



WATERTOWN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Volume 35 Issue 1

Spring 2021

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Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 626-6593
Fax (517) 626-6405
www.WatertownTownship.com

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

**Township Offices
Closed:**

Friday, April 2
Monday, May 31
Monday, July 5

DUMP YOUR JUNK DAY
Saturday, April 17

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STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

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

The last year was more than challenging to say the least. After the initial stay at home order, Watertown Township has been able to maintain an open office throughout the pandemic. Township staff rotates through the office in shifts, making sure that all departments are open for business. The new walk-up window has ensured that residents are able to receive the immediate service they require while maintaining safety.

One of the many problems posed by the pandemic was safely re-opening the recycling area. The community met the challenge and has done an outstanding job of following the guidelines and keeping the area clean, safe, and, most importantly, open!

The Watertown Township staff has mostly remained COVID-19 free throughout the pandemic. The only positive cases were a result of working the November election and, thankfully, everyone recovered. The ongoing vaccination effort can be followed on the township or Mid-Michigan District Health Department websites.

Due to uncertainty in the supply chain and workforce, many township projects were put on hold last year and are expected to take place this year. Road maintenance and improvements will be throughout the township and orange barrels will be seen throughout. I-69 will be down to one lane in each direction from Airport Road west. This means there will be a lot of increased traffic on roads such as Airport, Clark, and Grand River as motorists are trying to bypass the inevitable slow downs on the highway. Check the township website or the Clinton County Road Commission website for updates.

The Watertown Township Board has provided its residents with a 2021 balanced budget that is fiscally responsible and meets the community's needs. The township has taken the necessary steps to assure that programs and services continue at their current levels. Watertown Township residents overwhelmingly passed the fire and emergency services millage in the last election, ensuring that fire service in the township remains the same.

The Township Board continues to prioritize fiscal responsibility and a balanced annual budget. The last twelve years, including the economic downturn and the pandemic, have posed significant challenges. The township is able to continue services without interruption because the board has made thoughtful decisions to save funds in advance for unforeseen events and future projects, and this is likely to continue in the future.

DUMP YOUR JUNK DAY IS BACK!

Self-Serve Only

Please read all of the 2021 modifications

DATE: Saturday, April 17, 2021

TIME: 8am – Noon (or until bins are full)
Please do not line up before 8am; it causes a long wait for the bins and dangerous road conditions on Wacousta Road. There is usually no line by 9:30am.

LOCATION: Heritage Park - Behind the Township Hall
12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Residents may make one trip with trash ONLY. Trailers are limited to no larger than 6' x 10' open trailer between 8am – 11am. NO exceptions. Note: proof of residency is required. **You must come prepared to unload your own materials!**

NEW FOR 2021 DUE TO COVID-19:

1. **Masks and 6ft. physical distance is required.**
2. **Residents must unload their own junk. You must bring your own help.**
3. **This year will be for junk (trash) only. Tires, appliances, and scrap metal will NOT be accepted this year.**
4. **Please allow yourself plenty of time. Self-service will take more time.**

Items not listed as prohibited will be accepted

Prohibited Waste. The following prohibited wastes can not be accepted under any condition or from any source: Hazardous wastes and hazardous containers/labels. Hazardous wastes are materials that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and/or toxic, as well as listed wastes such as pesticides, herbicides, solvents, and their containers. Explosives, ammunition, firearms, low level radioactive waste, and radioactive labeled containers, PCB's, lead, acid batteries, liquid wastes (or free liquids), sewage and septic waste, oil-based paint, used oil, and materials that may adversely affect the liner or leachate system. Asbestos, empty drums, medical waste (including syringes), yard clippings or yard waste, fluorescent tubes, fluorescent light ballast, and used beverage containers (such as \$0.10 deposit cans and bottles). **Additions to prohibited items for 2021: tires, appliances, and scrap metal.**

***Special Wastes. The following special wastes can be accepted if the specific conditions indicated are met:** Compressed gas cylinders (must be empty and disabled), electronic waste and e-waste (only from households and exempt generators), household paint (must be completely dried out with the lids off; home improvement stores carry a product to dry out paint).

*These materials can often be recycled. For information visit the Clinton County Waste Management website:
<https://www.clinton-county.org/345/Hard-to-Recycle-Dispose-of-Materials>

WAVERLY SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION - MAY 4, 2021

DEB ADAMS, TOWNSHIP CLERK | CHRISTY SOCHAY, DEPUTY CLERK

On May 4, 2021, Waverly Community Schools will have a special election with a request to approve a bond project. Information about the bond proposal can be found by visiting the school website at www.waverlycommunityschools.net.

Because we have only approximately 380 voters in the Waverly Community School District, it is more efficient and more cost effective to combine our voters with Delta Charter Township voters for this election only. It is common when school districts cross township or city lines to combine voting for special school elections.

For the May 4, 2021 election, voters in the Waverly Community School District will vote at the Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing, MI 48917. A notice of this change in polling location will be mailed to all voters in this school district.

Our office will process absent voter ballot requests for voters in the Waverly Community School District. The ballots will be returned to Delta Charter Township, and they will be opened and tabulated at Delta Township on May 4, 2021.

As with any election, voters can check the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.michigan.gov/vote to confirm voter registration, register to vote 15 or more days prior to the election, apply for an absent voter ballot, and to confirm the date that a ballot has been mailed and received.

Voters can vote in person on Election Day from 7am – 8pm at the Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing, MI 48917.

Our office will be open on Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 8am – 4pm to assist voters. Residents registering to vote within 14 days of the election can do so at our office during office hours and on Election Day from 7am – 8pm; you cannot register to vote at the Delta Township polling place on Election Day.

TOWNSHIP TREASURER INFORMATION

SUE BIERGANS, TOWNSHIP TREASURER | MELANIE WRIGHT, DEPUTY TREASURER | LISA WINANS, ASSISTANT

This is my first newsletter as your township treasurer. I am looking forward to serving the needs of the community that I grew up in, and I appreciate the support and patience that you have shown as I get acclimated to this new position. I am aware that I have big shoes to fill and the learning curve is steep, but I am working hard to learn the job and to maintain and improve the service you receive in the treasurer's office.

If I can assist you in any way, please reach out to me by phone, email, or our walk-up window. I am here to serve you!

UPDATES:

We have recently installed a scanner for the Treasurer's office to minimize the amount of paper used and to make the documentation process more efficient.

We have worked with our payment processing company to make the bill paying process more automated within our township software. This won't change anything for people who pay online, but it will be more efficient in the way we reconcile the payments.

REMINDERS:

- June 30, 2021 - Second quarter utility bill due by 5pm.
- September 14, 2021 - Summer property taxes due by 5pm to avoid a 1% per month interest charge on the balance due. **Partial payments accepted.**
- September 30, 2021 - Third quarter utility bills due by 5pm.

With the use of email and cell phones as a primary way of communication during these challenging times, I would like to have contact information for as many residents as possible. Your phone number and email would be entered on the secure township software system. Please complete the below form and return to our office, or send an email with the information to me at SBiergans@WatertownTownship.com. We do have a secure drop box located on the front side of building that is always available.

Watertown Charter Township

Resident Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Secondary Phone Number _____

2021 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

If you know an individual who should be honored as the 2021 Watertown Charter Township Citizen of the Year, please nominate them now. Nominations will be accepted through the close of business on Friday, May 7, 2021.

To be considered for Citizen of the Year, the nominee must:

- Be a resident of the township.
- Give freely of their time and energy in the interest of the community.
- Illustrate a personal concern for the well-being of the community.
- Demonstrate a desire to make the community a better place.
- Serve the community in single or multiple areas: for instance, in civic affairs; athletic events; scouting; senior programs; etc.
- Give generously of their time and expertise to help others.

When submitting your nomination, include your contact information, the nominee's contact information, and the reason why you believe this person should receive the 2021 Citizen of the Year Award.

Nominations should be mailed to **Watertown Charter Township, Attn: Citizen of the Year Committee, 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.**

BURN REGULATIONS AND BURN PERMITS

Burn permits are required for all outdoor burning. The permits are valid 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. An online burning permit is available on the township website at <http://www.watertowntownship.com/Departments/FireDepartment.aspx>.

The burning ordinance is available to view in its entirety on the township website.

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

SPRING CONSTRUCTION REMINDERS

ANDREA POLVERENTO, PLANNING DIRECTOR | MELANIE WRIGHT, PLANNING AND ZONING ASSISTANT
LISA WINANS, ASSISTANT

Spring construction season is right around the corner, and the Township Building Inspector and the Planning & Zoning Department would like to remind residents of a few things as you consider any residential construction projects, large or small, in the coming season.

Hiring a Licensed Contractor

- Always hire a licensed, insured contractor.
- Permit fees are always the same, regardless of who is obtaining them.
- If your contractor tells you to apply for the permit, that's a red flag.
- If you apply for the permit as a homeowner (which is permitted, more on that below), make sure you understand what your responsibilities are and when you need to call for inspections.
- Always verify that MISS DIG has been called to flag any site where excavation or similar activities will occur, at least three days in advance.

Homeowners with some expertise may opt to do construction projects themselves and can apply for permits as such. Homeowners can also act as their own general contractor and hire subcontractors to do the work. If you choose to do this, you are responsible for scheduling timely inspections and working with the inspectors on any code compliance issues.

We strongly recommend you hire only licensed contractors and require them to obtain all necessary permits. Further, we recommend that homeowners have verification that final inspections have been approved before making final payments to contractors.

Reminder: Call MISS DIG 811!

MISS DIG 811 is Michigan's statewide notification system to provide homeowners and others the ability to make a single call to receive a service which flags underground utilities prior to excavation. Their primary function is to process requests from individuals planning to dig and to notify all affected utilities about these excavations. The affected utilities then mark the dig site, flagging the approximate locations of their underground facilities. **MISS DIG 811 is a free service.**

State law requires anyone who is planning any type of excavation, digging, or boring, as well as grading and demolition activities, to provide advance notice of at least three business days to MISS DIG by calling 811, 800-482-7171, or by using their online services at www.missdig.org.

Many construction activities you may not have considered, especially those projects you are more likely to do yourself, such as building a fence, putting up a small shed, planting a tree, or installing a swing set, can be affected by underground utilities. If you're unsure, it's always best to call MISS DIG 811 to avoid any accidental damage to underground utilities.

CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

2021 Special Recycling and Waste Collection Events

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management is working hard to provide special recycling and waste collection events this year. The health and safety of our residents, vendors, volunteers, and employees is our priority, and we will be following CDC and state guidelines. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, please check out our Waste Wizard search tool (www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard). You may also visit our webpage at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management. And, finally, you may call our office at (989) 224-5186 or send an email to recycle@clinton-county.org.

Medication Disposal Programs

Protect your family, pets, the community, and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications through one of the drop off 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 designated drop off sites, which ensure safe disposal through incineration. *Please keep your medications in their original containers but be sure to black out any personal information.*

Pills, tablets, and capsules can be safely and securely dropped off at the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office lobby, Bath Township Police Department, and DeWitt Charter Township Hall, Monday through Friday, 8am - 5pm. Note, they can not be dropped off at the Watertown Charter Township Hall. More drop off locations can be found online at www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard and www.takebackmeds.org.

Please be sure to black out personal information but leave the drug name visible! We CAN accept used needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols, and patches at the Clinton County Spring Collection Event.

Clinton County Spring Collection Event

Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 8am - 2pm - An appointment is required to attend. *Registration will begin the week of March 22nd if the event moves forward.*

This event will take place in St. Johns and is subject to change or cancelation due to COVID-19 restrictions. Clinton County residents are encouraged to check the website www.clinton-county.org/315/Clean-Community-Events or follow the Clinton County Facebook page www.facebook.com/ClintonCountyMI for details as we move through this year.

Acceptable items include household hazardous waste, unwanted medications, farm & landscaping chemicals, motor oil and antifreeze, and household computer equipment & electronics. Most items are accepted free of charge but nominal fees do apply (\$10 a piece for televisions and computer monitors – cash or check only on the day of the event).

GRAND LEDGE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

131 E. JEFFERSON STREET, GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

ACCESS THE LIBRARY – OPTIONS TO SERVE EVERYONE

In-Person: We are **OPEN** our regular hours Monday - Thursday from 10am - 9pm; Friday and Saturday from 10am - 5pm; and Sunday from 1pm - 5pm. If you don't know what you want or you are looking for recommendations, give us a call at (517) 627-7014 or use our handy online form – Book Finder (gladl.org/bookfinder). Remember our dropbox at the Watertown Township Hall is always available.

In a hurry or having mobility issues? Try these convenient services...

You can pick up library materials **in-person**, use **Curb Service**, or request an **Outdoor Locker**. **Curb Service** is perfect for a quick pick-up, parents with kids in car seats, anyone experiencing a mobility challenge, and for Michigan weather! Our **Outdoor Lockers** allow you pick up materials when it is convenient for you, regardless of whether the library is open or not. Just choose **your preferred pickup location** GLADL Main for In-Person, Pickup: Curb Service, or Pickup: Lockers when you put your item on hold from our Library Catalog (gladl.tlcdelivers.com), or call (517) 627-7014 and we can assist you. We are here to help!



Books by



Sign up now!

Is getting to the library **difficult or impossible for you?** We now provide **Books by Mail** for our patrons in need. Fill out an application on our website (gladl.org/booksbymail) or give us a call (517) 627-7014. You can sign up for yourself, a family member, or a friend. We'll contact you to discuss what your interests are to select the best items for delivery. We'll **mail your books to you** in a heavy-duty zippered bag with return postage already prepaid. It's that easy!

Upcoming Special Events in April – For more information visit our Event Calendar at gladl.org

Take Home Crafts - Make a fun craft with our kits. We offer crafts for kids and adults each month. Try one today! Instructional videos provided online as well as handy step by step handouts.

Community Care & Share! - Wednesday, April 21 at 7pm.

Join us via **Zoom** for the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting as we showcase the creativity of our community. We are collecting cards, posters, and goodies created by you. The Friends of the Library will be delivering them to essential workers and seniors in our community to show that Grand Ledge and the Library cares! Learn more about the Friends at gladl.org/friends. Special bonus for those in attendance, a drawing for a Meijer Gift Card! Community Care & Share items are being accepted from April 5 - April 24.

Voices of Michigan Poets & Friends LIVE on Zoom; Hosted by Dr. Laura Apol - Thursday, April 29 at 6pm.

Celebrate National Poetry Month! Hear poetry, discuss poetry, and meet writers. Learn how poets create and how you can, too. Visit with a particular poet or just enjoy the experience. Hosted by Lansing's Poet Laureate Dr. Laura Apol, an associate professor of literacy, literature, and creative writing in the MSU College of Education.

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY

13101 SCHAVEY ROAD, DEWITT, MI 48820

Tutor.com

Looking for some extra help with online learning, job assistance, or something else? Library cardholders can now access Tutor.com to receive one-on-one support in over 60 areas that cover homework help, study skills, computer literacy, career support, test prep, and more. This service is free with a your library card. Visit our website for more information.

Dial-A-Story

Storytime is possible 24/7 with the library's new Dial-A-Story service. Call in to listen to stories read aloud by DeWitt District Library staff. Our Dial-A-Story library will be updated monthly with content such as children's stories, book talks, short stories, and more. Call (517) 993-9099 to hear what's currently playing!

Contact the DeWitt District Library at (517) 669-3156 or visit www.dewittlibrary.org for information about library programs and services.



CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DEPUTY TRACY BARBER

LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILES

Just a friendly reminder to take your valuables out of your vehicle and keep your vehicle locked. We have received larceny reports of items stolen from automobiles that may be avoided if you make sure your vehicle is locked.

POWER OUTAGES

Please report your power outages to your power company. Look for the phone number online or on your bill.

TAX FRAUD

Remember during tax season, suspects will use a person's social security number to file taxes in another person's name. If this happens to you, please contact the IRS and report it to your local police department. Also, remember that the IRS will NOT contact you by phone. If someone calls saying they are from the IRS and there are "red flags," it is more than likely a scam; report it.

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS (517) 626-6593

Please listen to the prompts to select an extension.

www.WatertownTownship.com

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

John Maahs - Cell (517) 242-6336
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

Sue Biergans, Township Treasurer
sbiergans@watertowntownship.com
Melanie Wright, Deputy Treasurer
mwright@watertowntownship.com
Lisa Winans, Assistant
lwinans@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning tax bills, special assessments

LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK EXT *201

Deb Adams, Township Clerk
dadams@watertowntownship.com
Christy Sochay, Deputy Clerk
csochay@watertowntownship.com
Susan Hunter, 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

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICE EXT *205

Andrea Polverento, Planning Director
apolverento@watertowntownship.com
Melanie Wright, Planning and Zoning Assistant
mwright@watertowntownship.com
Lisa Winans, Assistant
lwinans@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning building/zoning/trade permits, zoning requirements, zoning & subdivision ordinances, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission

ASSESSOR EXT *210

Jeff MacKenzie, Assessor
jmackenzie@watertowntownship.com
Jill Schliep, Assistant
Office hours: Varied due to COVID-19. Please call for availability.
Questions concerning assessing, SEV's, property listings, property splits

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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