



WATERTOWN

— charter township —

Volume 31 Issue 2

Late Summer 2017

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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

**Township Offices
Closed:**

**Thursday, November 23
Friday, November 24**

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP ROADS ARE IMPROVING

JOHN MAAHS, TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR | JENNIFER TUBBS, TOWNSHIP MANAGER
DONNA CASE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

You may have noticed the cones and barrels around the township marking the road construction and maintenance season. The township continues to take a very active role in the improvement and maintenance of our local roads. Last year, the township focused on the maintenance of several local paved roads. This year, the focus has been on replacing culverts and improving gravel roads.

In 2016, the township experimented with a new chloriding process on our gravel roads. 2016 turned out to be an excellent test year given the dry summer conditions. This summer has been the second full season implementing this new chloride application technique. The new method includes a multi-step process of grading and applying chloride over several days. The township has received only one dust complaint since the beginning of the new process, and several residents have complimented the roads and appreciated how long the new application lasts. This new process reduces the cost of chloride by \$10,000 to \$30,000, depending on how many applications are needed.

The township continues to look at new and more economical ways to meet the needs of the roads and is currently exploring other options to improve our paved roads.

PROTECT THE LOOKING GLASS WATERSHED

KERRY ORR, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE LOOKING GLASS

The Friends of the Looking Glass River would like to encourage homeowners on the river to practice environmentally friendly leaf disposal. Leaves that decompose in the river feed unwanted algae growth. This leads to depriving oxygen from fish and native plants. Therefore, please do not put leaves into the river.

Options for leaf disposal include bagging leaves for curb side pick up if available, transporting them to a designated yard waste recycling center, using them for mulch in your garden, or consider composting them.

We appreciate everyone's help to protect the Looking Glass River Watershed.

ELECTION INSPECTORS NEEDED

DEB ADAMS, TOWNSHIP CLERK | CHRISTY SOCHAY, DEPUTY CLERK

Election Inspectors are needed for 2018. We do not have an election in November of this year, but we will have a minimum of two elections in 2018: an August primary and a November general election. We may or may not have an election in May, 2018.

We need additional people to work the elections. Being an election inspector is a fun and satisfying way to give back to your community. We pay an hourly wage for the time spent working on election day as well as the time spent training to use the equipment and learning the basics of election law.

Because we will have new election equipment next year, there will be more training than usual for all election inspectors. Much of the training is provided here at the township hall, but there will be one or two other sessions probably taking place in St. Johns.

You must be a registered voter in the State of Michigan to be an election inspector. You will also be required to name a party preference as a part of the application process. We cannot accept anyone who has been convicted of a felony or an election crime.

The election day is a long day, generally lasting from 6am until 11pm, sometimes later. We have a few election inspectors who work partial days, but most are there throughout the entire election day. It is a long but very satisfying day. The election inspectors have a potluck on most election days, and there is a real camaraderie that develops in the group. We have a very friendly, welcoming group of people who are happy to help new inspectors learn and enjoy the job.

Please consider becoming a trained election inspector! If you are interested, contact the clerk's office and we will send you an application in the beginning of 2018. If you have questions, feel free to contact either Deb Adams (DAdams@WatertownTownship.com) or Christy Sochay (CSochay@WatertownTownship.com).

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DEPUTY TRACY BARBER

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

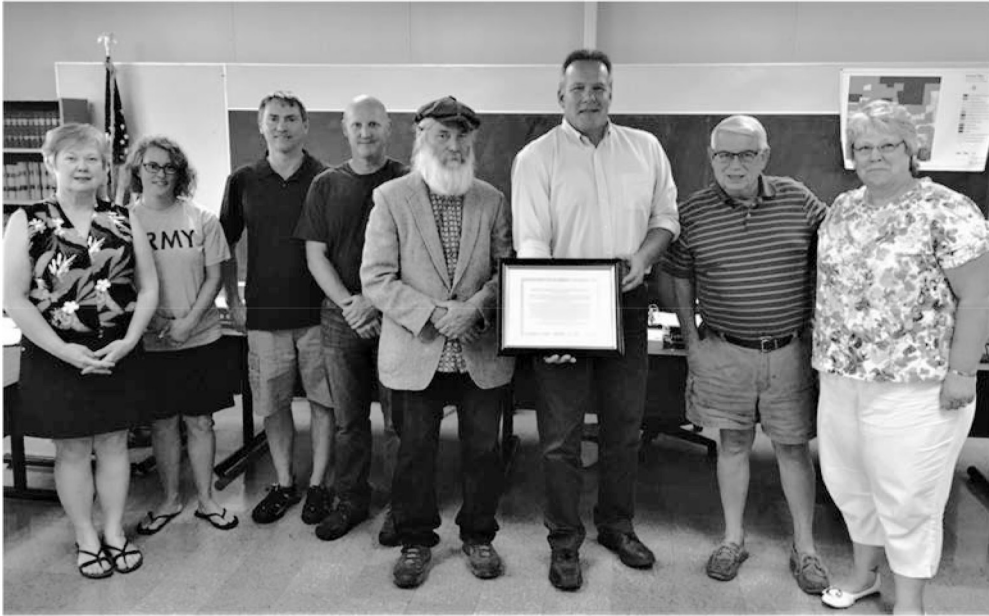
Now that school has resumed, we remind you to please be cautious and courteous of school buses and children when the bus is stopped picking up and dropping off students. The Sheriff's Office takes many calls each year regarding vehicles not stopping for school busses that have their red flashers on. If you see a school bus violation, try to obtain a license plate number and report it to 911. Please help to keep our children safe!

PROTECT MY CHILD

The Michigan Child Protection Registry is a free program that gives you the opportunity to protect your family's emails, mobile phone numbers, instant messenger ID's, and faxes from adult-oriented messages such as pornography, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and gambling. It is fast, secure, and only takes three steps to help protect your household.

- Visit www.ProtectMiChild.com
- Click the "Register Now" button
- Register your family's information

2017 WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Pictured, left to right: Clerk Deborah Adams, Trustee Holly Madill, Trustee Todd Hufnagel, Trustee Chad Cooley, Supervisor John Maahs, Citizen of the Year Glenn DeYoung, Trustee Ron Overton, and Treasurer Janice Thelen.

At their June 19, 2017 meeting, the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees presented GLENN DEYOUNG with the 2017 Citizen of the Year Award. This award honors residents who have displayed exemplary commitment, support, leadership, or service to the Watertown Township community.

The following tribute was presented:

Special Tribute to Glenn DeYoung 2017 Citizen of the Year

LET IT BE KNOWN that it is a privilege to extend our sincerest praise and commendation to Glenn DeYoung in acknowledgment of his attaining the distinct honor of being named "2017 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" for the Charter Township of Watertown.

Ability, commitment, and integrity have been reflected in all of Glenn's work volunteering in the community and he has shown consistent dedication to excellence throughout his years of community service. He has made many sacrifices on behalf of the community, willingly and unselfishly, and is always ready to shoulder extra responsibility and lend a helping hand in any circumstance.

Glenn and his wife, Laura, have raised their two children in Watertown Township for almost twenty years. Glenn has been an effective member of the community through his volunteer skills for community improvement. Glenn has served as a volunteer with the local Boy Scouts for over 16 years, continuing to serve after his own children have aged out. He, as a Scout leader, has helped build flower containers for area bridges with the Wacousta Garden Club, planted trees with the Friends of the Looking Glass, set up for the Quiet Water Symposium, worked Lion's Club concession stands when help was needed, helped at the Masonic Lodge fish fries, and served as a team leader for the Wacousta Dream Depot 2.0 build. Unselfish with his time, Glenn has served the community by connecting community members with Scouts eager to help people with needs, such as working on a wheelchair ramp so a family could bring home an injured son, raking leaves and yard clean-up for local community residents, and being available as a leader and mentor in the community.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to commend and congratulate Glenn DeYoung as Watertown Charter Township's "2017 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR."

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE KEY TO HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

KELCIE SWEENEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLINTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For the past several years, the Clinton Conservation District has been working in partnership with many local agencies and stakeholders to study and test water quality in both the Looking Glass and Maple Rivers. Recently, the District completed two projects looking at the presence and source of bacteria and pathogens in local waterways.

Water quality experts look for *E. coli* in waterways as a test for the presence of bacteria. *E. coli* bacteria occur naturally in the gut of mammals and most birds, so *E. coli* is used as an indicator of animal or human waste. Most *E. coli* is not harmful to us. While only a few types of *E. coli* make you sick, there are a host of other bacteria and pathogens present in waste. *E. coli* doesn't last long outside the gut, so *E. coli* measured in a waterway is from recent pollution.

During our studies, we found high levels of *E. coli* everywhere we looked. There are two primary sources of waste ending up in our waterways: bovine and human. Bovine sources are most likely from deer or cow manure, and human sources are most likely coming from leaky or failing septic systems. While both sources are unwelcome, human waste often has pathogens and bacteria that can make us sick. The Clinton Conservation District is working on solutions to reduce pathogens and bacteria in our waterways but needs help to make a difference.

So, what can we do?

We can help keep the water and community safer for our families, pets, and livestock by maintaining our septic systems. Septic pumping companies can help you find your system if you're unsure of its location. Many Watertown Township residents have a septic system, although they vary in size, shape, and location. Servicing your system every 3-5 years is recommended and can help your system last longer. If you need assistance in servicing your septic system, the Mid-Michigan District Health Department's website (www.mmdhd.org) has a list of programs which may be available to assist you.

Further questions on this matter can be directed to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department or the Clinton Conservation District.

BURN REGULATIONS AND BURN PERMITS

Burn permits are required for all outdoor burning. The permits are good for one calendar year, from January 1 - December 31. Burn permits are free, but the fine for not having a permit is \$500. For additional information or to obtain a burn permit, contact the Looking Glass Regional Fire Department (517-627-9831) or visit the station at 7720 W. Grand River, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

Please note: The following items may NOT be burned at any time:

- Garbage
- Hazardous waste or explosives
- Animal carcasses or waste
- Petroleum based products
- Plastics
- Shingles
- Demolition or construction materials
- Buildings
- Tires
- Automobiles or parts thereof
- Refuse from multiple dwellings
- Any material giving off foul odors

To view the Watertown Township burning ordinance in its entirety, visit the township website.

USING PLANTS TO HELP MANAGE WATER

RONALD V. OVERTON, MASTER GARDENER

Many of us occasionally have water problems. It could be from storm water runoff, spring thaws, or a heavy rain. Because of climate change, we're seeing heavier rainfalls simply because warmer air can hold more water vapor. This can not only cause erosion and property damage, but can flood basements.

However, the right plants planted correctly can go a long way towards minimizing the negative impacts of water. We've talked about rain gardens in the past. Let's rethink them as storm water management tools for our properties and homes.

A rain garden is a flat or sunken depression planted with mostly native plants where you direct the water from your downspouts and hard surfaces like a driveway. It allows the water to be absorbed by the plants and transpired into the air, evaporated, or slowly filtered through the soil into the ground water. In addition, vegetative barriers can also dam and filter surface water runoff. You can also locate your rain garden in such a way as intercept surface water sheet flows like spring thaw that might otherwise end up in your basement. Why use your sump pump when you can use plants instead?

Native prairie plants have extremely deep roots, some as deep as 15 feet; can tolerate various conditions; require no fertilizer; attract birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects, and are easy to grow. The proper selection of native plants can also create a beautiful garden that enhances your property. The rain garden should be mulched as this will help keep down weeds, retain water and further improve the soil as it decomposes. The first year or so, you'll want to keep it weed-free, but once the plants are established, the rain garden should be very low maintenance.

Rain gardens can be very easy to construct. They should be located where you can have downspouts drain into them. Your property may already have a low area where water collects. Ideally, a rain garden would be about 1/3 the size of your impervious surface (roof, driveway, etc.). It generally needs to be a shallow depression of between 4" to 8" deep, although larger sites would need to be deeper. The soil needs to either be pervious or should be amended with a mixture of about 60% sand, 20% compost, and 20% topsoil. You can test your soil for permeability by digging a hole about 6" deep and filling it with water. If it takes longer than 24 hours to soak in, you need to amend the soil with sand and compost. Soil testing kits are also available from a variety of sources.

It's a good time to consider using plants – predominately native plants – as workhorses. As gardeners, we need to consider the various functions they can perform for us to make our lives better. They're cheap labor. Once they're established, they can be so low maintenance that you don't even have to feed or water them.

WACOUSTA CEMETERY TOUR

A suggestion has been made to offer a unique opportunity to learn more about the history of the Wacousta Cemetery and its occupants during an interactive cemetery tour. We are looking for volunteers to act as guides or re-enactors, or to assist in researching the history of people who are buried in the cemetery. This is a wonderful opportunity to share stories of relatives buried in the Wacousta Cemetery and celebrate the history preserved there.

If you are interested in learning more about this event and helping to plan it, there will be a meeting at the Watertown Township Hall located at 12803 S. Wacousta Road, on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7pm. If you have questions or want more information please contact Sue Miller at (517) 626-6808, or email her at fatchancemagic@hotmail.com.

GRAND LEDGE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Grand Ledge Library Area District Library offers two locations. For more information about the library and a complete list of our programs and services, visit <http://grandledge.lib.mi.us>.

GLADL Main - 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
M-Th: 10am - 9pm; F & Sa: 10am - 5pm; Sun: 1pm - 5pm
(517) 627-7014
grandledge.lib.mi.us

GLADL Wacousta - 13080 Wacousta Rd, Ste D,
Grand Ledge
M & W: 3pm - 7pm; T, Th, & Sa: 10am - 2pm
(517) 626-6577

CITY PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY - MAIN LIBRARY OPEN

Construction will be completed by October 31, but until that time the lot will remain closed to all traffic. This is needed to put in proper drains, lights, and replace the asphalt. A new layout is also going to be implemented to improve safety.

- See library website, grandledge.lib.mi.us for interactive parking map
- For quick pickups & patrons with limited mobility – park at the Davis Professional Bldg, courtesy of our new neighbor Cataldo & Meeks
- Main book drop closed - but the Wacousta book drop is always available

UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Library programs will be held at the main library location, 131 E. Jefferson St. in Grand Ledge, unless otherwise noted.

Preschool Storytime Sept. 5th – Dec. 5th at 11am at Grand Ledge City Hall, 310 Greenwood Street. Preschool Storytime resumes on Tuesdays. Stories and literacy enhancing activities for ages 3-6 with their accompanying parent or caregiver.

Saturday Storytime Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14 at 11am. Saturday storytime, perfect for working parents with young children. Music and movement paired with lively stories.

PJ Storytime Oct. 27, Nov. 17, Jan. 26, Feb. 23 at 6:30pm. A relaxing evening storytime for young children with their accompanying parent or caregiver.

Crafting for a Cause Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & 19, Nov. 2 & 16, Dec. 7 from 4pm - 5:30pm. Put your knitting skills to work to help our community. Don't know how to knit, no problem, we can get you started to make much needed items for the Grand Ledge Food Bank – hats, mittens, and scarves!

Paws for Reading Oct. 3 & 17, Nov. 7 & 21, Dec. 5 from 6pm - 7pm. Dogs love a good story too! Practice reading aloud to Bear, a certified therapy dog, in a no-pressure environment. Register for a 10-minute reading time.

Harry Potter Party Sat. Oct. 21 from 1pm - 4pm. Still waiting for your acceptance letter? Wait no longer! Get sorted, enjoy snacks, games, and a screening of an audience choice HP movie. Feel free to wear your favorite Harry Potter clothing.

Babysitting Workshop Sat. Oct. 28 from 10am – 4pm. For teens 12 years old and up. Upon workshop completion, students will receive a pediatric CPR card, a basic first aid card, and a babysitting course certificate. Registration, \$30 class fee, and sack lunch required.

Ghost Hunting Program Thurs. Nov 2 at 6:30pm. Brad Mikulka from Southeast Michigan Ghost Hunting Society will share his adventures tracking the paranormal. Enjoy clips from TV shows featuring Brad's investigations and demonstrations of ghost detecting equipment. Q & A following program along with an opportunity to purchase books for signing.

LEGO Palooza Wed. Nov. 15 from 5-7pm. Bring your imagination and take on our challenges, work in the free build area, enjoy LEGOs for all ages and all sizes. Come and enjoy activities, snacks, and a LEGO movie too!

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY NEW SERVICES AND EVENTS

DDL Hotspots

Library card holders who are 18 years of age or older can now check out the Internet from the DeWitt District Library (DDL) and take it anywhere! The DDL hotspot is an easy-to-use, mobile hotspot that keeps your Wi-Fi enabled devices connected to the Internet and is FREE with your library card.

Reserve the Annex

The Library is now accepting reservations for the use of our meeting room. The Woodruff Annex provides an opportunity to bring together resources of the library and the activities of the community for educational, cultural, civic, and charitable purposes. The Annex Meeting Space is approximately 750 square feet and can accommodate up to 50 people, depending on room set-up. The room includes an LCD projector and screen, sound system, and 6' folding tables and chairs. The Annex meeting room is available to any individual, group, or organization with an active library card in good standing. Visit our web-site (www.dewittlibrary.org) for more information about the Annex fee schedule and reservation policy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Michigan in the Civil War – Thursday, September 21 at 6pm

Special program presented by Al and Dave Eicher that relates Michigan's role in the Civil War. Registration is required.

Banned Books Breakout – Week of September 25th

Celebrate Banned Books Week with a fun challenge! Find clues, solve puzzles, and win an awesome prize in 60 minutes. Register according to your age group.

Monday, September 25, 6pm - 7pm: Ages 9-12

Wednesday, September 27, 6pm - 7pm: Ages 5-8

Thursday, September 28, 3pm - 5pm: Ages 13-18

Cupcakes & Canvas – Saturday, October 7 at 10am

Children ages 9-12 are invited to this painting class. Each artist will enjoy a cupcake and leave with a finished masterpiece. Parents/caregivers of children under the age of 10 must remain on library property during the event. Registration is required.

Michigan's College Savings Plans – Wednesday, October 11 at 6pm

State of Michigan representatives will present on Michigan's 529 college savings plans. Registration is required.

Contact the DeWitt District Library at (517) 669-3156 or visit www.dewittlibrary.org for information about library programs and services. The library is located at 13101 Schavey Road, next to the Schavey Road Shopping Center.

OFFICE CONTACTS (517) 626-6593

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

John Maahs - Home (517) 669-5698
johnny@tir.com

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Chad Cooley - Work (517) 819-4980
lookingglasscyclery@gmail.com
Todd Hufnagel - Work (517) 626-2200
hufnagelauto@gmail.com
Holly Madill - madilltwp@gmail.com
Ronald Overton - Home (517) 626-6447
overtonron@wowway.com

TOWNSHIP MANAGER EXT #207

Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
jtubbs@watertowntownship.com
Donna Case, Administrative Assistant
dcase@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning special assessments, sewers, roads, non-zoning ordinance enforcement, sewer and water permits, park/pavilion rental

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER EXT #206

Janice Thelen, Township Treasurer
jthelen@watertowntownship.com
Amy Kinney, Deputy Treasurer
akinney@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning tax bills, special assessments

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICE EXT #205

Andrea Polverento, Planning Director
apolverento@watertowntownship.com
Amy Kinney, Planning and Zoning Assistant
akinney@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning building/zoning/trade permits, zoning requirements, zoning & subdivision ordinances, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission

OFFICE OF THE CLERK EXT #201

Deb Adams, Township Clerk
dadams@watertowntownship.com
Christy Sochay, Deputy Clerk
csochay@watertowntownship.com
Angela Baum, Bookkeeper
Questions concerning the cemetery, Freedom of Information Act, elections, meeting dates, voter registration, township records, accounts payable

CEMETERY

Weekdays (517) 626-6593 or (517) 626-6066
Andy Case, Maintenance Supervisor/Sexton (517) 490-1383

ASSESSOR EXT #210

Jeff MacKenzie, Assessor
jmackenzie@watertowntownship.com
Jill Schliep, Assistant
Office hours: 9am - 5pm on Monday, Thursday, and Friday
Questions concerning assessing, SEV's, property listings, property splits

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Jeff Cranson, Building Inspector
Phone (517) 622-8822 Fax (517) 622-8833

LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

(517) 627-9831
Fax (517) 627-9846
Questions concerning fire coverage districts, burn permits

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

John Maahs, Chair
Deborah Adams
Janice Thelen
Christy Sochay, Coordinator