

East Bay Charter Township

Winter 2009

ATTENTION RESIDENTS: Clean Up Day News

This year we are trying something new so that more residents can take advantage of our yearly Clean-Up Day. Starting **May 1st**, you can come to the township and pick up a flyer. This flyer can be used **one time between the months of May and September**. You may use it any day that the Compactor Station is open between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. The flyer may only be used **once** and if you lose it, you may not pick up another one. The Compactor is open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Additional information can be found on the flyer. If you have any further questions, please call the township at (231) 947-8647.

Killingsworth Park Trail

The Killingsworth Park Trail is in the process of being revitalized by Eagle Scout Kevin Leahy and volunteers. This trail is less than a mile from Grace Macdonald Park on the corner of Chandler Road and Highview Road. The trail is a loop trail a little more than a mile long in this 66 acre park. It winds past several small ponds and is a great place for wildlife observation. Not only is it a good place for a hike, but it is also very well suited for snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

This past year the trail has been upgraded with new directional signs, brush and deadfalls cleared, a second bench, and a wood duck nest box at one of the ponds. There is a temporary trail map at the trail head that will be upgraded later with a larger map.

To find this trail take Hammond Road past 4 Mile to High Lake Road. Continue on High Lake Road to Peegeo's and turn right on Highview Road. Continue a quarter mile to Chandler Road and the Killingsworth Park parking lot. The park is a great place for family recreation and would also be a good destination for school groups on a nature walk.

Monthly Board Meetings

Township Board: 2nd Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

Parks Commission: 1st Monday @ 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: 1st Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.

Board of Appeals: 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.

*All meetings are scheduled to change. Please check our website.

Census 2010 Information

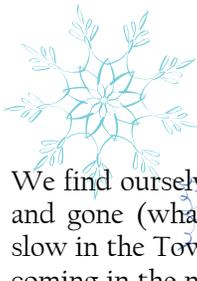
SNOWBIRDS: Michigan relies on you being counted in Michigan.

Help insure Michigan receives its fair share of more than \$400 billion in yearly federal funding used for services such as our schools, hospitals, child care, roads, transportation and other support services. Insure your political power is retained in Washington and in your home community.

For each Michigan resident who is missed by the Census or who is counted in a different state, over \$1,000 in federal funds that should be allocated to Michigan each year will be spent elsewhere.

To be Counted in Michigan:

- When you receive a Census Questionnaire at your winter address, **do not** fill it out if you live there for less than six months out of the year.
- When you get back to your usual residence in Michigan before April 15, fill out the Census Questionnaire waiting for you there.
- After April 15 or if you do not find a questionnaire, wait for a census taker to come to your door.



Supervisor's Office

We find ourselves at the end of another year; summer has come and gone (what summer?). Construction continues to be very slow in the Township, there are a couple of projects that may be coming in the near future, and hopefully I will be able to update you in our next newsletter.

At the 24th Annual Grand Traverse County Planning Commission / County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association Awards Banquet, I had the distinguished honor of presenting the Township Special Recognition Award to our Township Planning Commission for their hard work on the Forest Lakes Overlay District. The Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Mike Nickels for his twenty years of dedicated service to our Planning Commission. Robb Tubbs our Planning Commission Chairman received a Certificate of Appreciation for his hard work on the Planning Commission. The Frank Purvis Stewardship Award was awarded to our own East Bay Township resident Mr. Steve Largent, Director of Land Management, Grand Traverse Conservation District, for his life long stewardship of the Boardman River; please give a heartfelt thank you to these people when you see them.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous Happy New Year.

Glen Lile

Pavilion Rental

The pavilions at Grace Macdonald Park and Killingsworth Park are available for rental through the township office. The cost of rental at Grace Macdonald Park is \$50. The cost of rental at Killingsworth Park is \$20. If you would like to rent a pavilion, we will be happy to take your reservation starting January 4th, 2010.

Clerk's Office

We would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

Our next scheduled Election is August 3, 2010. The Grand Traverse County Clerks Association will be putting on a re-certification class for all Election Inspectors sometime the end of June or early July. If you are currently an inspector, or have turned in an application to become an inspector but have not been through the training, you will receive this information automatically. If you have an interest in becoming an inspector, please contact Jane or I, we would be happy to send you the application.

We look forward to serving you in the upcoming New Year.

Sue Courtade and Jane Hock

www.eastbaytwp.org

Please continue to check out our website as it is always changing. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

Treasurer's Office

This year, we have been busy coming up with additional ways that residents can pay their taxes. This winter, we intend to have the option to sign up for auto-debit. We are also working on being able to take credit cards at the window due to the request of several residents. Until we have that option set up, you can still pay your taxes online or by phone with a credit card. Additional information is available on the back of your tax bill.

Please keep in mind that we do not automatically send tax receipts. Please keep the bottom portion of your tax bill as your receipt. If you would like a receipt mailed to you, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we would be happy to do that for you.

As always, we are happy to answer any questions. You are always welcome to stop in, call or email us. Have a blessed holiday!

Tracey Bartlett & Becky Hoard

Traverse Area District

Library East Bay Branch

1989 Three Mile Road North

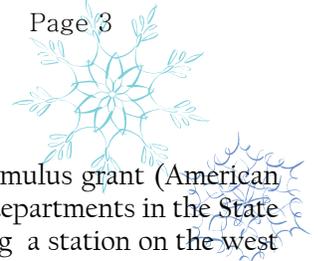
Phone: (231)922-2085

HOURS: Tues. & Thurs.: 10 am to 8 pm

Wed. & Fri.: 10 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 3 pm

CLOSED SUNDAY and MONDAY



GT Fire Department News

On October 2nd, we received great news that we are the recipient of a \$2.8 million dollar stimulus grant (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) to build a new fire station. The department is only 1 out of 4 departments in the State of Michigan to receive these monies and only 1 out of 104 in the nation. We had been planning a station on the west side of our district for many years and it now can be built without raising taxes. We hope to break ground soon, but of course we are waiting for Washington to give us details on how to bid the project out. Plans and permits are completed and we are awaiting instructions. The new fire station will be built in the Silver Lake Recreation Area. Thanks to Garfield Township for arranging 3 acres of land for this station.

As I write this article, many of us are a bit tired as we were out until the early morning hours fighting a house fire. It appears that the fire may have been started by a candle that was left unattended. I want to remind everyone that candles are quite popular this time of year and especially around the holidays.

Here are some candle safety tips: Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily. Don't burn a candle all the way down-put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container. On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 34 minutes. Thirty-eight (38%) of home candle fires started in the bedroom. Be careful with candles!

Some other thoughts for the winter and heating season are: Test your smoke alarms and CO alarms monthly. Never use your oven for heating. If you burn wood, have your chimney cleaned annually. Keep all combustibles 3 feet away from a heat source.

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department is concerned about your safety. Thanks for your continued support and have a very happy holiday season and a new year! If you need us, we will be there.

Be Safe!

Chief Parker

Pickleball is a Smash in East Bay Township!

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of East Bay Township, private donors, area volunteers, and the Oleson Foundation, three new pickleball courts have been installed at Grace Macdonald Park on East Arbutus Lake Road in East Bay Township.

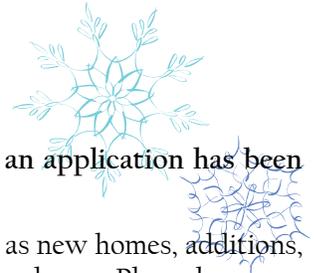
Grace Macdonald, Chairperson of the East Bay Township Parks Commission, said, "We're both excited and proud to open these new courts to the public. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and East Bay Township has responded by installing this state-of-the-art facility so anyone can enjoy this popular sport free of charge." Macdonald explained that the new courts are the first dedicated pickleball courts in the Grand Traverse region that are available for use by the general public for free. "There are no membership fees or court fees. Just bring your paddle and pickleball and play! It's a great way for people of all ages to get in shape and have fun at the same time", said Macdonald.

Funding for the project was provided by the East Bay Township Parks Commission, private donors, and the Oleson foundation. In addition, community volunteers donated time, labor, and equipment to help complete construction of the courts.

The courts are used exclusively for pickleball and are available to area residents and visitors 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM seven days per week. There is no charge to use the courts, however, participants must provide their own equipment. Grace Macdonald Park is located on East Arbutus Lake Road at the intersection of High Lake Road. For more information, contact East Bay Township at 231-947-8647.

-Tanya Berg

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING



The Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

-The Zoning Board of Appeals meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (if an application has been made)

Land Use Permits from the township are required for all types of construction activity, such as new homes, additions, garages, all decks, and sheds, including plastic and canvas sheds & car ports, that are 10' x 10' or larger. Please be aware that sheds, including plastic and canvas sheds & car ports, that are less than 10' x 10' are still required to adhere to setback regulations. It is a good idea to check with the Zoning Office prior to construction to see what permits are needed. Land Use Permits, that are complete and filed, are usually issued within five working days, during regular business hours. Appointments for application review are available.

A **Fee of \$300** is being imposed on projects, wherein, the owner or agent failed to contact the Zoning Inspector for a proper footing inspection. A zoning inspection is required for all permits and when an open trench for a footing is established (before concrete is poured). This inspection is for verification that the footing is properly setback on the parcel to minimum zoning setback requirements. A call to the Zoning Inspector is required at least 24 hours prior to pouring footings.

An **Additional Fee of \$500** will be imposed on owners or agents, wherein, a Land Use Permit has not been obtained. There is a growing trend towards projects being started without obtaining the necessary permits before the project is undertaken. The township incurs unnecessary additional expense to obtain compliance from these individuals.

Plastic, Canvas, and Metal Structures are required to obtain permits if 10' x 10' or larger. These structures must also meet the required setbacks and inspections are required. If the structure is poorly maintained you may be asked to either repair or remove it.

Real Estate Sign Violations: The township receives many complaints regarding the proliferation of real estate signs. Most complaints are concerning the placement of the signs that are too close to the road, signs located off premises, or an increase in the size that is permitted. The East Bay Township Zoning Ordinance allows real estate signs as follows: *215.3.a One non-illuminated two-sided sign advertising the sale or lease of the lot or building not exceeding six (6) square feet in area on any one lot.* These signs are also required to be set back so that they are outside of the road right of way. This usually means 33 feet from the centerline of the public road.

Off Premise Signs, such as directional and real estate signs, are also prohibited. If signs are found to be in violation, the Township Zoning Inspector will remove the signs and store them at the expense of the sign owner.

We Sadly Say Goodbye...

After serving for twenty years, Mike Nickels resigned, this past July, from the East Bay Charter Township Planning Commission.

In August 2003, Mike became Chair of the Planning Commission and remained as chair until his resignation. Mike was an effective chair person and guided meetings with honesty, fairness, and humor. The Board learned quickly to turn their nameplates towards him so that he would call them by the correct name and we all learned that at each meeting and public hearing he would hear each residents opinion, never cutting them off, and always letting them know that their comments mattered. We thank Mike for his years of dedicated service to the township and its residents. Mike's contributions to the East Bay Charter Township Planning Commission will have a lasting impact.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 24th & 25th--
Christmas Eve and Christmas
Day

December 31st--New Year's
Eve

January 1st--New Year's Day

January 18th--Martin Luther
King Day

February 15th--President's
Day