

Clearwater Township News

MAY 2019

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 seemed to go on and on, 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 2018

Heritage Park: The batting cage netting was replaced and security cameras were installed.

Freedom Park: Removed several dead trees as well as cleared the trails and added new chips to the trails.

Torch Lake Access Sites: Installed new street signs and added "Swim at Your Own Risk:" signage for all access sites.

- Birch Street – Removed trees on the lake and the park side to improve parking

- Cedar Street – Removed trees to improve parking

- Pine Street – Removed trees to improve parking

Cemetery: Added electrical service and a light at the flag pole.

Township Hall: The gym floor was refinished and pickle ball lines were added. Security cameras were added and the lighting was converted to LED in the gym.

Community Center: The front and side decks were stained.

Road Improvements: Valley Rd from Rapid City Rd to Walker Rd as well as a small part of Kellogg Rd was completed. West Plum Valley Rd is planned for 2019.

Fire Department: Security cameras were

added at the fire station and the remodeling was started to accommodate EMS staff. See the Fire Department section of the newsletter for more information on the good work being done by this dedicated group of individuals.

Township: A needs assessment for the Township Hall and the Fire Station was conducted. The Remodel Evaluation and Feasibility Study Report can be found under "Notices" on the township website, clearwatertwp.com. We will continue to post more information about this on the website as it is available.

I would like to give special recognition and thank you to Dwight Seaman, who left us unexpectedly in January 2019, for his service to the community over many years. Also, thank you to Larry Niederstadt, who stepped down as our Township Supervisor this past year. Thanks Larry for the many years of leadership you provided.

Our township has 2 new trustees, Greg Bradley and Jeremy Morrison. We also have a new Fire Chief, Paul Fabiano. Welcome aboard to all 3! Be sure to thank them for their community service.

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. Please note that as of April 2019, the Township Board meetings moved to the 3rd **Thursday** of each month to help accommodate other community meetings. Agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the township website to help keep all informed.

Zoning Administrator Report

If you're planning improvements such as excavation for, or construction of, any building structure or parking area, you will need a Land Use Permit before you start. 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.

If you have a zoning violation concern, please submit a complaint form.

The Land Use Permit Application and the Violation Complaint Form are both available at the township office and on the township website. On the website, look under Documents & Policies, then Applications & Forms.

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 questions, please contact the Zoning Administrator via email at aparzych.za.clearwater@gmail.com or call 231-357-0447.

Message From The Township Clerk

Election Updates:

With the passage of Proposal 18-3 last November, voter registration and absentee voting is more convenient for all Michigan residents. Please notify the Township Clerk via mail, email or phone if you would like to vote absentee.

Voter registration is available at the Township Hall during office hours as well as on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 9 AM to 1PM and on Sunday, May 5, 2019 from 1 PM to 5PM. The polling location for all elections is the Clearwater Township Hall at 5440 River St. in Rapid City.

2019 Election Dates:

May 7, 2019 • August 6, 2019 • November 5, 2019

Clearwater Township is always looking for friendly registered voters to work our Township elections. Some training is required before working. If this might be of interest to you, please contact the township office to learn more and fill out an application.

Clearwater Township Board

Mike Gaylord, Supervisor

Kathy Eldridge, Clerk

Barbara Crambell, Treasurer

Greg Bradley, Trustee

Jeremy Morrison, Trustee

Dawn Kuhns, Assessor

Adam Parzych, Zoning Administrator

Paul Fabiano, Fire Chief

Parks & Rec Report

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. This fall, a celebration for the 40th anniversary for Freedom Park was held; thanks to all who made that a special event. The trails at the park along the Rapid River got some needed sprucing up and are especially beautiful in the spring when the marsh marigolds are in bloom. Be sure to visit and see these beautiful spots along the rushing water.

The waters of Torch Lake will soon be warm and welcoming. We are so lucky to live near this 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 many parks and access sites, please remember to keep your pets on a leash and clean up after them. Heritage Park has the Dog Waste Station for this purpose. Respect our community and help make it a great place to live.

The Little Red Schoolhouse and the Township Hall are available to rent for private use. The township's community calendar, which lists all activities, can be found on the Clearwater Township website, "clearwatertwp.com". Check out the calendar for availability of the Gym/Township Hall and the Community Center/Little Red Schoolhouse and then call the Township Office at 231-331-6249 or email us at clerk@clearwatertwp.com, to make a reservation and get additional information.

We welcome anyone who is interested in helping care for our facilities; just call the Township Office. Volunteers are also welcome at all of the parks and access sites to take care of trash, etc. We thank the Juniper Garden Club for all of the garden spots they maintain in our township.

More information is available on the "Parks and Recreation" page of the website.

Message from the Treasurer

Property Taxes:

Summer taxes are due beginning July 1st and payable through September 16, 2019 without penalty or interest. If you have not received your 2019 property tax statement by the middle of July, please call the Township Office and leave a message for the Treasurer at 231-331-6249, ext. 11 to ensure the mailing address on file is correct for your property. Winter taxes are due beginning December 1st and are payable through February 14, 2020 without penalty or interest.

Tax payments can be made in person at the Township Hall or by

mail to PO Box 68, Rapid City, MI. Make checks out to "Clearwater Township"; if paying by cash, please bring the exact amount owed. Clearwater Township does NOT accept credit card payments. There is a secure drop box slot in the Township Office door that can be used as a drop off for your payments if the office is closed.

If you want a receipt and you are paying via mail or the drop box; include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

For more information check out the "Property Tax Information" page on the township website.

From your Planning Commission

The Planning Commission voted to retain the current officers for the 2019 year. As appointed Commission members, we work under the direction of the Township Board, with input from the public. Although most of our work is routine, concerning land use issues, other items are also in the process of being addressed. The Commission is currently working on language for a "Mass Gathering" Ordinance. The draft language for this ordinance, when finished, will be forwarded to the Township Board for approval. The draft ordinance applies only to land based public gatherings of over 400 people. The Commission has continued their efforts to form a committee to attempt to find a legal solution to the abandoned Township alleyways. The

objective of this committee is to research State and Federal funding to facilitate the legal transfer of ownership, and all or most of the costs involved, to the adjoining properties. For more information, contact Tom Backers at 231-709-0474. There are plans to hold an organizational meeting in late May or early June. The Commission's review of the Township Master Plan is ongoing; public input is appreciated. This review must be accomplished by October of 2019. We appreciate the input on all matters that we have received to date.

*Tom Backers
Planning Commission Chair*

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Annual Update

Happy Spring (maybe??) from Kalkaska Memorial Health Center! While the snow may still be falling, fortunately that has not slowed down construction on the campus of KMHC. We are extremely proud to share that the new Medical Pavilion is still on track to open this summer. The Pavilion will house physician services on the first floor, with improved parking and wayfinding for our patients. The second floor will house education space for chronic disease management as well as infusion and chemotherapy services. KMHC has been diligently working with Munson Healthcare to join efforts in order to provide chemotherapy services for our community. Due to the detailed planning required, this service will commence after the pavilion opens.

In addition to our building expansion, KMHC has been busy over the last year continuing to add close to home providers and services. Last fall, Kalkaska Medical Associates added three

new family medicine physicians, Dr. Delaney, Dr. Pillay, and Dr. Polanic. All three have expressed how honored they are to be warmly welcomed into the community. We have also added a behavioral health counselor and a full-time dietician, who provides one on one nutritional education as well as diabetes education. We hope to continue adding health and wellness services such as cooking classes in the future.

KMHC leadership is also excited to start updating our strategic plan. We want to hear from staff, patients and our community on what we do well, how we can improve and what is seen as our most important healthcare needs in the future. We have held three open community forums thus far and plan to attend several township and community meetings.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of KMHC and hope everyone enjoys the (hopefully) warmer weather to come.

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

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.

Clearwater Township Fire Department

8255 Garfield Street, Rapid City, Michigan 49676

Your Fire Department recently started a cadet program for young adults that may be thinking about a career in firefighting. The program is for students 16 to 17 years of age. The program training would prepare the student with the skills needed to transition into a firefighting career. For more information on the Cadet Program please contact the program Director; Lt. Ronetta Smith at 231-322-2137.

Your Fire Department also started a smoke / CO detector program. Members of the fire department will come out to your home and conduct a fire safety analysis. The fire department will provide and install smoke detectors and a CO detector wherever needed. This program is in partnership with the State Fire Marshal Division and there is NO cost to the homeowner. For more information or to arrange a fire department visit, call 231-322-2137 and leave a message.

Two years ago, your Fire Department did not have the training

or equipment to make a safe ice/water rescue. We would have to request and wait for mutual aid to arrive to do any rescue of this type. Today, 90% of the members of your Fire Department are Ice/Water Rescue II Technicians. We have four sets of water rescue suits along with the necessary ropes and line tender equipment. One more piece of equipment and your Fire Department will have full capabilities to respond immediately to any ice/water rescue.

Your Fire Department is always looking for dedicated individuals that want to serve their community. Training and equipment will be provided by the Fire Department. You must be at least 18 years of age and live within Clearwater Township. Our training nights are the first three Mondays in every month at 7 PM ... stop in and see what we are all about.

To stay informed as to what your Fire Department is doing, like and follow us on Facebook @ "Clearwater Township Fire Department".

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.

2018 Run Report

21 Fire Responses (17 % Increase)
236 EMS Responses (2% Decrease)
26 Hazardous Conditions (18% Increase)
64 Other Responses (25% Increase)
347 Total responses (5% Increase over 2017)

Apparatus Responses

5 Engine 1	71 runs
5 Engine 2	65 runs
5 Rescue	229 runs

In 2018, your Fire Department received aid 17 times and provided aid to other Fire Departments 23 times.

Every 25 Hours – Your Fire Department responded to someone's emergency.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

If you own and occupy 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 during 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 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 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 positions 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, 2018

Timothy Wellnitz	Debra Finley	David Schettig	Edna Holder
Shirley Green	Gregory Kettler	Bernice Lelito	Gloria Crampbell
Herbert Russell	Norman Wright	Dwight Seaman	Henry Dorman
Ryan Ramsey	Lance Gates	Leslie Main	William Loose
Connie Crandall	Arlene Willson	William Shirley	Mark Newton
Manuel Cook	Richard Peebles	Helen Bethke	Dorothy Guy
William Mueller	Ann Woodruff	Hugh Betz	
	Thomas Holman	Karen Koenig	

Clearwater Township

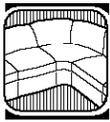
P.O. Box 1

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 4, 2019 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 4th AT 7:00 A.M.

Spring is 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 MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-2020

TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM

ON THE FOLLOWING THURSDAY EVENINGS:

April 18, 2019 • May 16, 2019 • June 20, 2019
July 18, 2019 • August 15, 2019 • September 19, 2019
October 17, 2019 • November 21, 2019 • December 19, 2019
January 16, 2020 • February 20, 2020 • March 19, 2020

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

April 1, 2019 • May 6, 2019 • June 3, 2019
July 1, 2019 • August 5, 2019 • September 9, 2019
October 7, 2019 • November 4, 2019 • December 2, 2019
January 6, 2020 (Joint w/ZBA) • February 3, 2020 • March 2, 2020

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETINGS

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

April 8, 2019 • July 8, 2019 • October 14, 2019
January 6, 2020 (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 PO Box 1, Rapid City, MI 49676