

Clearwater Township News

MAY 2017

Township Office: 5440 River St., Rapid City, MI • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1, Rapid City, MI 49676
Phone - 231 331-6249 • FAX 231 331-4375 • E-mail – clerk@clearwatertwp.com • Website – Clearwatertwp.com

From the Supervisor's Desk

Emerging from another mild winter, it now appears that spring is on the way. At this time each year the Clearwater Township newsletter is sent out to our residents. This mailing is geared to provide a quick look at what was accomplished this past year in our township and what new happenings and projects are being planned for 2017.

IMPROVEMENTS IN 2016

This past year Clearwater Township has gone through several improvements and new projects.

FREEDOM PARK: All of the trails in Freedom Park were completely rechipped by Seeds workers with chips created from the storm the previous August.

HERITAGE PARK: The two dugouts on the small diamond that were destroyed the previous August were totally rebuilt. A new riding lawn mower was purchased for township use.

ACCESS SITES: These sites experienced their normal spring cleanup. Several sections of split rail fence were replaced at the different locations. At the Aarwood Bridge site a split rail fence was erected to limit the entrance and scope of the parking.

ROADS & MILLAGE: This past summer over a mile of Aarwood Trail was wedged, capped, and new shoulders were added up to a point just beyond the DNR launch. The next four tenths of a mile the road commission added up to 12" of gravel and a 2" cap was added.

At a public meeting held before the township road millage was passed, Baggs Road was designated as the road to be

repaired in 2017. It will be a combined project of Clearwater Township, Whitewater Township, and the road commissions of Grand Traverse and Kalkaska counties. The other roads chosen during this four year millage include W. Plum Valley Rd., Wilhelm Rd., and Zimmerman Rd. which might need \$60,000. in engineering. The township has not determined which of these three roads will be done next.

TOWNSHIP CEMETERY: Received new signage.

HERITAGE PROPERTY: A contract was awarded for removal of damaged trees under the supervision of the Antrim County Forester. Work was completed.

TOWNSHIP HALL: Planning was continued on the hall's need for office space expansion, storage area, upgrading the kitchen, bathroom improvement and entrance area improvements.

SANDBAR COMMITTEE: This committee met monthly. No parking was added from Torch River Bridge to Lake St. Four large flags were placed at access sites for exit visibility. The township had water testing contracted, but the Health Department could not comply. The township added \$2,000. for the marine patrol. Two dumpsters were added for the 4th of July weekend.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN 2017

- ...Paving Baggs Road with a cap
- ...Continued development on Aarwood Bridge Site
- ...Continued Sandbar focus
- ...Determining costs of potential changes to the township hall
- ...Purchase of a new truck
- ...Removal of gym bleachers

From the Desk of Guy Molby - Zoning Administrator

If you're planning to do some improvements, you will need a Land use Permit before commencing excavation for, or construction of, any building structure or parking area. You will also need a Land Use Permit to make a structural change, alteration or addition to any existing building or structure or to relocate any building or structure. This includes any shed, playhouse, deck, porch, or lean-to.

If you're planning a garage sale, yard sale, estate sale, etc., remember our zoning ordinance requires that signs should not be displayed more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the sale. Signs need to be removed forty-eight (48) hours following the end of the sale.

If you have a zoning violation complaint, forms are available at the township office. Land Use permit forms can be found on our website or at the township office. Please call the Zoning Administrator at 231 331-4500 if you have any questions.

Message From The Township Clerk

Special Election – May 2, 2017 (Kalkaska and Elk Rapids Voters)

The polling location for all elections is the Clearwater Township Hall, 5440 River St., Rapid City, MI

The Clearwater Township Fire Department will be Celebrating 50 Years of Service

to the residents of the township this year. An Open House at the fire station is being planned for this summer in their honor. Details will be announced at a later date.

Clearwater Township Board

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor

Kathy Eldridge, Clerk

Barbara Crambell, Treasurer

Pat Hubble, Trustee

Dwight Seaman, Trustee

Dawn Kuhns, Assessor

Guy Molby, Zoning Administrator

Parks & Rec Report

Hopefully it will really be SPRING when you read this. Its time again to remind everyone of the wonderful recreational opportunities we have in our township. The ½ mile walking trail in Heritage Park is a great place all year long to get some good exercise. The trails along the Rapid River are especially beautiful in the spring when the marsh marigolds are in bloom.

There are many other places to get some exercise and have some fun. The tennis court behind the township hall is in good shape and saw a lot of use last summer. Yoga classes are held on Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Zumba classes are held at the township hall on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. The township hall is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for individuals wishing to walk. Senior cards are held each Thursday evening at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 5:30 p.m. and senior lunches are held on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the township hall. The Little Red Schoolhouse and the township hall are available to rent for private parties. Call the township hall at 231 331-6249 for additional information.

The ball fields at Heritage Park and Freedom Park will see a lot of action again this summer and there will also be games on the soccer field during April and May. It will be fun to watch these young people. Make it a point to support them when you can.

Our fields are some of the best in the area and we should be proud of the facility. There is also a picnic pavilion at Heritage Park.

The waters of Torch Lake will soon be warm and welcoming. We are so lucky to live near that beautiful lake and have many access sites in Clearwater Township for our use along Crystal Beach Rd. There are picnic pavilions at Birch Street park and Cedar Street park on Crystal Beach Rd. All of the pavilions are open to the public and no reservations are taken for their use. When using our parks and access sites, please remember to keep your pets on a leash and clean up after them. Respect our community and help make it a great place to live.

We welcome anyone who is interested in helping take care of our facilities to call the township office. Volunteers would be welcome at all of the parks and access sites to take care of trash, etc. We also need volunteers to take care of the some of the garden areas that we maintain in the township. The Juniper Garden Club has put in a new garden area at the corner of Rapid City Rd. and River St. We thank them for all of the garden spots they maintain in our township.

Clearwater Township Planning Commission – News of 2016

In February 2016, the Planning Commission addressed the matter of possible unconstitutionality of language in Article XII, regulating signs. The June 18, 2015 decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Reed vs Town of Gilbert, holds that regulation of signs based on content of the message is unconstitutional. Our review revealed that the only regulatory differences in our ordinance attributable to content of message, rather than form or purpose, were the time limits imposed for removal of the signs. An amendment to Article XII was drafted, brought to public hearing, recommended to the township board for enactment, and enacted by the board. The time limit for removal of temporary signs (other than election signs), was standardized to fifteen days.

New Article XIX for Ordinance 22 (the Zoning Ordinance), was crafted by the Planning Commission, and enacted by the Township Board, to provide regulatory guidance for monuments or memorial structures within the township.

A further consideration continues to be the appropriate language to regulate setback distances from the lakes and streams in the township. The ZBA submitted suggestions on amending Articles IV and IX, pertaining to this concern. The Planning Commission is studying the language used in other waterfront communities for guidance.

Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance are posted on the township website: www.clearwatertwp.com.

The matter of crowd control on the sandbar at the south end of Torch Lake took up the attention and efforts of many people during 2016, including the Planning Commission. With the success of the TLPA suit for an injunction against three downstate defendants, who had been promoting the so-called Torch Fest, the support of the township for the suit, and the enhanced police protection over the July 4 holiday weekend, there was a notable decrease in the misbehavior of the visiting public.

Discussion began in December on getting public

input regarding consideration of a commercial corridor along highway M-72. Before anything else can be done, we need to know what the people of the township think about the matter, especially those whose properties would be affected.

Other ongoing considerations include the rationale behind the current minimum dwelling space requirements, and the state's legislative progress on medical marijuana issues. The Planning Commission steadfastly maintains the philosophy that we will not draft any law that directly violates either the state or the federal statutes.

The meeting dates established for the planning commission, January 2017 through March 2018 are as follows:

2017

January 2	July 10
February 6	August 7
March 6	September 11
April 3	October 2
May 8	November 6
June 5	December 4

2018

January 8
February 5
March 5

Please join us at our regular meetings and provide your input to assist us in our work of serving the people of Clearwater Township. Our meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Little Red Schoolhouse. There are two periods for public comment: one at the beginning of the meeting for matters not on the agenda, and another at the end of the meeting for reflection on the proceedings. We look forward to welcoming you to our deliberations.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Annual News

Written by Laura Murray, Submitted by Marianne Ewald, Clearwater Township Representative

A few months ago, KMHC staff were cleaning and organizing some files when they found a community survey that was distributed in 2005. The survey asked what healthcare services Kalkaska community members desired the most. The results were clear; Kalkaska wanted an assisted living facility, outpatient surgery, MRI services and more specialty physicians. KMHC is extremely proud that we not only listened to our community, but were able to make these visions a reality. Today we have a 30 apartment Assisted Living, are completing over 100 outpatient surgical procedures a month, have MRI available 2-3 days a week, and over 12 specialty physicians visit KMHC and see patients on a regular basis.

KMHC is committed to providing top quality health services, close to home for the next 10 years and beyond. Leadership has been out in community and holding open forums to educate about what the future

could look like. Future plans include a chemotherapy clinic, privatizing long term care rooms, building a new medical pavilion in order to provide space for more physicians and chronic disease management, and renovating existing space to offer more parking, better way finding and improved patient flow.

Although the future is exciting, we are also excited about what we have accomplished over the last several months. We are pleased to share KMHC now has a comprehensive diabetes program, recruitment of two new primary care physicians, commencement of a cutting edge concussion management program for our local athletes, and regularly offered free community education sessions on topics such as back safety, heart health, and nutrition. KMHC is proud to be part of the Kalkaska community and sincerely thanks the residents for their continued support and ownership of the hospital.

Clearwater Township Fire Department

8255 Garfield Street,
Rapid City, Michigan 49676

In 2016 our tanker was upgraded with an electric lift to assist in unloading and loading of our drop tanks. It now only requires 2 personnel to load and unload drop tanks while in the past it required 3 to 5 firefighters to accomplish the same task. We have also been doing joint training with South Torch Lake Fire Department (STLFD) Station 2200 on the 3rd Monday of each month, which has led to Clearwater purchasing ice/cold water rescue suits and equipment to complement our mutual aid operations with STLFD. We partnered with STLFD in providing the latest in training, Modern Fire Attack, Reading Smoke and Tactics, Liquid Propane Gas Emergencies and School Bus Extrication classes. Partnering with STLFD we are able to share the cost of training and increase interoperability between departments. We have also joined this year with Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake

township fire departments in bidding out our required annual testing of equipment to help in reducing annual maintenance costs.

Our agreement with Kalkaska EMS has proved to be a much needed service to those living and visiting our township and the western half of Rapid river township. Kalkaska EMS places an Advance Life Support ambulance staffed with a Paramedic and EMT in the station for 12 hrs per day 7 days a week. Having an ambulance in the station is necessary because we are required to have six medically licensed personnel on staff to provide 24 hr service to keep our Medical First Responder license with the state of Michigan. At this time we only have 3 members with medical licenses. The department continues to struggle in maintaining this required number. This service is being furnished at no additional cost to the residents of Clearwater

Township. To upgrade to 24 hr ambulance coverage we need to have rest/sleeping areas. The department has enlisted an architect who is working on changes to the layout of the station and realignment of the equipment bays and additional equipment bays. Our goal is to continue to offer basic and advanced medical services.

There is an ongoing problem with homes not being numbered and the numbering not visible at night. The best way to reduce the time for emergency responders to find you is to make sure that your driveway and home is marked with a highly reflective 911 sign, readable from both directions day and night. Private roads also need to be marked with a reflective sign. It is the homeowner's responsibility to mark their driveways and to maintain them for a quick response and possible life saving event be it for fire or ambulance.

2016 Run Report

336 Total Runs (9% Increase over 2014)
17 Fire Runs • 206 EMS Runs
16 Motor Vehicle Accidents No Injuries
6 Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries
81 Other/MLisc.

Apparatus Responding to Incidents

5 Engine 1	47 Runs
5 Engine 2	38 Runs
5 Rescue	160 Runs
5 Utility/Brush	18 Runs
5 Tanker 1	22 Runs

Every 33 Hours - Your Fire Department is responding to someone's of emergency.

Busiest hours of the day
3 PM to 10 PM 43% of all calls

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

If you own and occupy your home or vacant and contiguous property by June 1, you are eligible to receive the Principal Residence Exemption. By receiving this exemption, you are exempt from having to pay the 18 mills of school operating tax. If you notice you are not receiving the exemption and you are entitled to it, contact Dawn Kuhns, assessor at 231 409-1827.

The Veteran's Exemption will exempt all property taxes for veterans for their Principal Residence that meet the following criteria:

Honorably discharged

100% totally and permanently disabled or determined to be unemployable by the Veterans Administration or unmarried spouse.

Michigan Resident

Own the property for which the exemption is being claimed and it is used as homestead

This exemption can be granted by the March Board of Review, July Board of Review or December Board of Review. The application must be completed and returned with the letter from the Veterans Administration stating the qualify factors.

Department Membership is at an all time low Accepting applications for the following positions FREE TRAINING

Medical First Responder

This is a non firefighting position. Medical First Resonders provide basic life support and patient assesment before arrival of advance medical personnel.

Firefighter

Firefighters are primary responsible for responding to fires, accidents and other incedents where risks are poised to life and property.

*Must be at least 18 years old • High School Graduate or GED
Have a valid Michigan Drivers License*

*Applications can be found at the Township Office at
5440 River Street Rapid City, MI.*

Successful applicants must past a pre-employment physical, drug screen and background check. Please note on your application to which position you are applying for.

NOTE:

*Meetings held 1st 3 Mondays of the month 7pm • 8255 Garfield Street Rapid City, MI.
Training for both postions will be provided*

If you have questions please call 231-322-2137 to leave a message
or email at cfdstation5@hotmail.com

Burn Permit Info.

www.dnr.statemi.us/burnpermits/ or 866-922-2876

You can find us on Facebook @ "Clearwater Township Fire Department"

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Community Members who have passed on since April, 2016

Joan Slyker	Louis Marien	James Lawes
Marilyn Doty Larson	William Underhill	Joyce Stolorski
John Click	Gerald Girdley	John Whynot
George Kidd	Helen Yates	Rose Mary Udell
Paul Karges	Ruth Garrett	Peggy Lynn Waterman
Carl F. Brant	Misty Haydon	Gordon Gallinger
Cecelia Beddow	Dolores Rounds	Sherry L. Savara
Robert Kowalik	Richard Mathison II	Arnold G. Porter
Cornelius Kooistra	Dennis Conway	Lulu G. Peck

Clearwater Township

P.O. Box 1

Rapid City, MI 49676

Ph: 231-331-6249

Fx: 231-331-4375

www.clearwatertwp.com



CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY

Clearwater Township will hold a clean-up day on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until noon.

Residents may take their trash items to American Waste Transfer Station located at 3947 US 131 North in Kalkaska, south of Seeley Rd. and across from Michigan Cat.

Residents may bring one pickup load (4'x8'x4') per household.

Proof of residency is needed (either last property tax notice or current electric bill). Anything brought from another township will be subject to a penalty fee and could result in loss of privileges in future cleanups. **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** Household rubbish, building materials (nothing over 6'), household furniture (including chairs, couches, mattresses), appliances, *refrigerators that are tagged "freon free" and scrap metal.

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED: Car tires and batteries.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS: cans of paint, rocks, chunks of concrete, asphalt, brush, yard waste, and all hazardous waste such as chemicals, herbicides, and insecticides.

DO NOT BRING ANYTHING TO SITE BEFORE MAY 6th AT 7:00 A.M.

WITH SPRING HERE, THIS IS AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR ALL OF US TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CLEANING UP OUR PROPERTY AND ELIMINATING SOME OF OUR EXCESS "STUFF".

CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2017-2018

TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

April 19, 2017 • May 17, 2017 • JUNE 21, 2017
JULY 19, 2017 • AUGUST 16, 2017 • SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
OCTOBER 18, 2017 • NOVEMBER 15, 2017 • DECEMBER 20, 2017
JANUARY 17, 2018 • FEBRUARY 21, 2018 • MARCH 21, 2018

Annual Meeting:

Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

April 3, 2017 • May 8, 2017 • June 5, 2017
July 10, 2017 • August 7, 2017 • September 11, 2017
October 2, 2017 • November 6, 2017 • December 4, 2017
January 8, 2018 • February 5, 2018 • March 5, 2018

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

April 10, 2017 • July 17, 2017
October 9, 2017 • January 8, 2018

ALL OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER, 5407 RIVER STREET, RAPID CITY, MI.

The Clearwater Township Board will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven (7) days' notice to the Clearwater Township Board. Individuals requiring such service should contact the Clearwater Township office at 231 331-6249 or P.O. Box 1, Rapid City, MI 49676
Kathy Eldridge, Clearwater Township Clerk