

Clearwater Township News

MAY 2014

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

It finally appears that our record setting long, cold, and snowy winter is coming to an end. The signs of spring are once again reappearing, along with this year's Clearwater Township Newsletter. Our newsletters' goal is to provide township residents an update on Clearwater information such as our annual clean-up day, what's new at the fire department, other activities and projects.

IMPROVEMENTS:

Over the past year the township has seen many new projects and improvements:

Freedom Park: The pump house was given a new metal roof. The old willow tree that had fallen in the river and blocked its' flow for over a decade was removed after gaining DNR approval. Other dead trees were removed from the drive down to the river. With the help of the SEEDS group, the steps on both sides of the iron footbridge over the Rapid River were replaced. Several other steps throughout the park were also replaced.

Heritage Park: Work started on two dugouts for the girls' softball diamond. Floors to the dugouts were poured and completed in the fall.

Community Center (The Little Red Schoolhouse): A new asphalt parking lot

was built & lined.

Township Hall: Work was done on the septic system. A committee was formed on upgrading the hall and a consultant was brought in.

Roads: Aarwood Road from Crystal Beach to Rapid City Rd. was repaved with a wedge and cap procedure. New gravel shoulders were also done.

Cemetery: A committee was formed for advisement. Over a dozen dead trees were cut down and removed. A new sign was ordered to honor those who had served their community in time of war.

At the Fire hall: The new heating and cooling systems were installed. The generator installation was completed along with a roof over the area where it ties into the fire hall. Most of the parking lot behind the fire hall was paved for our firemen.

As I enter my fifth year as Clearwater Township Supervisor, I remain most thankful for the fine people in our township that I have had the privilege of working with. To all our residents who have contributed their time and efforts in service to Clearwater Township, a sincere Thank You! I wish all of our residents a great 2014.

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor

New Assessor

As most of you already know, Clearwater Township's new assessor is **Dawn Kuhns**. If you have any questions about the upcoming reassessment of the township, issues with your principal residence exemption, or questions related to your assessed or taxable value you should contact her at (231) 409-1827 or email at assessordawn@gmail.com.

Message From The Township Clerk

ELECTION DATES: Primary election – August 5, 2014 General election – November 4, 2014

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

From the Desk of Guy Molby - Zoning Administrator

If you're thinking of doing 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.

Please call the Zoning Administrator at 231-331-4500 if you have any questions.

Clearwater Township Board

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor
Julie Vance, Clerk
Barbara Crambell, Treasurer
Grace Beland, Trustee
Dwight Seaman, Trustee
Dawn Kuhns, Assessor

Planning Commission Report

During the year 2013, the Clearwater Township Planning Commission continued with several ongoing projects, such as ordinance review and update, master plan research, and special use application hearings. Additionally, we are still pursuing the need to clean up the land records of our downtown area. Efforts continue to locate community improvement grant funding, to facilitate the necessary replatting of the village center. Members of both the Township Board and the Planning Commission are actively pursuing that research.

The matter of rationally regulating the permitted use of marijuana within our state, is slowly being clarified by the

ongoing court cases. We trust that through the courts and the state legislature, we will eventually have the guidance needed for formulating our local ordinance. We maintain the philosophy that we will not craft any law that directly violates either the state or the federal statutes.

The Planning Commission welcomed Julie Vance, in June of 2013, as the representative from the Township Board. We are pleased to have the benefit of Julie's many years of experience in township government, as we strive to be about the business of the people. We are grateful for the years of service contributed by Huse Johnson, who was the previous representative from the Township Board.

Huse had previously served on the Planning Commission and its predecessor, the Zoning Board, for over ten years.

We have much work yet to do in the Planning Commission, and invite our friends and neighbors to join us and provide thoughtful input as we go about that work. Our regular meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Little Red Schoolhouse. Each meeting has 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.

Parks & Rec/Heritage Committee Report

Our long winter is over and everyone is feeling the need to get outdoors and enjoy nature. Our township has so many wonderful areas to enjoy. There is a half mile walking trail at Heritage Park, as well as trails along the Rapid River in Freedom Park. There are also trails at the Seven Bridges on Valley Rd. and through the Skegemog Swamp.

Summer will be here soon and there are many access sites for swimming in Torch Lake along Crystal Beach Rd. There are picnic pavilions at Birch St. Park on Crystal Beach Rd. as well as Heritage Park and Freedom Park. These are open to the public on a first come-first serve basis.

The ball fields at Heritage Park are

already in use. There will be several teams again this year. New dugouts have been started for the softball field, and will be completed before the season starts.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR ANIMAL ON A LEASH WHEN USING OUR PARKS AND CLEAN UP AFTER THEM.

We have a nice tennis court in Rapid City behind the post office. There are special lines on the court for pickle ball players also. If anyone would be interested in offering tennis classes to some of our young people, please get in touch with Pat at the Township Hall.

Yoga classes are offered at the Little Red Schoolhouse on Tuesday and

Thursday mornings @ 8:30 a.m., and Zumba dance classes are happening at the Township Hall on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

The Heritage Committee has donated \$200.00 again to the March Reading Program at the Rapid City Elementary School and they hope to add one more piece of equipment to the playground area at Heritage Park this summer. Memorial bricks can still be purchased to be placed at the flagpole in Heritage Park. We welcome any ideas for future recreational projects, and if you have some extra time, please think about volunteering in your community. Call Pat Gray at 231 331-6249 or Norma Mariage at 231 322-2546.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Annual News

From Marianne Ewald, BSN and Clearwater Township Representative

Our mission statement is People Use us because they are Proud of us! And it truly is a place to be proud of. Thank you for supporting our beautiful facility.

About the hospital: We are a Critical Access Hospital, with 88 Long Term Care beds.

We have an Emergency Department & Urgent Care Services and a busy out-patient infusion clinic. We have a dialysis center, and a Teen Health Center. Many out-patient surgeries can be performed

at the hospital. We are the largest employer in Kalkaska with approximately 320 employees.

The Patient Portal is now available at KMHC. This allows you to access your medical record from your computer to view lab results or x-ray results etc.

An 80 slice CT Scan unit is working beautifully. Staff, doctors and patients are pleased with it. The patient gets half the amount of radiation exposure compared to the previous CT Scan Unit.

The Chronic Disease team continues to help patients get to their appointments, obtain medicines, and in general answer questions patients have after discharge.

Med Assist Program; many patients cannot afford medicines they need. KMHC works with the doctors at KFP to obtain medicines from the pharmaceutical companies at no cost to the patient.

Yoga is available for free on Tuesdays at 4:30.

Clearwater Township Fire Department

8255 Garfield Street, Rapid City, Michigan 49676

The CTFD has made major strides in the last 6 years in the fire protection of the citizens, visitors and property owners of Clearwater Township.

Major accomplishments 2013 were aimed at improvements at the station:

- Replacement of heating and air conditioner in central section of the station.
- Paving of back parking lot.

Getting help in an emergency is time dependent. The best way to reduce the time for emergency responders to find you is to make sure that your driveway is marked with a highly reflective 911 sign. Again this year we encountered many driveways that are over grown, making access to your home difficult and time consuming.

Driveways should be kept clear to a width of 10 feet and a height of 12 feet. If you need help in determining if your driveway will accommodate emergency equipment please contact the fire department for assistance.

2013 Run Report

281 Total Runs

22 Fire Runs 7.83% • 197 Rescue & EMS Runs 70.11%

There has been a 63% increase in EMS calls in the first 3 months of 2014 over the last 3 year average for the same time period.

On April 12th we have three new FFI/II taking their State Exam for certification Gale Young, Wm. Zirkle, James Haggard

Every 31 Hours Your Fire Department is Responding To Some Type of Emergency

With the increase in runs and declining membership over the last decade it has been necessary for departments to help each other out in times of emergencies. In the past departments relied on Mutual Aid Assistance (MAA) meaning the home department would respond to the scene and if additional resources are needed they would have to request them. The delay in notification increased the time needed to assemble the resources needed to overcome the emergency. Area departments including CTFD have been making Automatic Mutual Aid (AMA) agreements with neighboring departments. With AMA, Kalkaska Central Dispatch will call out predetermined resources from neighboring departments for an emergency. This increases the amount of personnel and equipment that will be responding on the initial call and decreases overall response time. The home department can arrive on scene and perform a scene size up and assess if some or all AMA department can cancel or continue. By using AMA's department's are creating a much safer work zone for their members, and achieving control of emergencies in a shorter time frame thus saving property and lives. Currently CTFD has AMA agreements with Station 7 Kalkaska Twp. Fire Dept., Station 2200 South Torch Lake Fire Dept., and working with Station 9900 Milton Twp. on creating one. CTFD has MAA agreements with all departments in Antrim county and working on a county wide agreement with all of Kalkaska County. In 2013 CTFD received aid 18 times and gave aid 39 times.

Burn Permit Info. www.dnr.statemi.us/burnpermits/ Or 866-922-2876

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Community Members who have passed on since April, 2013

Richard Hunt	Jean Meachem	Mary Ferris	Gerald D. Corey
Louis D. Yoder	Gloria J. Hunt	Claribel Lawrence	Duane F. Lynk
Jean Neff	Brian A. Ferrari	Marjorie Sanderson	Julie K. Pelter
Dewayne Tuller	Ronald W. Waldby	Lois Ziegler	Lynn Ann Mackenzie
Herbert Hoose Jr.	Ellen G. Knust	James W. Fellows	Stanley F. Chilson
Bonnie Jo Rogers	Glenis R. Allen	Leda L. Miller	

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRACKING INFORMATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 28TH, 2014

11:AM to Noon

Clearwater Township Hall

5440 River Street

Rapid City, Michigan

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Grenetta Thomassey,

Tip Of The Mitt Watershed Council

Jim Peters

(MOGA) Michigan Oil Gas Assoc.,

Rick Henderson

DEQ Office Of Oil, Gas

And Minerals (Oogm)

Hosted By

Friends Of Rapid River

SAVE *the* DATE

"wine"

down with ESLA



Elk Skegemog Lakes Association Annual Meeting

*Plan on an evening of information
socialization and entertainment.*

**For more information check out
website at www.elk-skegemog.org**

When: Saturday, June 28, 2014

Beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Twisted Fish Gallery

Clearwater Township

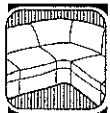
P.O. Box 1

Rapid City, MI 49676

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www.clearwatertwp.com



CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY

NOTE: LOCATION

Clearwater Township will hold a clean-up day on **Saturday, May 3, 2014** 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 road 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 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 3rd 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 2014-2015

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

APRIL 16, 2014 • MAY 21, 2014 • JUNE 18, 2014
JULY 16, 2014 • AUG. 20, 2014 • SEPT. 17, 2014
OCT. 15, 2014 • NOV. 19, 2014 • DEC. 17, 2014
JAN. 21, 2015 • FEB. 18, 2015 • MARCH 18, 2015

ANNUAL MEETING:

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015 - 9:00 A.M.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

APRIL 7, 2014 • MAY 5, 2014 • JUNE 2, 2014
July 7, 2014 • AUG. 4, 2014 • SEPT. 8, 2014
OCT. 6, 2014 • NOV. 3, 2014 • DEC. 1, 2014
JAN. 5, 2015 • FEB. 2, 2015 • MARCH 2, 2015

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

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

APRIL 14, 2014 • JULY 14, 2014 • OCT. 13, 2014
JAN. 12, 2015

ALL OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER,

6407 RIVER ST., 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