

1965 N. Three Mile Road
Traverse City, MI 49696
Ph: (231)947-8647
Fax: (231)922-2094
www.eastbaytwp.org

NEW

TOWNSHIP HOURS

Effective January 1st
Monday - Thursday
7:00am to 5:30pm
CLOSED FRIDAY'S

Please note: The Compactor Station will keep the same hours of Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday from 10:00am-5:00pm.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Glen Lile.....Supervisor
Susanne Courtade.....Clerk
Jane Hock.....Deputy Clerk
Clerk's Dept. Cell: (231)944-6191
Tracey Bartlett.....Treasurer
Becky Hoard.....Deputy Treasurer
Bryan Marrow.....Trustee
Butch Strait.....Trustee
Dale McAllister.....Trustee
Matt Courtade.....Trustee

STAFF

Val Hedges.....Receptionist
Leslie Couturier....Deputy Zoning
Administrator
Bob Perry.....Zoning Inspector
Cell: (231)709-2514
Bob Burns.....Compactor Manager
Cell: (231)941-1388
Jerry Zeits.....Parks and
Cell: (231)590-5645 Maintenance

Assessing Office:

Grand Traverse County
Equalization Department
Susan Karakos & Russ Casselman

East Bay Charter Township

Winter 2010

NEW TOWNSHIP HOURS

In an effort to better serve our residents, the Township Board is expanding our daily hours of operation and moving to a four day workweek **beginning January 1st, 2011**. This change will allow the office to be open extended hours allowing our residents to take care of Township business before and/or after the regular 8:00 to 5:00 business day. The Township is currently open over the lunch period and this will not change.

We will now be open Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm.

The Clerk & the Treasurer will be available on Friday's by appointment only to accommodate any weekend residents during tax or election time. We continue to have the locked drop box at the main entrance available for tax payments, ballots, permit applications, etc. The Compactor Station hours will remain the same. If you have any further questions, please call the township at (231) 947-8647.

www.eastbaytwp.org

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

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 23rd & 24th
Christmas

December 30th & 31st
New Year's

January 17th
Martin Luther King Day

February 21st
President's Day

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Greetings!

Another year has passed and it is very quiet in our township. I would like to let you know what is happening with the recycling site at the East Bay Compactor Station. Effective January 1, 2011 all of the County Drop Off recycling sites will be removed and curbside recycling will be expanded to all of Grand Traverse County. There will still be a drop off site at the County building on LaFranier Road. This will be provided by American Waste at no cost to our residents or the County. Please call with any ideas or concerns.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Glen Lile

TREASURER'S OFFICE

In the Treasurer's office we are continually striving to better serve you. Due to some changes in the laws, we are now able to offer the use of credit card and debit cards at the township offices for additional items other than just property taxes. You can now use your credit card and debit card for compactor punch cards, park reservations, land use permits and escrow deposits. There will continue to be convenience fees charged by the processing agent of 2.5% for credit cards and \$3.95 for a debit card.

We are also offering Automatic Bill Payment which allows you to have your taxes automatically paid from any participating financial institute. For more information and to sign up, please see our website or talk with Tracey or Becky.

Postmarks will be accepted with the exception of February 28th, 2011 which is the final day that payments will be accepted at the township. Also, please remember if you are leaving for the winter; please give us your winter address in order to avoid any delays with your mail.

Have a blessed Holiday Season!
Tracey & Becky

GT METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Thank you for your continued support of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. We are working hard to provide the best emergency services possible. As I write this article, we are coming off of a crazy week where we had over 22 calls for service in 1 hour due to down power lines and trees. Our team performed admirably.

Some exciting things happening with the department are that we have 13 new firefighters and 2 scout explorers in fire school this fall. Eight of them just successfully completed Medical First Responder (MFR) school. By the time April comes around, they will have learned basic firefighting skills, hazardous materials operations, vehicle extrication, emergency driving, safety and survival. This basic training adds up to over 500 hours of schooling and I thank them for their dedication to serve. These new cadets will add to the cadre of 80 people already serving.

As many may know, we received a \$2.8 million stimulus grant to build a new station. We were only one of 4 in the State to receive this grant. This 5th Metro station is being built on the west side of the district in the Silver Lake Recreation area in Garfield Township. It is being weathered in right now and we hope to open it in April. If you are in the area, please stop by and see your newest station.

The new 2011 year will be a busy one for us as we will be applying for an improvement in our insurance rating for the three townships that we serve. We currently have an ISO rating of 6 and we feel we have the capabilities of reducing that to an ISO of 4. When that happens we will alert our citizens to check with their insurance company for a premium reduction. We are also working on accreditation for the department. There are 243 competencies that the department will be evaluated against. This process will lead to improved service delivery by determining community risk and safety needs, performance of the department and establishing a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement.

Call us with any questions at 947-3000 and check out our web site for information on the department at www.gtmetrofire.org. We stand ready to serve!

Chief Parker

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)

What is it?-A Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) exempts a principal residence from the tax levied by a local school district for school operating purpose of 18 mils.

Do I qualify for one? If you own and occupy a property as your principal residence you may qualify for a PRE.

How do I get one? The Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit-Form 2368 must be filed by May 1 of the year the exemption is being claimed.

What if my circumstances of Ownership and/or Occupancy change? If circumstances change, and you no longer meet either one or both of the two-prong test: Ownership and/or Occupancy which is required for a full or partial homestead exemption, **you are required to file a Request to Rescind Principal Residence Exemption form-Form 2602.**

Where do I get the forms? These forms can be found at www.michigan.gov/PRE under PRE related forms or are also available at the East Bay Township office and on their website at www.eastbaytwp.org.

What if I no longer qualify and do nothing? If it becomes apparent that you no longer qualify for 100% PRE, your PRE exemption will be reduced or denied. I am currently reviewing exemptions and making changes for the current tax year 2010 and the previous three if applicable, 2009, 2008, and 2007. Please note that such changes do include interest and penalties.

If you feel you are receiving a full or partial exemption and no longer qualify, please call me to discuss your facts and circumstances to determine the proper PRE exemption for you.

What about those who are getting a homestead and not even living there?

Often, I receive phone calls from concerned property owners who become aware of various situations where homes are being rented out to others, but the property owners are receiving a 100% PRE or perhaps a property owner who is incorrectly receiving multiple PRE's at more than 1 property.

Remember that filing false applications and receiving PRE under false pretenses is against the law. Additionally, we pay more in taxes each year because of it. Budgets are funded by allocating the total tax burdens amongst the property owners. To the extent someone is lowering their own tax bill under false pretenses; someone else's tax bill is going up. That someone else is you, the taxpayer paying their fair share.

Please be advised that I am always available to listen to concerns and assure anyone that confidentiality is assured and I will research each situation to determine the proper PRE for each property.

I can be reached by email at bgravis@grandtraverse.org or reached at 231-922-4777.

Beverly Gravis, CPA
Certified Personal Property Examiner
Exemption Auditor/Personal Property Auditor

CLERK'S OFFICE

We have so many things to be thankful for. First and foremost is being able to call this beautiful area our "home". We hope you take the opportunity to enjoy everything East Bay Township and Grand Traverse County has to offer!

Another Governors Election is now behind us with over 51% of East Bay's Registered Voters turning out to have a voice in what is happening in our community and in our State. We thank all the Residents in the polls for your patience and understanding during the busy day. The new HAVA (Help America Vote Act) supplied Electronic Poll Books have been a big transition in the precincts. These computers continue to ensure the accuracy in the Election process.

The 2010 U.S. Census results should be out by early spring and we are anxious to see how this may affect us here in East Bay.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!
Sue and Jane

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 subject to change. Please check our website.

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, 2011. Please call the township office at (231) 947-8647.

TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY EAST BAY BRANCH

1989 N. Three Mile Road
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

EAST BAY AMBULANCE NEWS

Halloween is now over and we are gearing up for winter response! Due to snow and ice all winter, the emergency crews really have to work a bit harder to get patients from their homes to the ambulances! If you could keep your walkways and driveways clear, and your address posted at the roadway or at least in large numbers on your house, it sure does help us out. After dark, any kind of lighting is an added bonus!

We continue to partner in the "File for Life" program in our county. This is a program that allows you to list your medical history, medications, and/or emergency contacts on a "File for Life Form". The form is placed in a magnetic red pocket that attaches to your refrigerator. Emergency responders are trained to look for these red pockets on the refrigerators for your information in the case of emergency when 911 has been called. We have the forms and the red pockets in our ambulances and at Station 9. If you are interested, please contact us at Station 9, (231) 947-0299. We would be glad to pass them out to you.

We have one of our members enrolled in the current EMT class this fall/winter. We have 4 of our members signed up to attend a trauma care class in December. Continuing education is conducted every month at our Fire/EMS station for all fire and ambulance staff.

In light of the recent power outage, please know that during the day time hours, the staff at the station is available to help you charge your cell phones, laptops, other electronics, provide water etc. or share a laugh to help you get through the lack of electricity! We have 911 response, office, and maintenance staffing at Station 9 Monday-Friday, 8-5. Please feel free to stop by and say hi, get your blood pressure checked, or take a look at *your* township ambulances!

Mikie Parker, Medical Director-East Bay 9A's

OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING

East Bay Charter Township has recently passed an ordinance to regulate **TRANSIENT ACTIVITY**, in order to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Township, and to establish reasonable and uniform regulations to prevent the deleterious effects of Transient Activities within the Township while allowing and encouraging appropriate social, community and business activities that strengthen the community and its economy.

"**TRANSIENT ACTIVITY**" means any outdoor activity that is temporary, intermittent or recurrent in nature and which offers products, goods or services, including entertainment services; and which depends on attracting the attention and patronage of the public and businesses; whether or not conducted for fees or profit, or without fees; and which are not so commonly associated with any other use or activity as to be considered a permanent use. A **TRANSIENT ACTIVITY PERMIT** must be obtained prior to the activity/event, and should be applied for 30 days prior to the date of the event. To learn more about the ordinance and to print a copy of the application please go to www.eastbaytwp.org and look under Planning & Zoning.