

Watertown Charter Township

Volume 25 Issue 3

Summer 2011

12803 S. Wacousta Road
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www.twp.watertown.mi.us

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00am-5:00pm

Township Offices
Closed:

Labor Day
Monday, September 5

Newsletter Committee

George Weitzel, Chair
Ken Mitchell
Janice Thelen
Christy Sochay, Coordinator

SUPERVISOR'S DEPARTMENT

DEB ADAMS, TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR | JENNIFER TUBBS, TOWNSHIP MANAGER
DONNA CASE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SPRING NEWSLETTER MISTAKE

Due to an error made by the post office, the township's spring newsletters were lost for several weeks. This newsletter advertised the annual "Dump Your Junk" Day, and the lack of notice impacted the ability of many residents to participate in the event. The township sincerely apologizes to those of you who were not able to participate due to the post office's error.

Despite this challenge, and the rainy weather, junk collection amounts were nearly the same as in previous years. We are thankful that Granger took into consideration the late notice of the event and allowed the township to keep a few bins beyond the event date to maximize resident participation. In the future we will be including a "save the date" notice for "Dump Your Junk" Day in the winter newsletter, with more detailed information to follow in the spring newsletter. As always, contact the township offices with any questions about this or any other event. We also encourage you to visit our website for the most up to date information.

PEDDLER/VENDOR ORDINANCE

Watertown Charter Township is currently working to draft a Peddler/Vendor Ordinance. This ordinance would restrict door-to-door sales and vending on property that is not owned by the vendor. The ordinance would require all peddlers and vendors to obtain a permit from the township and would place specific restrictions on those conducting sale operations within the township. Under consideration is a provision that would require peddlers and vendors to submit to a background check to ensure the safety of our residents. The ordinance will not impact sales such as Girl Scout cookies or school fundraising. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this ordinance please contact Township Manager, Jennifer Tubbs.

PARK RENTALS

The township has two parks available for rent. Looking Glass Valley Park is located next to the cemetery and Heritage Park is located back behind the township hall. Both parks have a pavilion, play equipment, ball fields, and bathrooms. The parks are ideal for reunions, family get-togethers, anniversaries, and other outdoor activities. Please call (517) 626-6593*207 if you are interested in making a reservation for one of the parks or the Wallace F. Watt Community Center (gym).

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY RESPONSE

LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS DEB ADAMS, BILLY CREGO, AND KEN MITCHELL

A recent inquiry raised questions about what happens when you call 911 for a medical emergency. We asked Captain and Fire Training Officer Tim Baker from the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority (LGRFA) to shed some light on what response times are for our township and just what a resident can expect if they have a medical emergency. His response was as follows:

Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority services the communities of Watertown and Eagle Townships, but what is provided by the highly trained responders?

Baker: Nationally, emergency medical calls amount to 75-80% of the responses made by fire departments. The Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority provides *Advanced Life Support* non-transporting services and state law requires the department to be staffed 24/7 with a paramedic/firefighter on duty.

What does this mean to the residents of Watertown Township?

Baker: If you have an emergency at any time of the day or night, under any weather conditions, any day of the week, responders from the fire station located at 7720 W. Grand River Ave., next to the Flying J, will respond and provide medical care. The care is provided by paramedics who are able to give the same type of treatment that the ambulance will provide upon its arrival to transport you to the hospital.

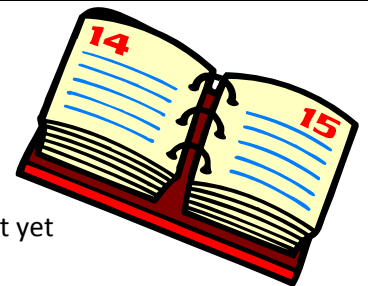
Why does it seem so long for responders to arrive?

Baker: National standards for rural emergency response areas are under ten minutes on average. When you call 911, the call is taken by a dispatcher, entered into the computer dispatching system, and then dispatched to the proper agency. Once dispatched, the responders at LGRFA must stop what they are doing immediately to respond to the call. At LGRFA, the average time to respond and have a unit leaving the station is 70 seconds. Our response times to the residents of Watertown Township average less than five minutes. The busy construction season has seen some locations in the response areas increase slightly, but due to prior planning, response routes have been determined in advance to keep the response time to a minimum.

LGRFA's Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, Medical First Responders, and Firefighters are trained and authorized by the Tri-County Medical Control Authority to provide Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support, and First Aid.

(EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

SUMMER PROPERTY TAX NOTICE



Property tax statements have been mailed. Please contact the Treasurer's office if you have not yet received your 2011 summer tax statement or have any questions regarding your tax statement.

Summer taxes are due without interest on **September 14, 2011**, by close of business. See the back of your tax statement for additional information and payment options.

SMALL CHANGES CAN MAKE IMPACT IN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

HOLLY MADILL, FORMER CHAIRPERSON, NON-MOTORIZED CIRCULATION COMMITTEE | ANDREA POLVERENTO, PLANNING DIRECTOR

In July, the Clinton County Road Commission installed a crosswalk in Wacousta that connects a sidewalk on the west side of Wacousta Road with the Watertown Township property to its east side. This may not seem like big news, but both governmental units have been collaborating since March 2009 to make this happen. This crosswalk marks Watertown Township's first stride in implementing its Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

What is active transportation and a non-motorized transportation plan? And why are they important? Active transportation, sometimes used interchangeably with non-motorized transportation, is when we use our bodies and/or public transit (bus, train, etc.) for moving from one place to the other in a community. A non-motorized transportation plan shows the routes where we can walk, bike, or pick up a bus to get to our destination.

Watertown Township adopted its Non-Motorized Transportation Plan in 2009. Other local communities have been working on similar plans. Ideally, all of these communities will use these plans to make an active transportation route throughout the entire county that connects to the neighboring counties.

The township's plan recognizes and respects the rural heritage of the township and in most cases recommends widened shoulders to accommodate non-motorized users. This can be done within the existing road right-of-way and also increases safety for motorists. It does not recommend sidewalks in our more rural portions of the township or in areas of extremely low density residential development.

Recognizing the existing foot and bike traffic along Wacousta Road between several popular destinations, the plan's first recommendation was a crosswalk across Wacousta Road that would connect the church, school, and library to the township's property that includes parks, community center, township offices, ball fields, and recycling facilities. This is an excellent example of a low-cost investment with big benefits for Watertown Township citizens. There is significant foot and bike traffic to the township's park areas during summer months – particularly by children - and it will also benefit Wacousta Elementary School students, staff, and volunteers who walk to utilize the parks for field days and complement their Safe Routes to School goals.

Please remember to always use caution when crossing a street, even in the new crosswalk. Check both ways for traffic and proceed only when traffic is cleared.

ROADWAY REMINDER



It will soon be fall, and that means the farmers will begin to harvest their crops. Please be respectful and use caution when you see farmers and their equipment on the roads. They cannot maneuver easily, so let's make sure we give them the space they need when sharing the road.

GRANGER - A RESOURCE FOR WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

ANDREA DAVIS, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR, GRANGER III & ASSOCIATES

If you've been in the area for a while, you're probably familiar with Granger from its mascot Captain CurbySM, brown trash containers, and inspirational messages on the back of its trucks. You may even bring a load of trash out to Granger's Grand River Avenue Landfill from time to time. But there are some beneficial things Granger is doing right in the Watertown Township community that you may not even know.

Today's Trash ... Tomorrow's Power

Did you know that the very trash you throw away is being used to make power in the greater Lansing area? Methane generated from decomposing trash is collected by Granger and used to power generators that make electricity. This electricity is sold to the Lansing Board of Water and Light and goes out directly from two electric plants in the Lansing area (one at Grand River, one on Wood Road in DeWitt Township). These plants are producing enough electricity to power approximately 14,000 homes.

Recycling Drop-off

Due to a beneficial partnership between Granger and Watertown Township, free recycling drop-off is available at the Watertown Township Hall at 12803 S. Wacousta Road. Items accepted at the drop-off center include the following:

- Food and Beverage Glass - Only clear and brown glass is accepted. Please rinse clean and remove any lids or metals rings. Labels do not need to be removed. No green glass, window panes, light bulbs, Pyrex, plate glass or automobile glass are accepted.
- Tin Cans and Aluminum - Please rinse clean and flatten. No paint cans, appliances, hangers, fencing, scrap metal, aerosol cans or containers with food residue are accepted.
- Mixed Residential Paper - Newspaper, magazines and junk mail are accepted. Please remove any plastic or paper bags, string and twine. No papers containing stickers, coins or plastic; boxboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc.); or books are accepted.
- Corrugated Cardboard and Brown Paper Bags - Boxes should be broken down and any other materials (Styrofoam, wood or food) should be removed. No glossy or shiny cardboard, wax-coated cardboard or 6-, 12- or 24-pack beverage cases are accepted.
- Plastic - #1 PETE bottles and jugs (e.g., water bottles), #2 HDPE milk jugs and #2 HDPE colored plastic bottles and jugs (e.g., laundry detergent bottles, shampoo bottles) are accepted. No motor oil bottles, Styrofoam, plastic tubs or #3-#7 plastic are accepted.

Other Things to Remember at the Recycling Drop-off

- Please follow recycling guidelines closely. Putting items in the wrong container or including prohibited items slows down the recycling process and increases the cost of recycling. This includes plastic bags. Please keep all plastic bags out of the plastic containers. These items will need to be sorted out and disposed of as trash. Many retail stores accept these bags for recycling.
- Help keep the drop-off clean and safe. Be sure your recycling makes it into the container. Take particular care with glass, as broken glass is a danger to human safety and causes flat tires and other damage. Unattended youth have recently smashed recyclable bottles at the drop-off center. If you have any information about this or other vandalism at the drop-off center, please contact the Township Hall or local police.

Your assistance with these items will help keep the recycling drop-off available to your community.



COMPOST BINS AVAILABLE

Compost bins are available for sale at the township office for \$15 while supplies last. Call the township office at (517) 626-6593 for more information.

CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

KATE NEESE, WASTE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Summer and Fall Special Collection Events

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management is actively planning for summer and fall events. For more information, or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, call (989) 224-5186, send an email to conserve@clinton-county.org, or visit online at www.clinton-county.org and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management.

Clean Community Event

August 27th from 8:00am to 2:00pm in DeWitt Township - Last one for the year!

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management is planning for the Fall Clean Community Event to be held on August 27th in DeWitt Township. This valuable event assists residents in recycling or properly disposing of just about any household generated waste item. Items accepted include household hazardous waste, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil and antifreeze, unwanted and expired medications, electronic waste, bulky waste or junk items, scrap metal, appliances, tires, yard waste, usable clothing, reusable household items, and building equipment for donation. There are fees for a few items, but most materials are collected for free. The event is open to small businesses; however additional fees do apply for hazardous and electronic waste items. Disposal fees are waived for volunteers! To make an appointment or to volunteer call (989) 224-5186 or email conserve@clinton-county.org.

Medication Disposal Programs

Protect your family, pets, the community, and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications through one of the programs noted below. Do not put medications "down the drain" or in the trash as they can end up in surface waters and negatively impact local ecosystems. The preferred disposal option is through special events which ensure safe disposal through incineration. *Please keep your medications in their original containers, but be sure to black out any personal information.*

- **August 27th from 8:00am - 2:00pm** at the fall Clean Community Event in DeWitt Township. The location will be given when you make an appointment to attend this event. Please call the office (989) 224-5186 for more information.
- **October 22nd from 8:00am - 12:00pm** at the Clinton County Community Health Fair at RESA, 1013 S. US Highway 27, Suite #A in St Johns.
- **December 2nd from 2:00pm - 5:00pm** at the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Pharmacy, 901 South Oakland Street in St. Johns.

GRAND LEDGE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Open the door to lifelong learning by signing up for or updating your library card. September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a good time to get a card or update the one you have to access services offered by local libraries. Held every September, Library Card Sign-up Month is a time when the American Library Association and libraries around the country work to remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. Every day librarians and library staff are at work bringing books and programs directly into the lives of children, parents, grandparents, and childcare providers.

Two services are growing in patron popularity at the Grand Ledge Area District Library; these services are MeLCat, the state-wide resource sharing system, and OverDrive, a digital service provided by the library that lets area residents download books to their computers and portable devices such as e-readers or MP3 players. Those interested can also browse the library's website and learn what's available from either MeLCat or Over Drive before committing to get a library card and pin number.

The Grand Ledge Area District Library is one of nearly 400 public, school, academic, and specialty libraries participating in MeLCat. Participating libraries, like the ones in Wacousta and Grand Ledge, enable their registered users to order from the vast database of 40 million items from any Internet-enabled computer at any time of the day. Patrons like the convenience of ordering from home and placing their request right then. Patrons can then select to have their requested materials delivered to either the Wacousta or Grand Ledge location. Library staff will call when the requested materials have arrived and are ready for pick-up. Patrons can search the MeL Catalog for books, books on tape/CD/DVD, music, movies, award-winning materials, children's materials, and more. The service uses the bar code located on the back of the library card.

To access the OverDrive service you will need a library card, a library pin number, and an Overdrive compatible device. It takes between 24 and 48 hours to activate registration. Cards and pin numbers are available at both Wacousta and Grand Ledge locations.

The Grand Ledge Library is located at 131 E. Jefferson Street in downtown Grand Ledge (phone, 627-7014) and is open 10:00am – 9:00pm on Monday through Thursday, 10:00am – 5:00pm on Friday and Saturday, and 1:00pm – 5:00pm on Sunday. The Wacousta branch is located at 13080 Wacousta Road (phone, 626-6577) and is open 3:00pm – 7:00pm on Monday and Wednesday, and 10:00am – 2:00pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. The library's website address is: <http://grandledge.lib.mi.us>.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

DEPUTY SHARON WORTHINGTON

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

We have received calls about a white male driving a blue Honda Accord inquiring door-to-door about children in the home and neighborhood. He is selling books and has been checked out through law enforcement. As with all solicitors, if you are not interested just tell him to leave. Contact the Sheriff if you have concerns.

Wacousta Elementary School sustained graffiti damage to the building. Anyone with information is asked to contact our office.

There have been other acts of vandalism and thefts throughout the county, such as mailboxes, yard lights, and ornaments destroyed or taken. If you have received damage or had items taken, or if you locate items that appear to have been dumped, please report it to 911; that way items can be matched with owners, and it may aid in restitution if we identify those involved.

(SHERIFF CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS AND EVENTS

JENNIFER BALCOM, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The DeWitt District Library is located at 13101 Schavey Road in DeWitt next to the Schavey Road Shopping Center. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:00am – 8:30pm, Tuesday 1:00pm – 8:30pm, Friday 1:00pm – 7:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm, and Sunday 1:00pm – 4:00pm (September – May). Additional information on programs and services offered through the DeWitt District Library are available online at www.dewittlibrary.org, or by phoning (517) 669-3156 during business hours.

Self-Check Coming Soon

The DeWitt District Library (DDL) will implement a new self-check system soon. This user-friendly system will allow patrons the option to check out library material themselves. Library staff will be available to provide assistance with the self-check system as well as any circulation or reference needs.

August Programming Break

There will be a brief break in all programming at the DDL during the month of August. Programming will resume after the Labor Day Weekend, please check the library website for details.

Sunday Hours Will Resume

Sunday hours at the DeWitt District Library will resume after the Labor Day Weekend. Beginning Sunday, September 11th DDL will be open Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Park and Read Passes

Park and Read passes are available at the DeWitt District Library. The Park and Read Program offers library card holders the ability to “check-out” a one-day pass into any Michigan state park or recreation in lieu of the resident motor vehicle permit. This program runs through October 1, 2011, and the number of passes available is limited.

SHERIFF (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

BICYCLE SAFETY

Please be aware of bicyclists throughout the county. According to the motor vehicle code; a “*person operating a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, low-speed vehicle or moped upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practical.*” Also they “*shall not ride more than 2 abreast*”; each person riding or operating one of these vehicles upon a roadway “*has all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to a driver of a vehicle*”. It also addresses the fact that unless designed for two people, there should only be one person on the device.

If you are riding on the roadway you must follow all the rules of the road. A group of riders does not equal one unit; if there is a stop sign, all must stop not just the first one or two.

We strongly encourage the use of helmets for all riders.

FITNESS 4 YOU AEROBICS

JERRY MCNEILLY

Summer is here and we have paused to celebrate it! Classes will resume in the fall. Watch for the schedule in a future newsletter. Until then, here are a few things to consider:

- If you are diabetic or pre-diabetic, you know that exercise is usually recommended to help control it.
- Those with rheumatoid arthritis can often maintain or increase their flexibility and range of motion with regular exercise.
- If your doctor described you as being a “couch potato”, you might consider trying our aerobic exercise class (we have no couches!).
- If you would like to reduce some of your daily stress, try our class.
- If you have been advised to do weight bearing exercise to help maintain bone density, try our class.
- If you just like to move to golden oldies music, try our class.
- Remember, you can try the class **free** until you decide whether it fits your needs.

For more information, or to be added to our notification list, call Jerry McNeilly at (517) 627-9570.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Shouldn't I just call the ambulance directly if I need one?

Baker: No. Even if you feel your reason for requesting an ambulance is not life-threatening, LGRFA will respond and evaluate your condition. By doing so, if the condition is determined to be non-critical a refusal of transport can be done and the ambulance cancelled. Ambulance service in Watertown Township is provided by Mercy Ambulance. They have an ambulance stationed in DeWitt Township.

Your LGRFA staff doesn't just respond to fires and car accidents, we respond to any calls for assistance that community members may have. As our mission statement explains:

The mission of the Looking Glass Fire Department is to protect the life and property of all within our service area by providing prevention, education, and rapid effective response to all fire and emergency situations.

We would also like to remind residents that LGRFA also offers the “File of Life” program free of charge to Watertown and Eagle Township residents, and is available for a small fee for non-residents. This program allows residents to list their medications and medical conditions for use by emergency medical responders, and includes a sticker to alert the responders that it is available. This is particularly important in the event the patient is unconscious or unable to communicate. For more info on the program, please visit our website www.lgrfa.org, or call the department at (517) 627-9831.



BURN PERMITS

Before the fall bonfire season gets into full swing, we'd like to remind residents to call the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority to obtain a burn permit prior to their bonfire. Burn permits are free, but the fine for not having a burn permit can range from \$250.00-\$500.00. Remember that the fire must be attended at all times.

THE FIRST PUBLISHED MAP OF WACOUSTA

LE ROY BARNETT, PH.D.

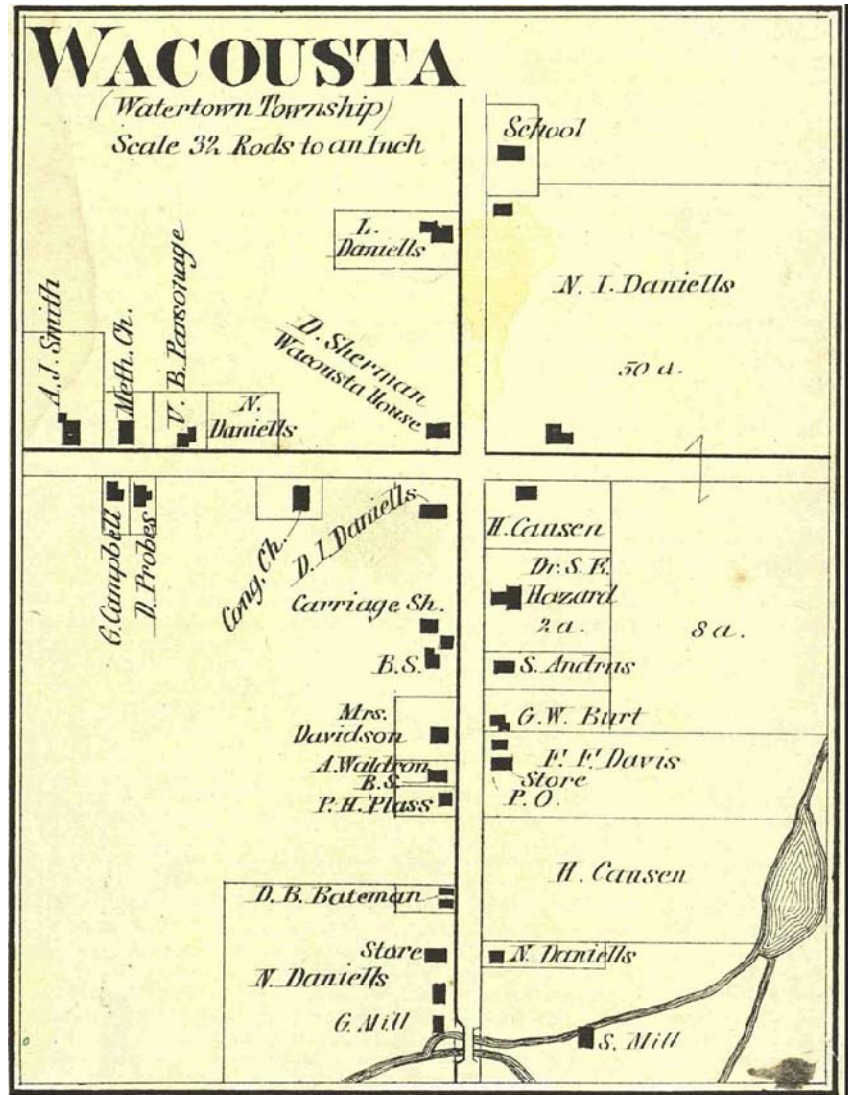
As early as 1821, Michigan passed a law declaring that when any town “was laid out in this territory, the proprietors of such town shall cause a true map or plat thereof to be recorded in the registry of the county where the same lies, before any lot or lots therein be offered for sale...”

Recently, I went to the Clinton County Register of Deeds to examine the original plat for Wacousta and discovered that none exists. Nor were there any nineteenth-century plats for the settlements of Waterloo or Watertown, the first names chosen (and later rejected) for the hamlet.

This raises the question, what did early Wacousta look like from the cartographic standpoint? The answer can be found below in what is believed to be the first printed map of the community. The crude cadastral plan shows along the Looking Glass River a s[aw] mill and a g[rist] mill, in addition to a pair of b[lack]s[mith] shops along what today is the main street of town. To help with orientation, the “School” is located about where the township offices now stand.

This delineation appeared in 1873 as part of a Clinton County atlas. According to a business gazetteer of that same year, the following individuals were engaged in commerce at the time in a town then comprised of about 200 people:

Bateman, Daniel	Cooper
Brobst, Daniel	Mason
Carusan, Henry	Boot & shoe maker
Cupit, John	Dealer in lumber
Daniells, David J.	Lawyer
Daniells, Landon	Lawyer
Daniells, Nathaniel	Notary Public
Daniells, Nelson	Dealer in dry goods & postmaster
Davis, Frank E.	Groceries & hardware
Force, John W.	Blacksmith & carriage maker
Garlock, W[illard]?J.	Contractor, carpenter, & builder
Harrington, Leander	Boot & shoe maker
Hazard, Stanton E.	Physician & Surgeon
Hurlburt, Oliver L.	Millwright
Jarman, Henry J.	Miller
Kline, William H.	Physician
Plass, Philip H.	Blacksmith & carriage maker
Root, Rev. Edward	Methodist Episcopal Church
Wood, Rev. William	Baptist Church



PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND LEDGE, MI
PERMIT NO. 132

POSTAL CUSTOMER

GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

OFFICE CONTACTS
(517) 626-6593

SUPERVISOR

Deborah Adams - Home (517) 626-2273
dadams@whiteschneider.com

TRUSTEES

John Maahs - Home (517) 669-5698
johnny@tir.com
Kenneth Mitchell - Home (517) 321-2452
tarzan30@aol.com
George Weitzel - Home (517) 626-2305
gweit10422@aol.com
Dale Westrick - Home (517) 626-2256
dale.trustee@yahoo.com, dwestrick@watertowntownship.com

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

EXT #207

Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
jtubbs@watertowntownship.com
Donna Case, Administrative Assistant
dcase@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning special assessments, sewers, roads, non-zoning ordinance enforcement, sewer and water permits

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

EXT #206

Janice Thelen, Treasurer
jthelen@watertowntownship.com
Amy Kinney, Deputy Treasurer
akinney@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning tax bills, special assessments

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICE

EXT #205

Andrea Polverento, Planning Director
apolverento@watertowntownship.com
Amy Kinney, Planning and Zoning Assistant
akinney@watertowntownship.com
Questions concerning development/building permits, zoning requirements, zoning ordinance, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, basic building/zoning

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

EXT #201

Melissa Freeman, Clerk
mfreeman@watertowntownship.com
Christy Sochay, Deputy Clerk
csochay@watertowntownship.com
Mary Jo Kelley, Bookkeeper
Questions concerning the cemetery, Freedom of Information, elections, meeting dates, voter registration, subscription service, township records, accounts payable

CEMETERY

Weekdays (517) 626-6593 or (517) 626-6066
Andy Case, Maintenance Supervisor/Sexton (517) 490-1383

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR

EXT #210

Jeff MacKenzie, Assessor
jmackenzie@watertowntownship.com
Office hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
Questions concerning assessing, SEV's, property listings, property splits

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Jeff Cranson, Building Inspector
Phone (517) 622-8822 Fax (517) 622-8833

LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

(517) 627-9831 or (517) 627-9833
Fax (517) 627-9846
Chief Steve Fabiano
Questions concerning fire coverage districts, burn permits

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

George Weitzel, Chair
Ken Mitchell
Janice Thelen
Christy Sochay, Coordinator