

# Clearwater Township News

MAY 2014<sup>2015</sup>

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

Over the last few weeks it's clearly apparent our record setting cold winter has ended. The signs of spring are once again reappearing, as is the Clearwater Township Newsletter. Through our newsletter, it is hoped that our residents are provided with a quick look at what was accomplished this past year in the township and what new events, activities, and projects are in the planning for 2015.

### IMPROVEMENTS IN 2014

Over the past year Clearwater Township has experienced several new projects and improvements;

**Freedom Park:** Replacement of a third of the old split rail fencing; repainting of the base of the Rapid River Bridge; and new lighting on the park flag.

**Heritage Park:** The two dugouts on the softball diamond were finished and some new irrigation was added.

**Roads:** The first mile of Morrison Rd. was wedged, capped, relined and new gravel was added to the road's shoulders.

**Access Sites:** At Lake St. an overhanging tree and brush were removed and a new bench was added. At Maple St. the damaged shore was redone with rocks, sand and a new bench was added.

**New River Access:** The Township was given a 99 year lease on nearly

three acres of land at Aarwood Bridge from the Kalkaska County Road Commission.

**Assessing:** A total reassessment of properties in the Township was completed.

**Planning Commission:** The Five Year Master Plan was completed.

**Township Cemetery:** Several dead trees were removed; lighting was added to the flag; a new and enlarged veteran's sign was added and two new directional signs for the cemetery were placed on Valley Rd.

**Township Hall and Community Center:** Flags at both locations received improved illumination.

### What is Happening in 2015?

More paving on Morrison Rd.; continued dead tree removal at the cemetery; increased parking at the Aarwood Trail Boat Launch by the DNR; an updated Five Year Parks & Recreation plan will be completed and development of the newly acquired Aarwood Bridge property will begin.

Having served another year as Clearwater Township Supervisor, I feel most thankful for the great people I have the privilege of working with. My sincere thanks to all of the individuals who have contributed their time and effort in service to Clearwater Township.

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor

## 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 5, 2015

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

### Clearwater Township Board

Larry Niederstadt, Supervisor

Julie Vance, Clerk

Barbara Crambell, Treasurer

Grace Beland, Trustee

Dwight Seaman, Trustee

Dawn Kuhns, Assessor

Guy Molby, Zoning Administrator

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## Planning Commission Report

During 2014, your Clearwater Township Planning Commission completed updating and recreating the five-year Master Plan. The Township Board adopted the recreated Master Plan in October 2014. To view this document, visit the township website [www.clearwatertwp.com](http://www.clearwatertwp.com), and click on the Master Plan link in the listing on the left. During the past year, we have also been striving to keep our Zoning Ordinance up to date, because state laws that apply to us also change over time.

We continue to monitor the slow progress of our state's legislature and courts in sorting out the myriad issues

surrounding the permitted use of medical marijuana within Michigan. The Planning Commission maintains the philosophy that we will not draft any law that directly violates either the state or the federal statutes.

As a matter of policy to separate personal business from township business, the Planning Commission has established township-business-only email addresses for its members. Thanks to Commissioner Tom Backers for bringing this recommendation to the Commission, based on information received at an MTA Land Use Seminar he attended, in January 2014.

The needs of our community continue

to evolve, which means there will always be much work to do for the Planning Commission. Community work is best done in an atmosphere of community, thus we invite our friends and neighbors to join us at our regular meetings, and provide thoughtful input to assist us in 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. 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.

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## Parks & Rec/Heritage Committee Report

Spring is here, I think!!! Time to remind everyone again of the wonderful recreational opportunities we have in our township. The half mile walking trail at Heritage Park continues to be a favorite for many people all year long. The trails along the Rapid River in Freedom Park are particularly beautiful in the spring when the Marsh Marigolds are in bloom. Don't miss it!!

Other areas for exercise and recreation include the tennis court located behind the township hall; yoga classes that are offered every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am at the Community Center (AKA Little Red Schoolhouse); Zumba classes which are held at the township hall on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. The township hall is open Monday through

Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for individuals wishing to walk. Senior cards are held each Thursday evening at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 6:00 p.m. and senior lunches are held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. For additional information on any of these activities, call the township hall at 231 331-6249.

The ball fields at Heritage Park are already seeing some use by the Kalkaska High School boys' team. There will be several little league teams again this year using the two fields at Heritage Park and the Freedom Park field. Support these young people whenever you have a chance. Their games are a lot of fun to watch. The Heritage committee is purchasing a new piece of equipment for the playground area at Freedom Park.

Summer will be here again soon and the access sites to Torch Lake along

Crystal Beach Rd. are wonderful for swimming. Improvements were made last year to the Lake Street access and the Pine Street access. There are picnic pavilions at Birch St. Park on Crystal Beach Rd., Heritage Park and Freedom Park on Rapid City Rd. These are open to the public, but 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 to make it a great place to live.

The Parks and Recreation committee is working on updating the 2015-2020 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan for the township. A public hearing was held in February, and another will be held shortly for input from the community. We hope to submit it to the Township board for approval by mid summer.

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## Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Annual News

*From Marianne Ewald, BSN and Clearwater Township Representative*

Kalkaska Memorial health Center has had a busy winter and is looking forward to spring (and some sunshine). Despite the challenging weather in recent months, progress is being made on our Long Term Care expansion to build two 10-bed Green Houses. These homes are a revolutionary approach to nursing care, which will provide residents with a homelike environment and personalized, high-quality care. Footing

and foundation work continues, and the goal is to open the beginning of 2016. We are also excited as of April 6<sup>th</sup> to have opened an ambulatory pharmacy, which will be open 6 days a week and be able to provide medications for KMHC discharged patients when scripts are written during their appointments. Also, be on the lookout in your mailbox near the end of April for a KMHC Community Benefit Report highlighting

the many contributions KMHC makes to our county and the communities it serves. The findings from this report will be presented in individual townships over the next several months. Kalkaska Memorial Health Center offers many services people are unaware of, so please ask or stop by to see if we can help meet your healthcare needs. The annual Strawberry Social will be held June 14<sup>th</sup> – we hope to see you there!

# Clearwater Township Fire Department

8255 Garfield Street, Rapid City, Michigan 49676

Major accomplishments 2014 were aimed at fleet improvements. These units were placed in service in 2014. Both units are used but will fill their mission for many years.

- ½ Ton Dodge 4X4, 4 door pickup Medical truck
- ¾ Ton Ford 4X4, 4 door pickup, for grass/brush fires, trees/lines down also equipped with a generator and lights for scene lighting.

We are still having problems with driveway and homes being numbered and visible at night. 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, readable from both directions.

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 certain types of emergencies. In 2014 your fire department received aid 18 times, and gave aid 29 times.

## Every 28 Hours

Your Fire Department is Responding To Some Type of Emergency.

**Busiest time of the day**  
2 PM to 6 PM 25% of all calls

## Burn Permit Info.

[www.dnr.statemi.us/burnpermits/](http://www.dnr.statemi.us/burnpermits/)  
or 866-922-2876

## 2014 Run Report

308 Total Runs (10% Increase over 2013)  
16 Fire Runs • 214 EMS Runs  
14 Motor Vehicle Accidents No Injuries  
11 Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injuries  
50 Other/Misc.

## Apparatus Responding to Incidents

5 Engine 1	35 Runs
5 Engine 2	217 Runs
5 Rescue	43 Runs
5 Utility/Brush	42 Runs
5 Tanker 1	20 Runs
5 Tanker 2	10 Runs

## Gone, But Not Forgotten

Community Members who have passed on since April, 2014

Jack Teesdale	Beverly Sekelsky	Joseph Dion
Peter Stephenson	Charles Crane	Donald Iler
Belinda Lacy	Roy Ardoin	Leon Chapman
Gary Farr	Daniel Mariage	Helen Sulok
William Sekelsky	Carol Jewell	Robert
Steve Konsella	Elizabeth Meiser	Vandenbossche
Max Raymond	Daniel Decker	Robert (Ted) Dalton

## Clearwater Township Fire Department Accepting applications for the following positions

### Medical First Responder

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

### Firefighter

Firefighters are primary responsible for responding to fires, accidents and other incidents 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  
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 positions will be provided*

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

With tax bills coming out July 1<sup>st</sup>, make sure you double check the Principal Residence Exemption status on your tax bill to be sure it is correct. If you own and occupy your property, you are entitled to the Principal Residence Exemption which exempts you from having to pay the 18 mills of school operating tax. Contact me right away at 231 409-1827 if you are not getting that exemption and we can correct it at the July Board of Review and issue a new tax bill.

# Clearwater Township

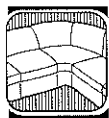
P.O. Box 1

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 2, 2015 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 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 2015-2016

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

April 15, 2015 • May 20, 2015 • JUNE 17, 2015  
JULY 15, 2015 • AUGUST 19, 2015 • SEPTEMBER 16, 2015  
OCTOBER 21, 2015 • NOVEMBER 18, 2015 • DECEMBER 16, 2015  
JANUARY 20, 2016 • FEBRUARY 17, 2016 • MARCH 16, 2016

### ANNUAL MEETING:

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016 AT 9:00 A.M.

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

April 6, 2015 • May 4, 2015 • June 1, 2015  
July 6, 2015 • August 3, 2015 • September 14, 2015  
October 5, 2015 • November 2, 2015 • December 7, 2015  
January 4, 2016 • February 1, 2016 • March 7, 2016

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

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

April 13, 2015 • July 13, 2015  
October 12, 2015 • January 11, 2016

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  
Julie K. Vance, Clearwater Township Clerk