



WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP

2010 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

8001 M-119, Box 353, Harbor Springs, MI 49740 (231) 526-7361

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Office Hours: 9 am to 1 pm daily. **Secretary:** Sue Matsko

Planning/Zoning Administrator: Randy Frykberg, **Assessor:** Tim Grimm

www.westtraversetownship.com

West Traverse Township

Est. 1897

Township Board:

Bob Sandford - Supervisor

Cynthia Fisher - Clerk

Kristi Hollingsworth - Treasurer

John Baker - Trustee

Jim Bartlett - Trustee

Township Board Meetings:

2nd Tuesday of each month - 7 pm

Planning Commission:

Paul Mooradian - Chair

Nancy Sarowski - Secretary

Kristi Hollingsworth

Paul Repasky

Larry Rychlick

Pete Wallin

Ann Wilderom

Planning Comm. Meetings:

2nd Wednesday every month-7 pm

Board of Review:

Jim Frang - Chair

Bill Borglin

Curt Regentin

Joretta Bethke - Rec. Secretary

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Chris Baiardi

Jim Bartlett

Sam DeCamp

Tim Hayner

Paul Mooradian

Recreation/Thorne Swift

Nature Preserve Committee:

John Baker - Chair

Joey Arbaugh

Sam DeCamp

Laurie Ford

Paul Repasky

John Riggs

Carolyn Sandford

Sally Stebbins

From the Treasurer

It's hard to believe some folks still struggle with how or when to pay their taxes, but it's true. To review, payment MUST be received by the due date specified on the tax bill. Postmarks are accepted and there are NO exceptions for late payments. Please confirm that your check has cleared the bank to ensure that the township has received your payment. Receipts are not sent unless you request one. Any payments that are not correct or signed will be returned as unpaid and may result in additional interest charges. Cash is accepted in the office only and must be for the exact amount due.

Tax bills are mailed to the address on record so promptly report all address changes or changes of ownership to the treasurer. Failure to receive tax statements does not exempt taxes from penalties.

The township office is open daily from 9 am to 1 pm to receive property tax payments and will also be open from 9 am to 5 pm on September 14th.

As always, please review your tax bill carefully for correct address, taxable value and principal residence exemption (PRE).

From the Clerk

In response to some productive website feedback, township election information will be just a click away at www.westtraversetownship.com after July 15, 2010. Voter registration and absentee information; election dates, location and hours; current and past election results and much more will be accessible 24 hours a day. As always, feel free to call the Township hall with any questions. Upcoming election dates for 2010 are the Primary Election on August 3rd and the General Election on November 2nd.

Invasive Phragmites Update

After much discussion among the communities with Lake Michigan shoreline it appears the Emmet County Board of Commissioners will soon draft a county ordinance to allow State money to be used to eradicate this invasive plant at no cost to affected landowners with Commissioner Dan Plascencia acting as Program Coordinator. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is gathering information for the necessary permit application and will be sending out another letter to shoreline property owners shortly. Property owners may opt out of participation in this program if they desire. It is anticipated that if the current stands of this plant can be destroyed now, future cleanup will be minor and relatively inexpensive.

2010 Road Projects

The road projects approved by the Township Board for 2010 are:

- Rebuilding Hoyt Road from Quick Road to slightly north of Lake Road, in conjunction with Harbor Springs and Little Traverse Township.
- Asphalt overlay on LaCount Road from Hughston Road to State Road, in conjunction with Friendship Township.
- Asphalt overlay on Hughston Road from Middle Road to LaCount Road.
- Asphalt overlay on Hughston Road from State Road to Lightfoot Road.
- Extended paved shoulder on the north side of Lake Road from Cemetery Road to M-119.
- Asphalt overlay on Lake Road from the City limit to M-119, with stimulus funds.
- Crack sealing on Hughston Road from Cemetery Road northeast to the water reservoir.

The estimated cost to the Township for these projects is \$315,000, using \$250,000 from the extra voted millage for road projects with the remaining \$65,000 from the Township general fund. The recent work on State Road was funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The West Traverse road system continues to be among the highest rated in the county.

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Water Committee:

Bob Sandford - Chair
Jim Bartlett
Wayne Chellis
Sam DeCamp

M-119 Tunnel of Trees

Scenic Heritage Route

Committee:

Joey Arbaugh
Carolyn Sandford
Bob Sandford

Blight Ordinance Review:

Jim Bartlett - Chair
John Baker
Neil Ahrens

HARBOR INC.

Representatives:

Joey Arbaugh
John Baker

Pine Trail/Forest Beach

Sewer Committee:

Bob Sandford - Chair
Joey Arbaugh
Sam DeCamp
Brad Warnecke

Rental Manager:

Bob Sandford

Lake View Cemetery Board

Representative:

Bob Sandford

Harbor Springs Area Airport

Authority:

Bob Sandford

Harbor Springs Area Fire

Authority:

Bob Sandford

Harbor Commission

Representative:

Jim Bartlett

Office Committee:

Bob Sandford - Chair
Cynthia Fisher
Sue Matsko

Hoyt Road Trail Update

Work on the proposed Hoyt Road Trail continues as HARBOR, INC. has submitted a grant request to the Safe Routes to Schools program for trail construction funding. We hope to hear if this submission was successful by the end of August. Engineering costs will not be covered by this grant and will need to be found locally.

Birchwood MFR Update

West Traverse is fortunate to have the Birchwood Farms Security & Emergency Medical Service, a State licensed EMS first responder agency, as a good neighbor. With the blessing of the West Traverse Township Board, and in conjunction with the Emmet County 911 emergency response system, the Birchwood Farms Board of Trustees allows them to respond to all medical calls in West Traverse Township at no additional cost to township residents.

In calendar year 2009 Birchwood EMS responded to a total of 129 medical runs, of which 95 were off property in other parts of the Township. Emergency medical intervention can be crucial when minutes count. Remember, if you have a medical emergency, do not hesitate and call 911 immediately. The 911 dispatch center will send out the nearest available ambulance as well as the Birchwood First Responders.

Recreation/Thorne Swift Nature Preserve Committee Update

The Recreation and Thorne Swift Committees have been joined in one committee, and the change has been effective, allowing the group to oversee all of the recreational facilities in the Township.

The recreation activities have focused on improving the walking trails on the Township '80' on Ridge and Griffen Roads. A map of the trails is available on the Township website, and laminated maps will be placed at the two trailheads and several trail intersections very soon. The trails were used by skiers last winter, and people have enjoyed hiking on them this summer. The boulders placed at the Griffen Rd. entrance have effectively stopped the vehicular traffic and resulting trash that was accumulating on the property. Another walking/skiing trail system is being established on the former Cook property across Lake Rd. from the Township Hall.

The Committee has encouraged the Township Board to consider opportunities to establish non-motorized trails, such as the possible Hoyt Rd. trail and the shoulder extension on Lake Rd.

The Committee has also begun a review of its current Master Plan, intending to keep it updated. This helps awareness of new activities and interests the Township can offer and respond to, and it makes more grant funding available for certain types of projects. We welcome ideas and suggestions from Township residents.

From the Planning and Zoning Administrator

When is a Zoning Permit Required? Although a County Building Permit is not required for single story residential accessory structures less than 200 square feet, a Township Zoning Permit is required for any size structure, including satellite dishes and outdoor wood furnaces. Proper setbacks must be followed for all structures.

The Township Planning Commission has invested a great deal of time and energy working on draft regulations for outdoor wood furnaces in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents. The proposed ordinance has now been forwarded to the Township Board for final action. The Planning Commission is also considering a voluntary program to assist landowners who want to preserve and protect their farmland and open space.

Township Website

The township website (www.westtraversetownship.com) contains a great deal of Township information including contacts, meeting dates and minutes, the Zoning Ordinance, the Master Plan, the Zoning Map, Zoning Application forms and much more. It is a great resource to help you stay on top of what is happening in our township. Please let us know if you have suggestions for other items to place there.