

Clearwater Township News

MAY 2018

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 a winter season that did not want to leave, 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.

IMPROVEMENTS IN 2017

This past year Clearwater Township completed several improvements and new projects.

HERITAGE PARK: A Dog Waste Station was added for the dog walkers at the park and new conditioner was placed on the ballpark in-fields.

FREEDOM PARK: A new BBQ was installed to replace the old one, broken handrails were replaced on the walking bridge, new signage for the park entryways were placed and wood chips were also placed on the trails.

CEMETERY: Additional gravel was placed on the driveways.

COMMUNITY CENTER & TOWNSHIP

HALL: New signage was placed at the Township Hall and the Community Center. At the Township Hall, a new storage room was built to replace the storage room upstairs, the old bleachers were replaced with new ones that meet safety requirements, the gym floors were painted along the edge of the

wood, and the carpeting at the entrance was replaced.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: Baggs and Wilhelm Roads were wedged and capped. Valley Rd from Rapid City Rd to Walker Rd is scheduled for later in 2018. West Plum Valley Rd is planned for 2019.

SANDBAR COMMITTEE: The July 4th weekend went well with the new law enforcement visibility in 2017.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Welcomed 2 new recruits this past year; Austin Miner and Justin Bryan.

TOWNSHIP: A new pickup truck was purchased in April 2017. The township launched our updated website in January 2018. Check it out at www.clearwatertwp.com.

The township would like to give special recognition and thank you to Patrick Hubble, who left us unexpectedly in 2017, for his service to the community over many years.

We always welcome input from our local residents regarding concerns, improvements and new ideas for our township. Please send your ideas via mail, email or phone. All residents are encouraged to attend the township meetings to stay current on township business and provide input.

Zoning Administrator Report

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. As of April 1, 2018, the Land Use Permit fee is \$25.00. Starting June 1, 2018, if a Land Use Permit is required and is not obtained, the property owner will be fined \$250.00 which includes the permit fee.

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

If you have a zoning violation complaint, please submit a complaint form. Land Use Permits and Zoning Violation Complaint forms are available at the township office and on the township website; look under Documents & Policies, then Applications & Forms.

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

Message From The Township Clerk

Special Election – May 8, 2018 (Kalkaska Voters ONLY)

Primary Election – August 7, 2018

General Election – November 6, 2018

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

Clearwater Township Board

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor
Kathy Eldridge, Clerk
Barbara Crambell, Treasurer
Mike Gaylord, Trustee
Dwight Seaman, Trustee
Dawn Kuhns, Assessor
Adam Parzych, Zoning Administrator

Parks & Rec Report

Winter kept coming back to visit us during spring this year. Hopefully spring is now here to stay and we have a wonderful summer ahead of us. Be sure to get out and enjoy all 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 ready for tennis or pickle ball. Yoga classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 AM at the Little Red Schoolhouse. Exercise classes are held at the Township Hall on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM. and Saturday morning at 8:30 AM. The Township Hall is open from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM. for individuals wishing to walk. Senior cards are held each Thursday evening at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 5:00 PM and senior lunches are held on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM at the Township Hall. The Little Red Schoolhouse and the Township Hall are available to rent for private parties. The township's meeting and Community Calendar, which lists all of these activities, can be found on the Clearwater Township website. Check out the calendar for availability of the Gym/Township Hall and Little Red Schoolhouse and then call the Township Office at 231 331-6249 or email us at clerk@clearwatertwp.com for additional information on how to rent.

The ball fields at Heritage Park and Freedom Park will see a lot of action again this summer; there will also be games on the soccer field during April and May. It will be fun to watch these young people so 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 so 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; no reservations are needed to use. When using our parks and access sites, please remember to keep your pets on a leash and clean up after them. Remember, Heritage Park has the new Dog Waste Station for this purpose. Respect our community and help make it a great place to live.

We welcome anyone who is interested in helping care for our facilities; just call the Township Office. Volunteers would also be welcome at all of the parks and access sites to take care of trash, etc. We also need volunteers to take care of some of the garden areas that we maintain in the township. The Juniper Garden Club 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.

From you Planning Commission

The Township Master Plan is a 5 year projection of anticipated events and possibilities affecting growth in Clearwater Township. Our Plan was last reviewed and approved in October of 2014, and will be reviewed and updated over next 15 months or so in order to have it in place by October of 2019. The Planning Commission is interested in any and all input from the Clearwater Township community.

Your ideas, opinions and suggestions are very welcome during the review process, and will help

us shape a more accurate vision of the future for Clearwater Township and Rapid City. We hope you will participate either in person at our Planning Commission meetings, in writing via mail or email, or by calling the township office. Thanks in advance for your interest in our community.

Tom Backers
Chairman
Planning Commission
Clearwater Township

Kalkaska Memorial Offers Adjustment to Taxpayer's Bill

In 2015, The Kalkaska Memorial Health Center's Board of Trustees started offering hospital millage taxpayers an opportunity to see an "adjustment" in their out-of-pocket expenses for all hospital services provided. The hospital board revised its policy that offers all Kalkaska County taxpayers the opportunity to apply for an adjustment based on their actual hospital millage payments over the past five years. The hospital may adjust a taxpayer's eligible account by an amount equal to the taxpayer's prior five-year hospital millage taxes.

Eligibility is for the taxpayer or their dependents as defined by IRS regulations. The amount of the adjustment may be applied to any outstanding, out-of-pocket hospital bill of \$50 or greater.

To obtain the adjustment the taxpayer must:

- Provide the hospital with a copy of their property tax bills that itemize the hospital

millage portion. The taxpayer may request an itemization from his or her township if it is not already provided. The hospital will adjust up to five years of millage payments.

- Provide the hospital with proof of payment for their property taxes. Unpaid portions of property taxes cannot be used for the adjustment and each year can only be used once.

The adjustment will not be automatically applied to bills. Taxpayers need to apply for it because the hospital does not have specific tax information on all township residents.

In order to receive the adjustment, individuals will need to visit the KMHC patient accounts department, Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. For more information about applying for the adjustment, county taxpayers are encouraged to contact Heidi Kato at 258-7614.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Annual News

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

Just about a year ago, Kalkaska County residents passed a 10 year millage to continue supporting the growth of Kalkaska Memorial Health Center. First, we cannot thank you enough for your support; each time we have visited your township the board and residents have expressed overwhelming positivity for KMHC and our vision for the future. Now that the millage was passed many people have been asking what comes next. Despite most of the work over the last year being "behind the scenes", we plan to break ground on the parking lot work this spring. This will help set the stage for the more extensive construction to begin on the Medical Pavilion, which at this point is estimated to take roughly 16 months, with a completion date of Summer 2019. As a reminder, the Medical Pavilion will house primary and specialty physicians as well as chronic disease, infusion and chemotherapy.

In addition to construction planning, KMHC has been busy refining and adding healthcare services

over the last year. KMHC now offers comprehensive diabetes care including one on one and group education, diabetes prevention/lifestyle change class, a once a month diabetes clinic and medical nutrition therapy with a registered dietician. The first Diabetes Prevention cohort has seen tremendous success with its participants cumulatively losing over 200 pounds.

Last summer, general surgeon Dr. Michael VanderKolk joined KMHC full-time and Kalkaska Medical Associates recently welcomed pediatrician Dr. Cynthia Smith to full-time practice. KMA is also very pleased to announce 3 new family practice physicians will be joining at the end of the summer. Details about start dates and open houses will be available in months to come.

KMHC has been and will continue to be proud to serve our community with high-quality, close to home healthcare services. Thank you again for your continued support to turn vision into reality.

Clearwater Township Fire Department

8255 Garfield Street, Rapid City, Michigan 49676

In 2017, your Fire Department has continued to grow our relationship with South Torch Lake Fire Department (STLFD) Station 2200. On the 3rd Monday of each month we have joint department training sessions. We now have three members who have achieved "Ice Rescue Technician" certification. Partnering with STLFD, we are able to share the cost of training and increase the interoperability between departments.

On May 12th and 13th, your fire department will be hosting "Flash Over Training". Training trailers and instructors are being furnished by Oak Community College with funding provided by the Michigan Firefighter Training Division. Those funds are derived from the sales of fireworks in the State of Michigan. There are

98 firefighters from Kalkaska County and northwest Lower Michigan signed up to take part in the training.

In the upcoming August Primary Election, our 1 mill operation millage request is up for renewal. Approval of this millage is essential since it is our only source of funding for the day to day operation of your fire department. We also have a voter approved 1/2 mill equipment millage that is earmarked for equipment purchases. This year's equipment millage was used to purchase a 6000psi fill station and a cascade air system which is used to fill our SCBAs. Also purchased was a battery operated PPV fan used to ventilate the smoke and heat from a structure. The equipment millage is also being used to make the payments on the Tanker and Quick Response Engine that was purchased several years ago.

Special Note

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 live saving event be it for fire or ambulance.

2017 Run Report

- 331 Total Runs (25% Increase over 2016)
- 18 Fire Runs (13% Increase)
- 240 EMS Runs (31% Increase)
- 37 Good Intent Calls (28% Increase)
- 22 Hazardous Conditions (5% Decrease)
- 7 Service Calls (30% Decrease)

Apparatus Responding to Incidents

5 Engine 1	79 Runs
5 Engine 2	67 Runs
5 Rescue	194 Runs

In 2017, your fire department received aid 20 times, and gave aid 30 times to other departments.

Every 26 Hours - Your Fire Department is responding to someone's of emergency.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

If you own your home or vacant and contiguous property by June 1, you are eligible to receive the Principle Residence Exemption. By receiving this exemption, you are exempt from having to pay the 18 mills of school operating tax. If you notice that 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 principle residence for those that meet the following criteria:

- Honorably discharged
- 100% totally and permanently disabled or determined to be unemployable by the Veteran's Administration or un-remarried 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 Board of Review sessions conducted in March, July and December. The application must be completed and returned with the letter from the Veterans Administration stating the qualifying factors.

Department Membership is at a 10 year low Accepting applications for the following positions

TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED AT NO COST

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 pass 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 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, 2017

Margaret Ellis	Jerome Green	Jack Aston	Bruce Balanger
Kevin Copeland	Mark Minick	Terry Meeder	Ernest Brewer
Frank Kuras, Jr	Larry Prough	Angela Mathison	Duane Lynk
Ronald Cox	Elaine Loose	Heather Templin	Fred Zirkle
Carol Edgecomb	Marion Moody	James Passage	Julian Wheeler
Gertrude St.Clair	Patrick Hubble	Laura Love	Jerry O'Boyle
Diana Norment	Linda Martin	Bruce Karazia	Greg Neiswonder
Donna Kooistra	Colton Kranz	Harold Parker	Phyllis Barber
Tyler Spink	Eugene Thomas	Ida Linderleaf	Mary Ann Champney
	David Crouse	Steven Stahl	

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 5, 2018 from 7:00 AM until 12 noon.

Residents may take their trash items to the 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 utility 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.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: Car tires, car batteries, 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 5th 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 2018-2019

TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS

BEGIN AT 7:00 PM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

April 18, 2018 • May 16, 2018 • June 20, 2018
July 18, 2018 • August 15, 2018 • September 19, 2018
October 17, 2018 • November 21, 2018 • December 19, 2018
January 16, 2019 • February 20, 2019 • March 20, 2019
Annual Meeting: Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

April 2, 2018 • May 7, 2018 • June 4, 2018
July 9, 2018 • August 6, 2018 • September 10, 2018
October 1, 2018 • November 5, 2018 • December 3, 2018
January 7, 2019 (Joint w/ZBA) • February 4, 2019 • March 4, 2019

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

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

April 9, 2018 • July 16, 2018 • October 8, 2018
January 7, 2019 (Joint w/Planning Commission)

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