

# WINTER 2011

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[WWW.EASTBAYTWP.ORG](http://WWW.EASTBAYTWP.ORG)

WINTER 2011

## Why Is Our Compactor Closing?

I would like to explain to our residents the facts on your board's decision to not purchase the property from the State of Michigan that the compactor station is located on. The Township has purchased an annual permit from the State to use this property for many years. Three years ago the State decided to stop extending a permit leading us to enter into discussions on acquiring the location. We approached the State to purchase approximately ten acres of property at the compactor location. The State agreed to sell the property to the Township at a cost of \$83,000.00 plus survey and closing expenses. No counteroffer would be accepted. The real problem was that the property had been a land fill for years and the State said that the Township would have to accept the liability for any environmental clean-up caused by the land fill. This along with the fact that our two compactor trailers are both in need of replacement at an estimated cost of \$160,000.00 each would cost our tax payers over \$400,000.00. Last year the Township ended up with \$3,000 profit after expenses from our compactor station.

Your Board cannot justify taking on this liability and the enormous expense on behalf of our tax payers. The compactor will be open through December 28, 2011. At that time, if you have any unused compactor punches, please feel free to bring them into the Treasurer's office for a refund.

There will be a location to take your trash and recyclables in our area. American Waste has opened a large indoor recycling center located on Hughes Dr., off of Hammond Road, just behind the McCardel Culligan building in the old Tower Automotive building.

If you have any questions please call me @ (231) 947-8719.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Glen Lile

### TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

#### EAST BAY BRANCH

1989 N. Three Mile Rd.

(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 & Monday

## METRO SMOKE ALARM PROJECT

In 1960, fire caused the death of 7,645 people in the United States. In 1969, smoke alarms became available to the average American. In 2010, there were 3,120 fire deaths in the United States. Along with public education, stricter building codes, and fire sprinklers, smoke alarms have helped save many lives. There are still far too many people dying from fires. The fire departments of Grand Traverse County have established a five year goal for every home in the County to have at least two working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives.

Teams of firefighters will come to your home and install or replace your current smoke alarms with dual sensor smoke alarms. This program is supported by grants and donations and there is **no cost** to participants.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the program please contact Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Fire & Life Safety Public Educator's office at (231) 947-3000 Ext. 1234.

### Closed for the Holidays

December 22nd & 26th

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 29th--New Year's Eve

January 2nd--New Year's Day

January 16th--Martin Luther King Day

February 20th--President's Day

April 5th--Easter Holiday

# FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Greetings from the Clerk's Office

Save the Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012. This is the date selected for the Presidential Primary Election. Please note; this election requires you to specify a political party ballot style in order to receive a ballot.

The 2010 U.S. Census results are in. East Bay population grew from 9,919 to 10,663 residents! How does this affect us here in the Clerk's department you may ask?

There is one thing that comes to mind; a larger population means more voters at the polls on Election Day. We currently have all four precincts located within the Township office on Election Day. There are times during the day that the lines to vote are extremely long. If you wish to vote in person, keep in mind that early in the morning and after school is let out are usually the busiest times of the voting day. To assist with the traffic congestion, we ask that you only make right hand turns out of the parking lot. We do have several members of our staff that

will be working as "traffic attendants" to help keep vehicle traffic moving smoothly through the lot.

You can save yourself some time and possible frustration by requesting to be on the permanent Absentee Voter request list. Approximately 8 weeks before every election, you will receive an Absentee Voter Ballot Application in the mail. All you need to do is complete the application and return it to the Clerk's office allowing you to receive an absentee ballot. You can then vote your ballot in the privacy of your own home, at your own convenience! Just return it to the Township Clerk's office in time to be counted on Election Day.

We are starting to look into other options to house our precincts on Election Day. We will be sure to keep you posted along the way!

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Susanne M. Courtade CMC  
Township Clerk

Jane Hock  
Deputy Clerk



## TOWNSHIP 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 subject to change

Name	Phone Extension	Email
Supervisor: Glen Lile	947-8719 Cell: (231) 360-7232	glile@eastbaytwp.org
Clerk: Sue Courtade	947-8647 Cell: (231) 735-2098	scourtade@eastbaytwp.org
Deputy Clerk: Jane Hock	ext. 103	jhock@eastbaytwp.org
Treasurer: Tracey Bartlett	ext. 101 Cell: (231) 735-1326	tbartlett@eastbaytwp.org
Deputy Treasurer: Jo Moloci	ext. 102	jmoloci@eastbaytwp.org
Receptionist: Val Hendges	ext. 100	vhendges@eastbaytwp.org
Planning/Zoning: Leslie Couturier	947-8681	lcouturier@eastbaytwp.org
Inspector: Bob Perry	947-0792	
Assessing: Susan Karakos	922-4759	skarakos@co.grandtraverse.mi.us
Russ Cassleman	922-4759	rcasslem@co.grandtraverse.mi.us
Compactor: Bob Burns	941-1388	
Bldg/Grounds: Jerry Zeits	590-5645	jzeits@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee: Matt Courtade	947-8647	mcourtade@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee: Bryan Marrow	947-8647	bmarrow@eastbaytwp.org
Trustee: Butch Strait	590-4352	butchs@charter.net
Trustee: Craig Goodrich	947-8647	goodrich@eastbaytwp.org

## WHAT DOES YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DO? By: Rob Hentschel

As a County Commissioner I am often asked by fellow residents, "What does a County Commissioner do?" That is a great question. In a time when people are living full and busy lives we seldom have time to keep tabs on our local governments, while state and national politics tends to dominate center stage in the news.

The single biggest role, in my experience, is that of fiduciary agent for countywide services such as; law enforcement, vital records, disaster management, health department services, courts, and county parks to name a few. In short, the County Commission approves the budget. Our role is to make sure that county tax dollars are being spent to the best benefit of the tax payer.

Your county government provides a layer of financial accountability for 26 County departments in all, with, at my last count, 499 full and part-time employees serving our 86,986 Grand Traverse County residents.

### About the author:

Robert Hentschel was elected in 2009 to represent district 3 (East Bay) on the Grand Traverse County Commission for 2010-2011. He is employed at his families long-time local business, Roy's General Store, where constituents are welcome to contact him, or call his 24-hour voicemail commission comment line at 877-340-8979.



## Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging

On July 1, 2011 the GTCCOA expanded its mission to serve our senior citizens. A new Senior Center Network has been formed. This network and the COA have merged together to bring on-site programs to outlying locations within the county. The Traverse City site remains the hub with Lori Wells as the director and Sharon Neumann as outreach director. This expansion was made possible by the overwhelming generosity of Grand Traverse County voters when they passed millage's to support these efforts. Meanwhile, the Commission on Aging con-

tinues to provide services to qualifying resident seniors. An average of 141 East Bay Township seniors receives a variety of services each month. These services allow them to live safely in their homes. All services are paid for on a client's ability to pay and are reviewed annually.

For more information you can call the COA office at 922-4688 or visit [gtcoa@grandtraverse.org](mailto:gtcoa@grandtraverse.org)

For information regarding the Senior Centers Outreach, call 922-4911 or visit the website [www.tcseniorcenter.com](http://www.tcseniorcenter.com)



## What's happening at the Parks?

There has been a lot going on in our parks this year. The Seawall at Arbutus Lake 5 has been replaced and the shoreline has now been fortified. An equipment shed has been added for the pickleball courts at Grace Macdonald Park.

The parks continue to have increased usage due to the many improvements over the last few years. The Park Commission is

currently working on Master Plans for all of our parks. The plan for Grace Macdonald Park is completed and includes future flush bathrooms and a warming house for the sledding hill.

We are still working on the grant for the addition to Killingsworth Park and are hoping it will be completed by summer 2012.

Be sure to watch our website for updates to hours and facilities.

## *Gen's Park is now Closed for the Season.*

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 starting January 3rd, 2012. Please call Val at the township office at (231) 947-8647.

# NOTES FROM ZONING

**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 & carports, which are over 100 square feet. 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 both for non-footing construction and when an open trench for a footing is established (before concrete is poured). This inspection is for verification that the footing/placement is properly set-back on the parcel to minimum zoning setback requirements. A call to the Zoning Inspector is required at least 24 hours prior to pouring footings or establishment of non-footing projects.

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.

**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.

Feliz Navidad!

Leslie

## TREASURER'S OFFICE ASSESSING NEWS

We are accepting payments on winter tax bills starting December 1, 2011. They are due February 14, 2012. We will accept payments at the Township Office through February 29, 2012; postmarks are NOT accepted for February 29, 2012. Starting March 1, 2012 any unpaid taxes for real property will be turned over to the County for collection.

We offer several ways to pay your taxes: in person, by mail, by internet or phone using a debit/credit card or, we can set up an automatic bill payment option for you. For added convenience we have a drop box at the office to be used outside of regular business hours as well. For more detailed information see our website at [www.eastbaytwp.org](http://www.eastbaytwp.org) or the back of your bill. You can always call us directly if you have any questions.

We would also like to remind any snowbirds to come in and change your address before you leave for the winter and when you return in the spring. The post office has some new procedures in place and doesn't always forward bulk mailings. This can cause extra costs for the Township for duplicate mailings. Remember, failure to receive your tax bill does not waive interest or penalty!!

Have a wonderful winter!

Tracey Bartlett & Jo Moloci

The assessing department continues the reappraisal process and hopes to have all site visits and field work for this project done within the next month. As always, we appreciate your cooperation in letting our staff on your property to measure any structures and take new photos. It is a vital step in having all property assessed fair and equitably.

Once our staff has completed the site visits, we will be getting out to view, measure, and photograph any properties with current building permits. These permits could be for new construction, upgrades, or even demolition purposes.

Our department, along with the GIS department, continues to work on the "parcel layer" for the on-line maps. This winter we will be focusing on this project intently. If we find any errors with land descriptions, Susan Karakos from our assessing department, may be contacting you for assistance. If you have any surveys of your property, old or new, that you would like to share with us, please contact Susan at the township offices. Your help is greatly appreciated.

On the Personal Property front, statements will be going out to taxpayers mid to late December this year and are due back to the assessor by February 20<sup>th</sup>. If you should have any questions regarding your personal property, please contact Beverly Gravis, our Homestead and Personal Property Auditor, at 922-4777 .