EAST BAY TOWNSHIP

Summer 2014

State Tax Commission bulletin is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/2013Bulletin11PersonalPropertyTaxChanges_439251_7.pdf

- The personal property exemption affidavit is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/5076_439273_7.pdf
- The personal property statement's link is: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/632fillable2015_471934_7.pdf

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What should you know if you have a business in your home?

East Bay Township currently has 624 businesses operating in the township. Several property owners operate a business in their home. This can affect you in a couple of ways. A home occupation permit is required to have a business in the home. This is a one-time fee of $50.00. Please contact Leslie Couturier in Zoning to obtain this permit if you have not already done so.

Having a business in your home will also affect your current 100% Principal Residence Exemption (PRE). If you have a business in your home the PRE should be less than 100 percent. The revised percentage is calculated by identifying what square footage of the structure is used by the business. For example, a 10 x 15 room used as office space or 28 x 40 pole building used as a work shop. (Please note, if you **stop** running the business in your home be sure to notify the assessor's office so we can change your PRE back to 100 percent.)

Typically **all** business owners **must** file an annual Personal Property Statement (Form L-4175) by February 20th each year. This is a four page form that looks really complicated but once completed just needs to be updated each year with any changes.

Recent legislation provides an exemption for small business owners. **This will save money for many small businesses.** Businesses having less than $80,000 in Taxable Value can file an Affidavit of Owner of Eligible Personal Property Claiming Exemption from Collection of Taxes (Form 5076). To qualify for the exemption the form must be filed by February 10th **each** year.

The vast majority of East Bay Township businesses would qualify for this exemption if they filed for it.

Please give Susan Karakos or Russ Casselman a call if you have any questions at 231-922-4759.

Notes from the Supervisor

It's Here, summer did arrive and with it comes the road construction season, please allow yourself a little extra time to get around.

The new water tower and water main projects continue to move forward. The new water tower will be placed on a 30 acre piece of property on Hammond Rd. just east of Five Mile Rd.

The construction of the tower will start late summer or early fall. The water mains will start in 2016.

I would also like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer.

Supervisor
Glen Lile
(231) 947-8719
glile@eastbaytwp.org

Community Police Officer

East Bay Township has a fireworks ordinance in place. Please see our website for more information.

Now that nicer weather is (hopefully) in our future, please remember to watch out for motorcycles, pedestrians, and bicyclists! Slow down in subdivisions – just because you can drive a certain speed, doesn't always mean you should! Make sure you're in control of your vehicle at all times and vigilant for bikers, joggers, walkers, and kids that you may have to share the road with.

Please be patient while driving during our construction period. We hope the end result will be well worth the wait and patience. Be courteous to other drivers and slow down for construction workers.

Unfortunately, with the nicer weather also comes more thefts. Help keep yourself and your family safe and happy by remembering to keep your vehicles locked while you're away from them to cut down on thefts from vehicles. If you notice any suspicious activity in your area, don't hesitate to call our Central Dispatch non-emergency number at (231)922-4550.

We are in the process of establishing neighborhood watch programs in subdivisions again. If you are interested in being a leader of a program in your neighborhood, please contact Deputy Metdepenningen at smetdepenning-en@gtsheriff.org, and once we are ready, we will contact you to help get started in your area.

Metro Fire Department

When do I need to get a burn permit? Visit: www.gtmetrofire.org

I want to thank the 1,017 neighbors, families and friends who came out on May 3rd to support the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and East Bay Ambulance at our pancake breakfast. It was a beautiful day and we can't thank you enough for your support. The 89 dedicated employees at the fire department stand ready to serve you with a smile and great customer service.

With so many people calling about burning regulations, I thought I would reiterate how the open burning regulations work in East Bay Township. First of all, recreational campfires in established fire rings, portable outdoor fireplaces and other containment devices ARE ALLOWED WITH NO PERMIT so long as the fire is less than 3 feet around and 2 feet of flame height. These fires must be a minimum of 25 feet from a structure or adjoining property. Only dry hardwood fuels may be used which do not produce noxious smoke conditions. Yard and construction waste is not allowed. Agricultural burning from tree farming and ceremonial bonfires may be allowed after a permit process. The fire department asks people to use common sense. Permits can be accessed at www.gtmetrofire.org

Garbage burn barrels do not provide good combustion. The smoke emitted consists of a number of chemicals that can be harmful. It becomes illegal when trash burning creates a smoke or odor nuisance. Who can decide that? Only you and your neighbor. Be smart, be safe!

Chief Pat Parker

Ambulance News

Besides the change of seasons, there has also been a major change at the ambulance. After 27 years, our medical advisor decided to step down and let someone else take the lead. Thanks Mikie for all you have done for us. The new medical advisor is myself, Tim Newton. I have lived in the Township for 15 years and have been a member of the fire department for 6 and the ambulance for 5 years. I am committed to the ambulance service and excited to serve my community.

We still participate in the "file for life" program. These little files are magnetic and attach to your refrigerator. Our medical staff are trained to look there for needed information. These are helpful in a medical emergency. When away from home we suggest you have a list of your medical history and current medication to assist you if you need medical help.

Stop by the station for blood pressure checks, or a place to charge phones and get water in a power outage. Pick up a "file for life" and say hello!!

East Bay Branch Library

Saturday July 11th @ 1:30 p.m. Miriam Pico Live in Concert!
Summer fun for the whole family with local musician Miriam Pico. Enjoy music snacks and a fun summer craft!

Friday July 17th @ 11:00 a.m. Cartoon Workshop with Brianne Farley. Join local children's book author and illustrator Brianne Farley as she shares the joy of drawing and reads her book Ike's Ink. Call the library at 922-2085 for details.

9th Annual Filmstrip Festival! "Filmstrip Fun For Everyone!" Eat popcorn and enjoy stories presented in the filmstrip format. Not just for kids anymore!
7/29 Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. Fun and Funny!
7/30 Thursday @ 4:00 p.m. Rosie's Favorites!
8/1 Saturday @ 1:30 p.m. Best Stories Ever!

Wigglers Story Time Wednesdays and Fridays the last two weeks of each month at 10:30 a.m. featuring stories, songs, finger plays and fun!

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT!
Saturday August 29th Annual Ice Cream Social 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Live Music, Book Sale, Kids Crafts Free Ice Cream Sundaes and Root Beer Floats... and more! Fun for all ages!

Hours:
Sunday CLOSED
Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 10-8
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-8
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-3

Please visit the library website at www.tadl.org/eastbay

Treasurers Office

Summer is finally here and for the Treasures office it means Tax time is here. We want to remind everyone that there are several options to use to pay you tax bill. Please refer to the back of your tax bill, or the township website at www.eastbaytwp.org for more details.

Also, several tax payers called this spring asking for property tax information for their income tax filing. We are happy to provide that, however, we encourage you to keep a copy of both your summer and winter tax bills with your income tax information or send us a stamped self-addressed envelope requesting a payment receipt. As always, Jo and I are available to answer any questions regarding taxes or special assessment payments.
Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Tracey Bartlett and Jo Moloci

Please keep the bottom part of your tax bill for income tax filing next winter!

Parks Commission

We are currently working on grants and donations for the Tot playground area at Grace Macdonald Park. The grant for the bathrooms at Grace Macdonald has been approved and we are moving forward with that project.
We have collected over 800 lbs. of plastic bottle caps and are going to get 2 recycled plastic benches for the parks. This has been a great success and we would like to encourage all to keep saving your caps for us. You may drop them off at the Township Hall.
Arbutus 5 Park has a water runoff problem which we are in the process of correcting. We are hoping for future improvements of a new bathroom and installing some of the old, but still functional, playground equipment that was removed from Grace Macdonald.
We are in the process of updating the signage at the parks, and working on a brochure for people to find the parks and know what each park has to offer.

Butch Strait, Parks Chair

The pavilions at Grace Macdonald & Killingsworth Park are available for rental through the township office. The cost of rental at Grace Macdonald Park is $50 and at Killingsworth Park is $20. If you would like to rent a pavilion, we will be happy to take your reservation. Please call Val at the township office at (231) 947-8647.

East Bay Charter Township

1965 N Three Mile Rd
Traverse City MI 49696

Phone: 231-947-8647
Fax: 231-922-2094

We're on the Web!
www.eastbaytwp.org

Watch our website for information on obtaining a free brush drop off pass this fall. Dates to be determined.

Planning and Zoning

Leslie Couturier, Zoning Admin

Land Use Permits from the Township are required for all types of construction activity, such as new homes, additions, garages, **all decks (including ground level),** and sheds or storage buildings, that are larger than 100 square feet. Please remember if you are on the water the setback is 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark, except for water side decks, which do require permits. It is recommended that you contact the Zoning Office prior to construction to see what permits are needed. Land Use Permits that are complete, and filed, are usually issued within 5 working days, during regular business hours. Appointments for application review are available.

Plastic, Canvas, and Metal Structures are required to obtain permits if larger than 100 square feet. These structures must also meet the required setbacks and inspections are required.

Two (2) Minor Accessory Buildings such as sheds that are 10' x 10' or less shall be permitted per lot. Minor Accessory Buildings may be located between the lot line and the side or rear yard setback line and **Minor Accessory Buildings** shall not require a land use permit, except for properties located on water where other provisions of the Zoning Ordinance may apply. Minor accessory buildings may occupy not more than 30 percent of a required rear yard, and unenclosed parking spaces may occupy not more than 90 percent of a required rear yard.

Junk Ordinance in Effect; an Ordinance to regulate and control the storage and disposal of junk and junk vehicles within the Township. The term "junk" shall mean any motor vehicle, machinery, appliance, product or merchandise, scrap metal, other scrap materials which are damaged, deteriorated, or that are in a condition which prevents their use for the purpose for which they were intended, and household trash. No person shall place, discard, or abandon junk in a place where it is visible from a highway, street, or other public way, or where it is visible to an abutting landowner from that portion of the land used on a regular basis. No person shall place discard, or abandon junk on public property or the private property of another, regardless if visible from a highway, street, or other pubic way, or from adjoining land. The Grand Traverse County Sheriff and his deputies are authorized as local enforcement officers of this ordinance.

Civil Fines for Municipal Civil Infractions; The township now imposes **Civil Fines for Municipal Civil Infractions**; any violator of the East Bay Charter Township Ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan statute which shall be punishable by a civil fine for each violation.

Clerk's News

Please join us in congratulating Helen MacArthur, Deputy Clerk, on obtaining the distinguished title of Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk (CMMC). We are very proud of her achievements and know that serving our residents with knowledge and experience is a quality we all can benefit from.

Have you ever considered working at the Precinct on Election Day? Contact Sue or Helen to find out more on how you can join this great group of inspectors.

We will be gearing up for another busy 2016 Election Year and we would like to remind our registered voters that East Bay has a "Permanent Absentee Voter Application" list. By filling out the form at the bottom of this article and returning it to the Township Hall, we will update your voter record to send an absent voter application prior to every election. This will save you time (no more waiting in line on Election Day) and allow you to vote your ballot when it is convenient to you.

Enjoy your summer!

Susanne M. Courtade CMMC/CMC Township Clerk
Helen E. MacArthur CMMC Township Deputy Clerk

I would like to receive an Absentee Voter application form prior to each election. Please send my application to the following address:

_____
Print Name

_____
Address

_____
City/State/ZIP

_____
Signature Date