



3848 VETERANS DRIVE / TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684  
(231) 941-1620 / FAX: (231) 941-1588  
www.garfield-twp.com ~ updated frequently!

SPRING 2014

# Garfield

## Charter Township

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

### TOWNSHIP HOURS

Monday —Thursday  
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
CLOSED FRIDAYS

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\***

Tax payment receipts will only be sent upon request or if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with payment.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

CHUCK KORN.....SUPERVISOR  
KAY SCHUMACHER.....CLERK  
JEANE BLOOD LAW.....TREASURER  
BOB FEATHERSTONE.....TRUSTEE  
DENISE SCHMUCKAL.....TRUSTEE  
KIT WILSON.....TRUSTEE  
MOLLY AGOSTINELLI.....TRUSTEE

### STAFF

THERESE O'BRIEN...DEPUTY TREASURER  
LANIE McMANUS.....DEPUTY CLERK  
LISA RITTER.....OFFICE COORDINATOR  
JUDY BATTLE.....ADMIN. ASSISTANT  
AMY DeHAAN.....ASSESSOR  
KRISTEN STEGER.....ASST. ASSESSOR  
SUE MUHA.....APPRAISER  
HILARY ALPERS.....ASSESSING CLERK  
AND TREASURER'S ASSISTANT  
CARL STUDZINSKI.....BUILDING OFFICIAL  
RICH DERKS.....BUILDING INSPECTOR  
ROB LARREA.....PLANNING DIRECTOR  
BRIAN VANDENBRAND....DEP. PLANNER  
SARA KOPRIVA...ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
THOM SCHMUCKAL.....ZONING CODE  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
BILL MOUSER.....BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

### NO CHARGE YARD WASTE PASS

From May 27 thru June 10, 2014, Garfield Township residents can pick up a no charge yard waste pass at the Township Hall during regular business hours. A valid ID is required to verify Garfield Township residence status. The pass is good for one trip and load not to exceed up to three (3) cubic yards of acceptable material brought to the GT County Keystone Brush Drop-Off site located at 2471 N. Keystone Rd. Acceptable material for this no charge yard waste pass includes: brush, branches (up to 12 inches in diameter) leaves and grass clippings. The no charge pass is only valid for dropping off acceptable material at the Brush Drop-Off site on the following dates: May 27, May 29, May 31, June 3, June 5, June 7, and June 10, 2014. Brush site hours are: (2014 Season opening, Sat., April 5) Tuesdays: Noon—7 pm, Thursdays and Saturdays: 9 am—3 pm. For more information, call the Township office at (231) 941-1620.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

RecycleSmart will conduct the spring Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Pesticide Collection on Thursday, March 27, 2014. The online scheduling system is the recommended tool to secure an appointment. An appt is required and can be made beginning March 4th at [www.RecycleSmart.info](http://www.RecycleSmart.info) or by calling the RecycleSmart Hotline at (231) 941-5555.

### PUT A FREEZE ON WINTER FIRES - FROM GT METRO

You can help to prevent winter fires by remembering these tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater and choose a portable space heater with automatic shut off and remember to turn units off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Never use your oven to heat your home. Keep your dryer, furnace, and water heater vents clear of snow and debris to prevent Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment & chimneys cleaned and inspected each year by a qualified professional.
- Make sure fireplaces have sturdy screens to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance from house.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly and be sure to have a Carbon Monoxide alarm on each level.
- Smoke alarms over 10 years old need to be replaced.



Keeping citizens informed

Grand Traverse County residents have a new Emergency Alert service available! CodeRED is an emergency notification service that allows officials to notify residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message, email, or social media, regarding time-sensitive general and emergency notifications. Only authorized emergency officials have access to the CodeRED system and can send out alerts. It will be used to notify you of messages regarding the safety, property or welfare of the community. These messages include AMBER or missing person alerts, severe weather alerts, hazardous traffic or road conditions, boil water advisories or evacuation notices.

To receive alerts, register online through the GT County's website, look for the CodeRED link.

[www.co.grand-traverse.mi.us](http://www.co.grand-traverse.mi.us) If you don't have computer access, call GT Co Emergency Management staff at: (231) 995-6059.

## ROAD IMPROVEMENT

There will be quite a bit of road work going on in Garfield Twp in 2014 as a result of the GT County Road Commission's Asset Management Plan and with the additional funding from the millage that passed last November. Proposed projects are: South Airport Rd—from Veterans Dr east to the railroad tracks near Goodwill / Garfield Rd—from Birmley Rd to Hammond / LaFranier Rd—from the top of the hill south to Hammond / Zimmerman Rd—ALL from North Long Lake to Silver Lake Rd. / South Airport Rd—Silver Lake Rd to US 31 / Cass Rd—Sybrandt Rd to city limits / North Long Lake Rd—from Cedar Run Rd to the Township line (just past TC West High).

Road Commission reminders—please do not leave or push snow into roadways when clearing driveways and parking lots. Also, remember that leaving a vehicle parked on any county road is prohibited between 12am—8am from Dec. 31st to March 31st. Local authorities will enforce this by towing the vehicle.

## PARKS & RECREATION

In December 2013, the Township acquired a 22-acre property as an addition to the Miller Creek Nature Reserve (MCNR). The parcel includes frontage on the curve along South Airport Road just west of Aldi (including the stand of red pines), which will provide an opportunity for a small parking lot and trailhead to greatly improve public access to the trails and watershed. The majority of the site will be kept in a natural state, including several creeks, a pond, artesian springs, wetlands, giant cedars, and even bigger cedar stumps from the woodcutting days. This acquisition expanded the MCNR area from 66-acres to 88-acres, building on past Township efforts to protect the Miller Creek watershed while providing an urban park in the midst of developed areas. We would like to thank the Hanson family for making us such a great deal on this purchase, in part because of the family's desire for this beautiful property to become a public park. Thanks are also due to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy for assistance and guidance during the purchase process. Additional information on parks awaiting your visit is available at [www.garfield-twp.com/parks.asp](http://www.garfield-twp.com/parks.asp)



## FROM THE CLERK

**Attention Registered Voters of Precinct 1**—Beginning in 2014, the voting location for Precinct 1 will move to the GT Metro Fire Station #12, located at 2025 East Silver Lake Rd. This is the new fire station that was built in 2011, right next to the Silver Lake Park. All registered voters of Precinct 1 will be mailed new Voter Registration cards that indicate this change in early 2014. Precinct 5 will continue to vote at the First Christian Church on South Airport Rd.

## SMOKE ALARM PROJECT

During 2013, GT Metro firefighters went door to door checking smoke alarms in homes around the County. It is estimated that approx. 855 homes were visited and 425 smoke alarms installed. This program is supported by many local businesses such as Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Gillroy's, Lowe's, Northern Fire & Safety, & more!

## SUSAN YOUNKER RETIREMENT

We would like to wish a fond farewell to Township receptionist, Susan Younker, who will be retiring after 16 years of dedicated service to our residents. We wish her much happiness as she begins a new chapter in her life. Thank you Susan!

## FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

You should receive your 2014 *Assessment Change Notice* in the mail with this newsletter. Here are some items you should keep in mind:

If you review your notice and believe there has been an error or may be a problem, there are two things you can do. First, call or visit the Assessing Dept. between 7:30am—6pm. Monday thru Thursday to discuss the issue and we will do our best to help you resolve it. Or second, you may protest to the Board of Review in March (BOR). We are happy to work with you prior to the BOR. This gives us a chance to fix things that are easily resolved. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. We are happy to assist you.

During 2013, there were two legislative changes that affect property taxation for a minority of taxpayers in Garfield Township. They are PA161—Disabled Veterans and PA153—Business Personal Property exemption. If you think you may qualify for either of these, contact our assessing department.



## 2014 BOARD MEETINGS

March—11th & 25th  
 April—8th & 22nd  
 May—13th & 27th  
 June—10th & 24th  
 July—8th & 22nd  
 August—12th & 26th

All meetings begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. upstairs in the Township Hall. Meeting agendas, minutes and video can be viewed on the Township website.



Now make your Tax Payments by credit card OR debit card!

Pay online at the Township website:  
[www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)

All credit card payments are subject to a 2.5% payment processing fee. All VISA debit cards are subject to a \$3.95 payment processing fee per transaction.

Payment services provided by Fifth Third Processing Solutions

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Township offices will be closed for the observance of the following federal holidays:  
 Memorial Day—May 26, 2014  
 Independence Day—July 4, 2014  
 Labor Day—Sept. 1, 2014  
 Veterans Day—Nov. 10, 2014  
 Thanksgiving Day—Nov. 27 2014

## DROP OFF RECYCLE LOCATION!

Drop off your items to be recycled at the American Waste Transfer Station located at 280 Hughes Drive, Traverse City, off Hammond Road.