



East Bay Charter Township Newsletter

1965 N Three Mile Rd, Traverse City MI 49696 (231) 947-8647 / FAX: (231) 922-2094 www.eastbaytwp.org

Township Hours Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed on Friday

Easy Bay Township - Through Your Lens

The Township is currently working on a website re-design and are looking for pictures of our scenic township and would like to ask for help from our residents. Please send us your pictures highlighting the beauty of East Bay Township, and we will feature it on our website to share with the community. Send pictures to tbartlett@eastbaytwp.org. Keep a look out for the new website soon.

Ongoing Bayshore Corridor Study

Representatives of East Bay Charter Township are working with their counterparts at Acme and Elmwood Townships, the City of Traverse City, as well as Grand Traverse County, to coordinate planning and design efforts along the multi-jurisdictional Bayshore Corridor. The Bayshore Corridor extends from the intersection of US-31 North & M-72 in Acme Township on the east to the intersection of M-22 & Cherry Bend Road in Elmwood Township on the west and constitutes those areas fronting the shoreline of both East and West Bays.

On May 31st, an initial forum was held at the East Bay Charter Township hall to receive input from residents and businesses along the East Bay Township portion of the corridor on how they would like to see this area be planned, zoned, developed, and redeveloped for the next two decades. Topics of discussion included, but were not limited to branding, pedestrian/bicycle circulation and safety, traffic, signage, visual and architectural aesthetics, wayfinding, and land uses.

The May 31st meeting and visioning session was facilitated by John Sych, AICP, the Planning Director of Grand Traverse County. Based on feedback received at this meeting, goals and objectives for the corridor, preliminary design concepts, and suggested revisions to the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance will be prepared for public review and comment at a second forum. Eventually, it is hoped that innovative and exciting ideas originating from these meetings will be incorporated into the Township's future planning and zoning efforts, while also being coordinated with similar efforts taking place in our Bayshore neighbors to the east and west.

If you have any questions about these efforts, please feel free to contact the Office of Planning & Zoning at 231-947-8681 and ask for Rick or Leslie.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

MSHDA offers a program to assist eligible residents with property taxes, mortgage payment or condominium fees. You may qualify for an interest-free loan through the state-run Step Forward Michigan program to help you catch up on those bills. Step Forward Michigan is dedicated to helping Michigan homeowners get back on their feet and retain ownership of their homes.

Federally funded through Michigan's Hardest Hit Fund program, Step Forward Michigan offers up to \$30,000 in interest-free loans to Michigan homeowners who have fallen on hard times. To qualify for assistance, a homeowner must have experienced a hardship that caused the delinquency, such as a death in the family, divorce, medical emergency, significant home repair or job loss. Besides being interest free, a loan through the Step Forward Michigan program requires no monthly payments and is forgivable over a five-year period. If the homeowner keeps the house as his or her principal residence for five years, the loan no longer is due.

For additional information on the Step Forward Michigan program or to see if you qualify, please contact the Grand Traverse County Treasurer's Office at (231) 922-4735. You also can visit the Step Forward Michigan website at StepForwardMichigan.org or call (866) 946-7432.

Let's Have a Fire Safe Summer

Summer is underway and, with more hours of daylight, there is more to fit in! With warm weather, blue skies, sunshine and waves only lasting a few months, it's now that we jam pack our schedules to include guests, family/friends, entertaining, cook-outs, camp fires, celebrations, outdoor activities and more. Grand Traverse Emergency Services Authority would like to offer a few reminders to tie into your summer celebrations.

Family or friends visiting this summer? What would you do to keep them safe? Probably anything. Start by checking your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Smoke & CO alarms save lives – when they are maintained. This is easy to do by following the 1-2-10 Rule. 1- Once a month test your smoke alarms. 2- Twice a year replace the batteries. 10 – Every ten years replace your alarms (they should have a date on the back). Also, make sure that you have the proper number of alarms in your home. There should be a smoke alarm in every bedroom, in a central location outside of bedrooms, and on every floor. You should also have a CO alarm on every level.

Grilling out and summer go hand in hand. Grills can produce carbon monoxide (CO) gas. Use grills outside away from windows, doors, vents and refrain from using in the garage – even if the doors are open. Use long-handled cooking utensils and wear short sleeves or push your sleeves up. Whether cooking indoors or out, never leave your cooking unattended - more than the hot dogs could burn!

What's better for dessert on summer evenings than a warm, ooey gooey smore?! Plan on sitting around a warm fire? First, be sure that all fire pits are a minimum of 10' from anything that could burn and enforce a 3' kid-free-zone around them. Burn only dry, seasoned wood – never trash. When you are done, make sure that the fire is out and that the ashes are doused and completely saturated with water. Get the ones underneath too!

Plan on celebrating Independence Day? We live in a region where there are literally over 15 professional fireworks displays on that day, all within short driving distances. Leave it to the experts; pull up a chair and enjoy the show!

Finally, be sure to store all matches and lighters out of sight and reach. Fire is exciting to children and they are curious. It stands for celebration – think birthday candles and fireworks. Teach them that these items are “tools” and not toys.

Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority hopes that you have a fun-filled, safe summer!

East Bay Ambulance

East Bay EMS –9A is now staffed 24/7 which enables them to service the township residents and visitors with quicker response times. To aid the emergency services in finding your house quickly, it is recommended to make sure that your house numbers are 3 inches in height and clearly visible from the road. The Station located at 110 High Lake Road, is open 7 am to 7 pm for residents to stop in for a blood pressure check. The Ambulance staff also wants to remind everyone that with the warmer weather, it is important to stay hydrated and to check on your older neighbors for their safety.

Community Police Officers Receive New Tools

There have been a couple of new tools purchased for our Community Police Officers (CPOs) in the last six months. The first is a new radar sign: The new sign is easily transportable and can be mounted on existing sign post. It is able to record and analyze traffic data so the CPOs can more efficiently make use of their time and help drivers realize the speeds at which they are traveling. Secondly, the CPOs have two new bicycles. These bikes will allow our CPOs to patrol the TART and Vasa trails which run through Easy Bay Township.

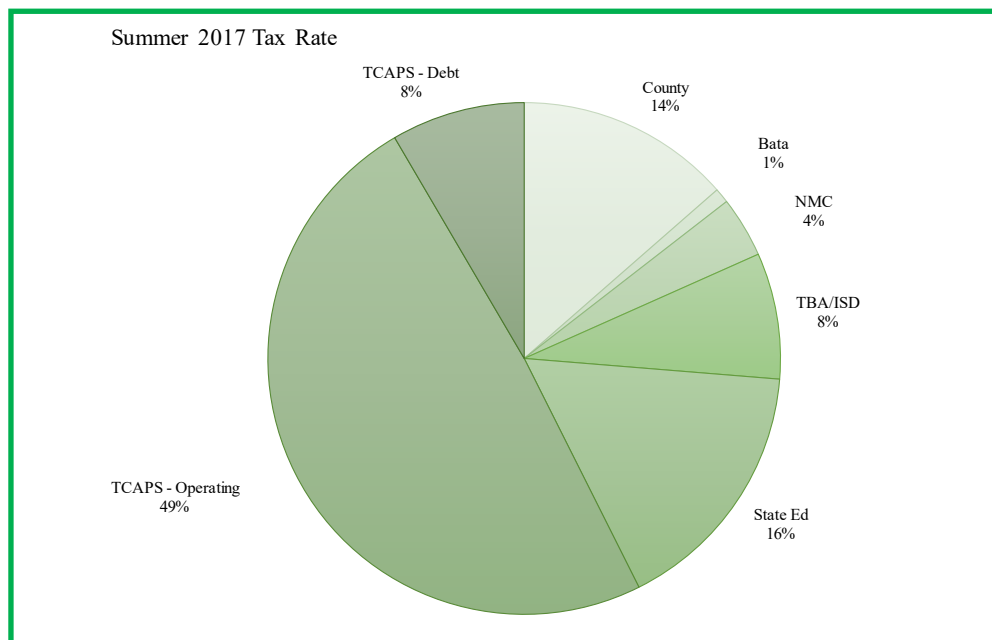


From the Grand Traverse County Road Commission

Did you know the Road Commission (GTCRC) works with townships to help improve subdivision, gravel and local low volume roads? While the majority of the road millage funds are used to improve connector-type roads that serve higher traffic volumes, the GTCRC Board sets aside general funds for partnership projects. This includes gravel road improvement, special assessment district and local road preservation projects. These are generally resident initiated and driven to improve the roads in their own neighborhood. Call us at 922-4848 and we can explain the process to get you started. Your township will work with the road commission and assist with the financial and legal aspects. Currently, two East Bay Township subdivisions are working on partnering with the Road Commission and the Township to get their roads improved.

Where Do Your Property Taxes Go?

A frequent question of the Treasurer's office is who receives our taxes? This illustration shows how the 2017 Summer tax bill is proportioned out. In East Bay Township, the summer taxes are primarily the Schools and the County and is 70% of the annual taxes. There are several methods in which you can make your tax payments. For these options and more information, see the Treasurer's page on the website at www.eastbaytwp.org.



East Bay Branch Library

"Build A Better World" Summer Reading Club with Miriam Pico! All ages are welcomed and invited to attend. Summer Reading Club...it's not just for kids anymore. Snacks, crafts, music and give-a-ways! Call the library at 922-2085 for more information.

Saturday, July 13th 10:00 a.m. Join Miss Rosie at the East Bay Park @ 200 East Bay Blvd. for Stories In The Park with special guest, the Coast Guard!

Saturday, July 15th 1:30 p.m. Summer Fun with local artist Brianne Farley! Check our website for more information at www.tadl.org/eastbay.

Saturday, August 26th 1:00 til 3:00 p.m. Come one, come all! Join us under the big tent for ice cream, music, face painting, a huge book sale and more! Call the library at 922-2085 for more information.

Wigglers Story Time...for preschool aged children and their friends! Programs include stories, songs, finger plays and fun are held at the following times:

JUNE

6/21 Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
6/23 Friday 10:30 a.m.
6/28 Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
6/30 Friday 10:30 a.m.

JULY

7/19 Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
7/21 Friday 10:30 a.m.
7/26 Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
7/28 Friday 10:30 a.m.

AUGUST

8/23 Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
8/25 Friday 10:30 a.m.
8/30 Wednesday 10:30 a.m.

East Bay Branch Library Hours:

Sunday CLOSED Monday CLOSED, Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Of Interest to First Time Voters

Before you head off to college this fall, stop in the Clerk's office to make sure you are ready to vote in our next election!

All newly registered and first-time voters wishing to vote by Absentee Voter Ballot (AV Ballot) should visit the Clerk's office during regular business hours to verify that your identity has been confirmed. State law requires that all voters registering for the first time either by mail, web, voter registration drive or other type of event must visit their local Clerk's office or Secretary of State's branch office and show a State issued photo ID in order to remove the "Verify ID" statement on your voter file and have the ability to receive an absentee ballot by mail. Without doing this, you will need to vote in person on the day of the election.

The next scheduled state-wide election is August 7, 2018, although special elections can be called and held November 7, 2017 and May 8, 2018.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Sue or Helen at the township office during regular hours at (231) 947-8647 or email us at: scourtade@eastbaytwp.org, or hmacarthur@eastbaytwp.org. We would be happy to check our records to see if you are all set to vote!

From East Bay's Assessing Staff

The East Bay Township Assessing staff is currently conducting its annual review of 20% of the parcels as recommended by the State Tax Commission. Depending on the weather, this will take most of the summer to complete. Additionally, we will be reviewing all new construction in the fall. All staff drive County marked vehicles and have County identification badges. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Russ or Susan at (231) 922-4759 .

Staff Directory (231) 947-8647

Supervisor	Beth Friend	bfriend@eastbaytwp.org
Office Administrator	Val Hendges	vhendges@eastbaytwp.org
Clerk	Susanne Courtade	scourtade@eastbaytwp.org
Deputy Clerk	Helen MacArthur	hmacarthur@eastbaytwp.org
Treasurer	Tracey Bartlett	tbartlett@eastbaytwp.org
Deputy Treasurer	Deb Hamilton	dhamilton@eastbaytwp.org
Planner	Rick Brown	rbrown@eastbaytwp.org
Zoning Administrator	Leslie Couturier	lcouturier@eastbaytwp.org
Assessor	Susan Karakos	skarakos@eastbaytwp.org
Assessor	Russ Casselman	rcasselm@eastbaytwp.org
Building/Grounds	Bob Burns	rburns@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee	Andrea Hentschel	ahentschel@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee	Glen Lile	glile@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee	Bryan Marrow	bmarrow@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee	Mindy Walters	mwalters@eastbaytwp.org

The following Board/Commission Members' contact information can be found at www.eastbaytwp.org

Planning Commission

Robert Tubbs
Ted Hentschel
Judy Nemitz
Louie Groleau
Mindy Walters
Daniel Leonard
Mathew Cooke

Zoning Board of Appeals

Dave Houseman
Ted Hentschel
Carl Studzinski
Frank Guerin
Tracey Bartlett

Park Commission

Butch Strait
Susan LaRose-Grover
Deb Lannen
Corie Layton
Marc Baker
Justin Friend
Mike Hintz

Board of Review

Sharon Vreeland
Kenneth Coleman
Tom Custance
Christopher Cox-Alternate
Matt Cross-Alternate