



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

SUMMER 2020

# Garfield

## Charter Township

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

### TOWNSHIP HOURS

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

CLOSED FRIDAYS

### HOLIDAY HOURS

Township offices will be closed  
for the observance of the  
following holidays:

- Independence Day — July 2nd
- Labor Day — Sep. 7th
- Veterans Day — Nov. 11th
- Thanksgiving Day — Nov. 26th

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

- CHUCK KORN.....SUPERVISOR
- JEANE BLOOD LAW.....TREASURER
- LANIE MCMANUS .....CLERK
- MOLLY AGOSTINELLI ..... TRUSTEE
- STEVE DUELL..... TRUSTEE
- DENISE SCHMUCKAL ..... TRUSTEE
- DAN WALTERS ..... TRUSTEE

### STAFF

- HILARY ALPERS .....APPRaiser
- JUSTIN BIGBEE .....APPRaiser
- AMY L DEHAAN ..... ASSESSOR
- RICH DERKS..... BUILDING INSPECTOR
- MICHAEL GREEN ...ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
- STEVE HANNON.. DEPUTY PLANNING DIRECTOR
- KAREN LEAVER..... ADMIN ASSISTANT
- CHLOE MACOMBER .... DEPUTY TREASURER
- DEREK MORTON..... CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND PARKS STEWARD
- BILL MOUSER..... FACILITIES MANAGER
- KATHLEEN ROON .... OFFICE COORDINATOR
- AMY SIMON ....BUILDING & LAND USE ASST.
- CARL STUDZINSKI .....BUILDING OFFICIAL
- JOHN SYCH.....PLANNING DIRECTOR
- BETTY TEZAK..... DEPUTY CLERK

### OUR MISSION

*As neighbors, we work together to create a community where our residents and businesses thrive, our natural resources are protected and enjoyed, our visitors are welcomed and appreciated, and our high quality of life is promoted.*

### TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Due to the sudden and extensive economic impacts of COVID-19, many local governments will see their revenues drop, particularly those revenues associated with economic activity, State Revenue Sharing, tourism, cultural activities, events, and other related revenue sources. While Garfield is no different, the Board has always planned for unexpected economic down turns and we have implemented safeguards to protect and preserve our township in unexpected financial times.

In light of this uncertainty, we are positive that our Township is prepared to weather any reduction in income that comes our way. We also have great staff to assist in your needs and will take extra steps in assuring that your requests are handled properly and smoothly. We would like to thank you in advance for the patience you have shown us and our staff while we try to maneuver the new normal for our operations during this changing environment.

Based upon what is currently known about the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. There is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other characteristics of COVID-19 and investigations are ongoing. While our community has not been impacted greatly by COVID-19 we may see more exposure to our community with increased summer visitors. To maintain a healthy environment for our staff and to be respectful of our residents and businesses, we are asking that all visitors to the township follow CDC guidelines when entering the township building. Updates on those guidelines are available on the Township website [www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com) and the CDC's web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>. CDC will update this interim guidance as additional information becomes available.

With our reopening we are asking our residents to closely respect the CDC guidelines, so that we will be able to insure good health and well-being to you and your families, our staff, and constituents now and in the future.

### FROM THE TREASURER

As the tax due date approaches we are suggesting that *whenever possible* residents consider making their tax payment by mail, through your online banking, or through the Garfield Township website ([www.garfield-twp.com](http://www.garfield-twp.com)). We also suggest utilizing the two drop boxes in front of the building.

When *requested*, we will be happy to send a receipt back to you. Also, for your safety and the safety of others you may want to avoid making cash payments at this time, since it increases your risk and our staff's risk for exposure to infection. If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer's office at 231-225-3168. I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in minimizing the potential exposure to you, our staff, and families.

Summer Tax Deferments Available: If you are 62 years of age or older, and/or totally disabled, and your gross household income was not over \$40,000 during the preceding calendar year, you may qualify for a deferment of your summer taxes. This makes the summer taxes for your primary residence due on February 14, 2021, instead of September 14, 2020, which will give you more time to make payments with no late interest. If you have qualified in the past you will be receiving an application in the mail around July 1st, 2020. If you think you may qualify and did not receive an application in the mail, applications are available at the Treasurer's office. If you have any questions, contact the Treasurer's Office as soon as possible at 231-225-3168 or 231-225-3043. Winter deferments may be obtained at the GT County Treasurer's office.

### FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

The Clerk's office has been preparing for the upcoming elections. We are putting safeguards in place to protect our election workers and our voters. Plexiglass shields are being built to set on the tables to accommodate the CDC Guidelines for Social Distancing. We will be placing markers on the floors to help keep everyone at the proper distancing for the CDC Standards. There will be hand sanitizer and cleanser in each Precinct for everyone's use.

It is not too late to sign up for absentee voting. We will be mailing dual applications to our voters on the permanent absentee application list the end of May. **The State of Michigan requires a signed application requesting a ballot for each election.** The dual applications will meet this requirement for both the August and the November Elections. Please contact the Clerk's Office to be placed on the Permanent Absentee Application List.

### FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

For the 2nd year, the Assessor has compiled and created the "2020 Assessment Roll Report" for the Township Supervisor and Trustees. The report contains information about changes in the tax base, an overview of various incentive programs and exemptions, legislative changes affecting assessment administration and trends and forecasts in the real estate market.

The report can be found on the Township's website, under Assessing - Annual Reports for those interested in viewing it.

### FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A park improvement project has recently been completed at Boardman Valley Nature Preserve including pickleball courts, a canoe and kayak launch, small pavilion, and kiosk. The pickleball courts are open for the 2020 season for the community to enjoy in a safe and healthy manner! This project supports the goals that have been reflected in the Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan including increased access to and enjoyment of the Boardman River, recreational opportunities which meet or exceed ADA universal accessibility, and enhanced park amenities.



This project was made possible using Township funding and grants received from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Rotary Charities. The Planning Department has worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to complete Trust Fund grant requirements, and the grant was recently finalized.

Since 2002, Garfield Charter Township has been awarded \$2.6 million in grants from the Trust Fund including this \$100,000 grant for Boardman Valley Nature Preserve. For nearly 45 years the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has provided support for public outdoor recreation and the

protection of Michigan's natural resources. The Trust Fund endowment originated with mineral royalties generated from state lands and it has supported acquisition and development of thousands of parks and trails by investing over \$1 billion throughout Michigan.

The Township would like to sincerely thank the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Rotary Charities for their support for this project!

### Planning Commission Update:

Despite the pandemic, the Township Planning Commission remains very active reviewing several new development proposals. Applications currently under review include two senior living complexes, Chick-fil-A restaurant, and several re-zonings. Recently approved projects include two hotels and two credit unions on US 31. Projects approved in 2019 that are presently under construction include French Manor senior living facility, SurgCenter, Chelsea Park West apartments, and Living Hope Church.

The Planning Commission is also reviewing some potential amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance and initiating the steps toward obtaining Redevelopment Ready Communities certification for the Township. Certified Redevelopment Ready Communities attract and retain businesses, offer superior customer service, and have a streamlined development approval process making pertinent information available around-the-clock for anyone to view.

### FROM THE DESK OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Garfield Township Community Police Officers will begin bicycle patrols in June with the new e-bikes that were purchased last fall. The Officers will also place digital radar speed signs out where speeders are a problem. If there are any locations that need extra attention, please call the office at (231) 942-9222 and leave a message of the location where a speed sign may be helpful.

### 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Schedule

- AUG 6th—1 pm to 6 pm
- SEPT 26th—9 am to 2 pm

Appointments are required for all HHW events and can be made by calling (231) 941-5555.

Appointments will not be accepted until about one month before each event.

### Fall Brush Drop Off

Fall brush drop off passes will be available early October. We are hoping the weather will cooperate and we will be able to finish our yard cleanup before the first flakes of snow. Look to our website for further information as we get closer to the fall season.

### TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

You will see individuals wearing **YELLOW** safety vests out in our community.

These are our Township Officials who will be conducting building inspections, ordinance violations, park maintenance/enforcement and assessment of properties.



The Township Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

The Planning Commission meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on an as needed basis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every other month at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings take place at the Garfield Township Hall unless stated otherwise on the agenda.