



WATERTOWN

— charter township —

Volume 32 Issue 2

Summer 2018

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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

Township Offices
Closed:

Wednesday, July 4
Monday, September 3
Thursday, November 22
Friday, November 23

PROPERTY TAXES DUE
5pm, September 14

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NEW ELECTION EQUIPMENT HAS ARRIVED

DEB ADAMS, TOWNSHIP CLERK | CHRISTY SOCHAY, DEPUTY CLERK

The primary election is scheduled for August 7, 2018, and the general election is on November 6, 2018. Polls are open from 7am until 8pm both days. We look forward to seeing you there.

I have mentioned in past newsletter articles that we will be using new equipment for upcoming elections. All municipalities in the State of Michigan have received new voting equipment either in 2017 or 2018. At this point, we have received our new equipment and the clerk and deputy clerk have been trained to use it. As I write this article, training for election inspectors is ongoing and everyone involved in the process will be trained and ready to go by election day.

Election security has been a big topic since the last presidential election, and many people are interested in learning about how our election results are safeguarded. I want to pass along some of the information that Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has provided to clerks regarding the new equipment and the security of Michigan elections.

In a release issued on May 31, 2018, Secretary of State Johnson stated: "Most importantly, every voter across Michigan still will use a good, old-fashioned paper ballot to mark their choices. Then they'll feed the ballot into a new next-generation voting machine designed with security in mind. But buying all new election equipment isn't all we've done to safeguard our election system. We carefully reviewed and improved our systems, and we'll be putting \$11 million of federal security grants toward further strengthening them against attack."

The Bureau of Elections has been working very hard on enhancements to the Qualified Voter File, upgrading a computer program that has been in place for 20 years. The new program makes it easier for clerks to accomplish their jobs and features increased security.

The clerk's office here in Watertown Township takes election security very seriously, and we comply with all requirements that are established by the Bureau of Elections. We are working hard to ensure that the voting process is as convenient, accurate, and reliable as it can possibly be. We look forward to assisting all voters who are either voting in person or by mail through an absent voter ballot. Please contact our office if you have any questions about the upcoming elections.

Another good resource for election questions is the Michigan Voter Information Center, available on-line at: Michigan.gov/vote

TOWNSHIP TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

JANICE THELEN, TOWNSHIP TREASURER | AMY KINNEY, DEPUTY TREASURER

Your 2018 summer property taxes have been mailed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the treasurer's department in person, by phone, or email. If you haven't received your taxes, contact the treasurer's department to request that a tax statement be mailed. Be sure to include your mailing address in any email or voice mail message, as this will allow us to determine if our records need to be updated.

Upon receipt of your tax statement, please verify that your Principal Residence Exemption is correct. The Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) exempts most residential property that is currently being used as a principal residence from paying the school operating millage on the winter tax statement. Normally the PRE for qualifying property is 100%. If your PRE is less than 100% and you believe that your home should receive either a full or partial exemption, please contact either the treasurer or assessing department as soon as possible for further review.

Your summer property tax payment is due by 5pm on September 14, 2018, to avoid interest being assessed to your account. Please remember that *postmarks are not accepted* when determining timely payment.

Payments may be made in person or by mail, using cash, check (accepted as a conditional payment), bank draft, ACH withdrawal, direct ACH payment, or credit/debit card. For directions on how to make a credit card payment, please see the back of your tax statement or the Township Treasurer Department of the township website. Please remember that all credit/debit card payments will be assessed a variable transaction fee by the processing company, Point n Pay.



NEW! – The Treasurer's Department no longer mails tax receipts, *unless requested by the tax payer*. Receipts are accessible via the home page of the township website; under "Quick Links," click the "Tax Receipts" link. Receipts can also be accessed from the Township Treasurer Department of the website. Tax payments are updated in real time.

If you qualify for a deferment of summer property taxes, please complete the application/affidavit provided in the envelope with your tax statement. This will need to be returned to the treasurer's department by 5pm on September 14, 2018.

Lastly, if you wish to sign up for direct withdrawal of your tax or utility payments, please complete the authorization form included in the envelope with your tax statement and return it to the treasurer's department. Once completed and returned, your authorized payments will be taken directly from your designated account by the treasurer's department, as scheduled on the authorization form.

NO WIPES DOWN THE PIPES!

LISA MEAD, SOUTHERN CLINTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCCMUA)

Wipes, cloths, and rags are being found in sanitary sewers at an ever-increasing rate. Many of these products are labeled as flushable, but while they may clear the toilet, they will most likely cause problems downstream in the sewer system, in your own pipes, or in your septic system.

These products are becoming notorious for blocking private sewer laterals, public sewer mains, and binding up municipal pumps. Items that specifically list the term flushable (but should NOT be flushed) include diapers and diaper liners, baby wipes, pre-moistened wipes, a wide variety of bathroom cleaning wipes and brushes, feminine hygiene products, toilet seat covers, doggy doo-doo bags, and cat litter.

Other products have been found to clog pipes and pumps after being flushed include Q-tips, dental floss, paper towels, and rags. Instead, please place these items in a trash can.

SCCMUA is not the only community impacted by these so-called flushable wipes. From private septic systems to major metropolitan areas, flushable products are causing plugged pipes, sewage backups, and increasing costs of equipment maintenance. While a toilet may be capable of flushing golf balls, these synthetic products simply do not break down and will have to be removed at the treatment plant or in pumping stations.

Only three items should be flushed down the drain: #1, #2, and toilet paper. All other material is not made to flush smoothly through the sewer system. Please help keep the Watertown Township sewer system flowing smoothly by not flushing anything else down the toilet.

Even though a product may say it is “flushable” ... unless it is toilet paper, it should not be flushed!

Some items not to flush:

- Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc.
- Diapers (cloth, disposable, "flushable")
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, or any non-organic material
- Fats, oils, and grease (FOG)
- Dental floss, Q-tips, cotton balls
- “Swiffers,” toilet bowl scrub pads
- Napkins (paper or cloth), paper towels, facial tissues
- Seeds, peelings, egg shells, nutshells, coffee grounds
- Bandages and bandage wrappings
- Clothing, wash cloths, towels, rags (any cloth item)
- Plastic of any kind
- Medicines/pharmaceuticals (put empty containers in a plastic zip-lock bag and throw the bag in the trash or see page 6 for local medicine collection events for proper disposal)
- Harmful chemicals such as solvent-based glue, paint, strippers, wood preservatives, nail polish, antifreeze, engine cleaners/degreasers, gasoline, motor oil, fertilizers, pesticides, and pool/spa chemicals

2018 WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

At their June 18, 2018, meeting, the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees honored TOM HINELINE and JACK HUNTOON as the 2018 Citizens of the Year. This award honors residents who have displayed exemplary commitment, support, leadership, or service to the Watertown Township community:

The following was presented to Tom Hinline:

Special Tribute to Tom Hinline 2018 Citizen of the Year

LET IT BE KNOWN that it is a privilege to extend our sincerest praise and commendation to Tom Hinline in acknowledgement of his attaining the distinct honor of being named "2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" for the Charter Township of Watertown.

Ability, commitment, and integrity have been reflected in all of Tom's work volunteering in the community as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for more than 30 years. Appointed to the ZBA on June 9, 1986, Tom saw the township through many difficult and complex cases during his service to the Board. He has made many sacrifices on behalf of the community, willingly and unselfishly, and is always ready to lend a helping hand in any circumstance. The Zoning Board of Appeals is often a difficult, thankless job, and we greatly appreciate his willingness to contribute to the community in this way.

Tom is married to Sharon and is the father of Melanie and John. He has resided on Airport Road for 45 years. Tom retired from Motor Wheel Corp after 35 years of service, where he filled a number of engineering roles. Tom enjoys automobiles, specifically Fords and especially Ford Mustangs, having owned many throughout the years. Tom continues to enjoy tinkering and working on vehicles with his son. Today, Tom, his wife Sharon, and their dog, Bindi, spend their summer weekends camping in their fifth-wheel trailer at a campground in Belding, Michigan.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to commend and congratulate Tom Hinline as Watertown Charter Township's "2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR."

TOWNSHIP SURVEY COMING SOON

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

It has been more than 10 years since Watertown Township has conducted a township wide survey. The results of the last survey were critical in directing the growth and development of the township. The township board has appointed a Survey Review Committee, which is currently in the process of developing a new survey. The township is facing many issues, such as road maintenance and fire service, that may be of interest to residents. The survey is being planned for distribution this fall and will use various updated communication methods to ensure maximum participation. It is important for the township board to hear directly from YOU regarding your thoughts on the allocation of resources. The information received will be vital to the future development of Watertown Township.

2018 WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

The following was presented to Jack Huntoon:

Special Tribute to Jack Huntoon 2018 Citizen of the Year

LET IT BE KNOWN that it is a privilege to extend our sincerest praise and commendation to Jack Huntoon in acknowledgement of his attaining the distinct honor of being named "2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" for the Charter Township of Watertown.

Ability, commitment, and integrity have been reflected in all of Jack'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.

Jack's years of community service and leadership are well known to so many throughout his years of being a Watertown Charter Township resident. Known primarily for overseeing recreation program pursuits in the township, Jack developed year-round sports activities for the community and was an enthusiastic advocate for youth and adult recreation. Over many years, Jack oversaw and organized softball tournaments, ice skating events, weekly volleyball games, and Memorial Day weekends, including parades and the Looking Glass Triathlon. In addition, Jack spent many years passing out gifts at Christmas parties, running hayrides at Halloween parties, presiding over Easter Egg Hunts, and cooking hot dogs at Labor Day and Memorial Day events. Jack served on the Watertown Charter Township Park and Recreation Board for many years. He has been incredibly involved in the community and his care and concern for the land and the people of the township is profound.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to commend and congratulate Jack Huntoon as Watertown Charter Township's "2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR."

UPCOMING WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

KATE NEESE, CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Medication Disposal Programs

Protect your family, pets, the community, and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications through one of the programs noted below. Do not put medications “down the drain” or in the trash. They can end up in surface waters and negatively impact local ecosystems. The preferred disposal option is through special events which ensure safe disposal through incineration. *Please keep your medications in their original containers, but be sure to black out any personal information.*

Controlled medications (narcotics and behavioral medications) can be safely and securely dropped off at the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office lobby, Monday through Friday from 8am - 5pm. More drop off locations can be found online at www.capitalcountiescommit.org and www.takebackmeds.org.

Saturday September 15 from 8am - 1pm at the Free for Fall Event; Granger facility located at 16980 Wood Road in Lansing (Driveway #5). *Be sure to black out personal information but leave the drug name visible!*

Saturday September 29 from 9am - 12pm at the Clinton Community Health Fair; Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer located at 3055 M-21 in St Johns. *Be sure to black out personal information but leave the drug name visible!* Please do NOT bring needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols, or patches as these items can only be handled at the annual spring Clean Community Event and the Free For Fall Event.

Free for Fall Event

Watertown Township residents are encouraged to take part in this great recycling and reuse event!

Saturday, September 15 from 8am - 1pm at Granger’s facility located at 16980 Wood Road in Lansing (Driveway #5). Acceptable items include household hazardous waste, unwanted medications, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil and antifreeze, electronics (there is a \$10/unit fee for all TVs and computer monitors), clothing, reusable household items, reusable building materials, and books (including paperback, hardcover, phone books, and magazines). Most items are accepted free of charge, but nominal fees do apply to TVs and monitors (cash or check only).

More information is available on our website www.clinton-county.org, by emailing recycle@clinton-county.org, or by calling the office at (989) 224-5186.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

DEPUTY TRACY BARBER

CLINTON COUNTY TEXT-TO-911 SERVICE

Clinton County offers a Text-to-911 service. This service is for emergency use, when calling 911 is not an option.

Texting 911 should only be used in certain emergency situations, such as:

- For an individual who is speech or hearing impaired
- For a person who is unable to call 911 due to a medical emergency that renders them unable to speak
- In the event of a crime, such as a home invasion or active shooter situations, where speaking might give away the location of a person hiding
- In domestic violence situations where it’s not safe to make a voice call

To find out how to use this service, please visit <https://www.clinton-county.org/562/Text-to-9-1-1>

GRAND LEDGE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

“Libraries Rock” with Summer Reading Fun! June 1 - July 31. There is still time to enjoy and win! Easy registration and programs for all ages! Exciting online challenges with Wandoo Reader, check it out at <https://wandooreader.com/grandledge/reading-rockers>. Thanks to our local businesses and the Friends of the Library! Have a “reading & rocking” summer!

Picnic Storytime An outdoor summer storytime for children and their parent/caregiver. **Main:** Wednesdays, 11am through August 1. **Wacousta** (meet at Watertown Township’s Wallace Watt Community Center): Thursdays, 11am through August 2.

Paws for Reading Kids can read with a certified reading therapy dog. Perfect for beginning and reluctant readers...dogs love to listen! Call (517) 627-7014 to register for a ten-minute reading time. Thursdays from 6pm - 7pm on July 17, August 7, August 21, September 4, September 18, October 2, and October 16.

Crafting for a Cause Put your knitting and crafting skills to work creating items for the Grand Ledge Food Bank. Thursdays from 4pm - 5:30pm on July 19, August 2, August 16, September 6, September 20, October 4, and October 18.

Rainstick Making on Tuesday, July 10 from 2pm - 4pm Let’s make music together! Create your own rainstick and learn some songs to play with it.

Movies in The Ball Park Enjoy movies with the family on Fridays this summer! At the baseball field next to Island Park; gates open at 8pm, movies begin at 9pm. July 13 and 27 and August 10 and 24.

Libraries Rock. . . and so do Dinosaurs! At Willow Ridge Elementary, Tuesday, July 17 at 2pm. Visit with Paleo Joe, a paleontologist. View fossils and replicas of dinosaurs and learn how dinosaurs rock.

“Reading Rocks” musical talent show on Wednesday, July 18 from 6pm – 8pm Do you sing, dance, or play an instrument? Come perform for us! All ages welcome and prizes awarded. Call (517) 627-7014 to register.

Gemini “Those were the Days” with the Music in the Park series on Thursday, July 26 at 7pm Songs of the 1960’s Folk Revival – Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Simon and Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, and more.

Celebrate the finale of the Summer Reading Program with a “rocking” party on Thursday, August 2 from 6pm – 7pm. “Jam” with Music Manor, win musical instruments and other prizes, enjoy tasty treats, make a drum, hear musical performances, and more!

Babysitting Workshop, August 7 and October 20 from 10am - 4pm (Teens 12+) Earn a Pediatric CPR and Basic First Aid cards and a Babysitting Course certificate. Advance registration, \$30 class fee, and sack lunch are required. Call (517) 627-7014.

Brown Bag Books from August 1 – 31 Visit GLADL Main, pick up any of the Brown Bag Books, and check it out. Inside will be a surprise book along with a chance to win a prize!

For more information about the library and a complete list of our programs and services, visit <http://grandledge.lib.mi.us>.

GLADL Main - (517) 627-7014
131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 9pm
Friday and Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

GLADL Wacousta - (517) 626-6577
13080 Wacousta Rd., Ste D, Grand Ledge
Monday and Wednesday: 3pm - 7pm
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday: 10am - 2pm

**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

OUR VOICE MAIL SYSTEM HAS RECENTLY CHANGED. PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PROMPTS TO SELECT AN EXTENSION.