, ADA compliant kayak launch, parking area, and toilets. We would like to thank Rotary Charities, Traverse Area Pickleball Association, Prein & Newhof and of course the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund for helping make this project a reality.

Improvements to the Miller Creek Nature Preserve (located behind Aldi's & Planet Fitness) will soon be on their way with the construction of a new boardwalk and a new timber fishing platform for kids of all ages to enjoy!

The Buffalo Ridge Trail was completed in the Fall of 2016 and would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance from the Oleson Foundation, Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, TART, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. To add to the excitement, a new connector path will soon be constructed from Kids Creek Park (behind Kohl's) to the Buffalo Ridge Trail south of the new YMCA, a special thank you to the Traverse City Track Club Endowment for making that happen. Last but not least, a shout out to West Middle School, GT Stewardship Initiative and TART on creating information signs along the Buffalo Ridge Trail!

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS- FROM THE ROAD COMMISSION

Did you know we work with townships to help improve subdivision, gravel and local low volume roads? While the majority of the road millage funds are used to improve connector-type roads that serve higher traffic volumes, our Board sets aside general funds for partnership projects. This includes gravel road improvement, special assessment district and local road preservation projects. These are generally resident initiated and driven to improve the roads in their own neighborhood. Call us at [922-4848](tel:922-4848) and we can explain the process to get you started. Your township will work with the road commission and assist with the financial and legal aspects.

NO CHARGE WASTE PASS

Garfield Township offers free Brush passes twice a year for Township residents to take their leaves and debris to the Grand Traverse County Keystone Brush Drop Off Site. One pass per parcel! Check with us in the Fall for specific dates!

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Traditionally, people think of the Assessor as the "tax man." While this office is responsible for determining property values, it does NOT levy or collect taxes - contrary to popular belief. Michigan Law governs the assessor's job.

<p>The basic responsibilities of the Assessor's Office include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating all taxable property in the township • Inventory all taxable property on the assessment roll • Determine ownership of all taxable property • Annually assess all real estate in accordance with Michigan Law • Establish a value for all property subject to taxation • List the value of all property on the assessment roll • Apply all legal exemptions • Maintain and update assessor's maps • Provide property information for government, property owners and the business community • Performs business personal property audits and values all taxable personal property 	<p>The Assessor's Office does NOT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine millage rates • Compute property tax bills • Collect tax payments • Establish property tax laws • Set rules by which property is appraised
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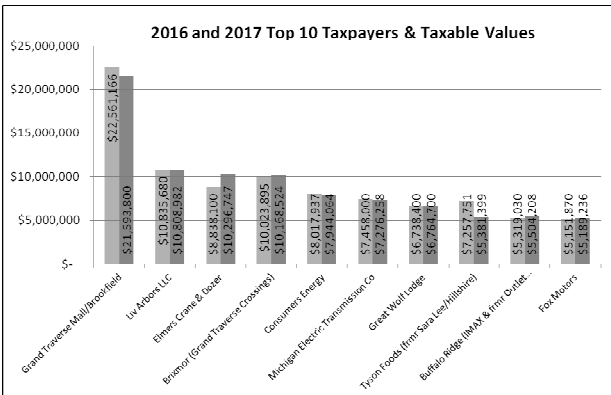
WHATS NEW IN GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

In January of this year, long time Deputy Planner and Parks Director Brian Vandenbrand took on a new role for Peninsula Township as their Planning Director. Brian was instrumental in seeking out grants for our parks department and accomplished so much in his eight years with Garfield Township! We want to thank Brian for all his hard work and we wish him well. We recently hired Erik Perdonik to assume the role of Deputy Planner for the Garfield Township Planning Department. Eric comes to us from Ann Arbor and is excited about his new adventure. If you get a chance stop by and say hello.

Congratulations to our Deputy Treasurer, Chloe Macomber, and her husband Brady on the birth of their first child Ellorie Mae, who was born on March 28th and weighed in at 10 pounds 2 ounces! Welcome Ellorie to the Garfield Township

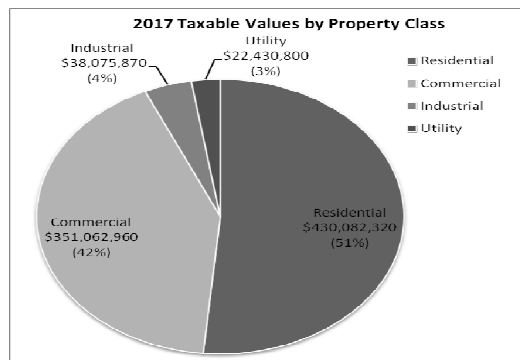
We would like to say goodbye to Sue Muha after (18 years) and Kristen Steger (5 years) from the assessing office. Sue will be working for Elmira Township and Kristen accepted a job with the State of Michigan. We wish them the best of luck in their new adventures. Stop by and welcome Brad Heikkila who has joined the assessing office. Brad is a certified MAAO(3) and comes to us from Gwinn, Michigan. The assessing department is committed to providing you with the exceptional service and assistance you have become accustomed to.

2017 TOP TEN & TAXABLE VALUES



Once again, the Grand Traverse Mall has the township's highest taxable value. The Arbors remained 2nd by completing their apartment expansion during 2016. Team Elmer's moved up the list again this year from #4 in 2016 to #3 in 2017 (they were at #9 in 2015). Tyson Foods continued to slide downward in its ranks due to the Eligible Manufacturing personal property exemption. The other seven (7) companies remain on the list from last year, though their positions may have changed.

The combined taxable value of commercial, industrial and utility (CIU) property now is only slightly less (1.5%) than the taxable value of all residential property. While housing values continue to climb, commercial and industrial property has kept pace with the residential market. Even with expanded exemptions on industrial personal property, new construction and rehabilitation of commercial properties has offset that loss.



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 some thing you might be interested in. Get involved in your community!



It has recently come to our attention that building additions and changes of use are occurring in Garfield Township without first seeking a permit. What you may not be aware is some of these weekend projects require a building permit and possibly a land use permit. Please contact the Garfield Township Building /Zoning Department prior to any remodeling, converting space into living area or erecting any accessory buildings. Failure to do so, may require removal of the improvement until proper permits are obtained.

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 4 times per year, usually in January, April, July and October on the first Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings take place at the Garfield Township Hall unless stated otherwise on the agenda. We welcome your participation!