



WATERTOWN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Volume 37 Issue 2

Late Fall 2023

12803 S. Wacousta Road
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 626-6593
www.watertownmi.gov

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9am - 5pm

Township Offices Closed:

Thursday, November 23
Friday, November 24
Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26
Wednesday, December 27
Thursday, December 28
Monday, January 1, 2024
Tuesday, January 2, 2024

PROPERTY TAXES DUE
5pm, February 14

ROADWISE: LEARNING ABOUT TOWNSHIP ROADS

JOHN MAAHS, TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR | JENNIFER TUBBS, TOWNSHIP MANAGER
DONNA MINTON, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Over the next few newsletters, the township is going to focus on road education. Specifically, why we do what we do, and when we do it to maintain the township local road system. Local road system...what is that?

Let's start with who is responsible for the roads? Even the answer to that question is complicated. By Michigan law, townships do not have jurisdiction of roads; all public township roads are under the jurisdiction the Clinton County Road Commission (CCRC). The CCRC receives money from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) to maintain the roads. MTF is generally funded through revenue generated from fuel taxes and vehicle registrations. Although the CCRC receives the funds directly, it does not mean that it is enough money to maintain, let alone improve, the road system. The road commission specifies the priority of how road funds are used, it makes sense that the funding goes to the highest traveled roads first, which would be highways and county primary roads. Watertown Township has federal highways, state highways, county primary, local roads, subdivision roads, and a few private roads within its borders. The road commission cost-shares some of its funding with the townships in the county for local road projects. Watertown Township receives approximately \$40,000 a year from the CCRC for local road projects, such as crack filing, and graveling, etc. In comparison, it costs about \$80,000 a year just to chloride the township gravel roads. Quite frankly, the township could take the stance that the roads are not our responsibility and watch the roads fall into disrepair, like they used to be, or, the township could participate in road maintenance and improvements. It is the adage, "you get, what you pay for."

In the last 23 years, Watertown Township has had a very active local road maintenance program. The Township Board prioritizes the maintenance of township roads and has steadily increased road funding as available, even through the challenging financial setbacks a decade ago. The township uses a data-driven approach for prioritizing road work, which uses the condition of the road and its correlating recommended fix for the current rating, using the Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating System (PASER). Every township road is evaluated using this system.

Roadwise continued on Page 2

For more information visit www.watertownmi.gov

ROADWISE (Continued from Page 1)

The township has been actively working toward the goal that no township road reaches a PASER rating of 5, without a plan being in place for improvement. For instance, knowing that a project that impacts the road is coming, and delaying township road improvements until after the work is completed, so that we are not damaging roads after they have just been improved.

Data shows that maintaining roads in good to fair condition costs exponentially less than rebuilding roads after they have been allowed to deteriorate. There are various ways to do that, many of which you may have experienced. Good roads receive crack fill and patching yearly. Fair roads usually receive chip seal and micro surfacing treatments. Reconstruction happens when the road has deteriorated beyond repair. Michigan’s four-season climate, combined with the increasing number of intense storm events, makes it difficult to maintain the roads.

The Watertown Township Board has used data and the cost-effectiveness of treatments as the basis for the road maintenance program in the township. In 2023, \$750,000 was budgeted for road maintenance and to save for multiyear projects. The township has consistently made budgeting for road maintenance a top priority. The current approximate costs for road maintenance demonstrate how costly it is for road upkeep.

PASER System

GOOD



PASER 10, 9, 8

Routine:

- Crack Fill
- Minor Patching

FAIR



PASER 7, 6, 5

Preventative

- Chip Seal
- Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Wedging
- Concrete Joint Repair

POOR



PASER 4, 3, 2, 1

Rehabilitation/

- Reconstruction:**
- Resurface
- Pulverize/HMA Paving
- Replace Concrete Slab
- Reconstruction

PASER - Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating System

Example Cost Effectiveness

Fix Type	Cost per Mile	Added Years of Life	Cost per Year of Added Life
Crack Fill	6000	1	\$6000
Chip Seal	\$23,000	5-9	\$4,600
Overlay	\$200,000	8-12	\$25,000
Mill & Fill	\$350,000	15	\$23,333
Crush & Shape	\$550,000	20-25	\$22,000
Reconstruction	>\$650,000	30	\$21,666

In future articles we will discuss which roads are the township’s responsibility, the costs of the different fixes, and how they are used on the local township road system.

If you have any questions regarding roads, please call or email Jennifer Tubbs at jtubbs@watertownmi.gov or (517) 626-6593.

NEW VOTING LAWS AND CHANGES FOR MICHIGAN ELECTIONS

CAROLYN BROKOB, TOWNSHIP CLERK | CHRISTY SOCHAY, DEPUTY CLERK

As stated in the Spring 2023 newsletter, Michigan is undergoing significant changes to elections and voting laws due to the passage of Ballot Proposal 22-2 amending the Michigan Constitution. The proposal passed with over 60% approval (including passage in Watertown Charter Township) and the changes are now enshrined in the Michigan Constitution. The Michigan Department of State, Municipal Clerks (township and city), and County Clerks are working together to roll out processes and orchestrate complex systems that comply with new laws. The most impactful changes to voters are:



NINE DAYS OF EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING:





Voters will now have another option to tabulate your ballot in-person. Early voting will take place in the nine consecutive days starting the 2nd Saturday prior to Election Day through the Sunday prior to the Election for all **state** and **federal** elections (eight hours each day). Beginning with the Presidential Primary in 2024, Watertown Charter Township is partnering with Clinton County to provide two early voting sites for our residents: one in nearby DeWitt Charter Township and the other in the northern part of the county in Bingham Township. For every **state** and **federal** election, these sites will be open for early voting. Please note: Watertown Charter Township is not an early voting site, but all Watertown Charter Township residents can use either of the two Clinton County sites. Residents who choose this option will vote and insert their ballot into the tabulator at that time. You will not have the opportunity to change your vote later. Early in-person voting is not available for local special elections. Regardless of which method you use to vote...early at an alternate site in Clinton County, by absent voter ballot, or on Election Day in Watertown Township...**only one ballot will be tabulated per voter.**



NEW WAYS TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

Many township voters have applied to the permanent absent voter APPLICATION list and are familiar with the process of receiving an application by mail prior to each election. This process will be changing. The 2024 Presidential Primary will be the last election that an absent voter application will be mailed by the Watertown Charter Township Clerk's Office to individuals on the permanent absent voter list (though special interest groups not affiliated with the township may continue to send applications). For elections after the 2024 Presidential Primary, voters may *opt-in* to automatically receive a BALLOT – not an application – sent to their registered home or mailing address for each election. Voters should note that, unlike other pieces of mail, ballots cannot be forwarded by the USPS. If you choose to opt-in to the permanent ballot option and will be at another address when ballots are sent, **you are responsible for notifying the clerk's office in writing of the alternate address to send your ballot for that election.** Snowbirds and college students should take care to verify where they want a ballot sent. Failure to provide an updated address will significantly delay the delivery of your ballot.

You can apply for a permanent absentee BALLOT by:

-  Marking the box on the application sent to you for the 2024 Presidential Primary if you are currently on the absent voter application list
-  Online at www.michigan.gov/vote
-  Request a one-time application be mailed to you by contacting clerk@watertownmi.gov or call the Clerk's Office at (517) 626-6593
-  Visit the Clerk's Office at 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 during business hours

You will only need to apply a single time. Permanent ballot status moves with the voter when you update your registration address within the state, including across jurisdictions. You can request to be taken off the list at any time.

Election Changes continued on Page 4

ELECTION CHANGES (Continued from Page 3)



RETURN OF BALLOTS & APPLICATION:

Provisions in Proposal 22-2 require a state-funded absentee ballot DROP BOX and PAID POSTAGE for the return of absent voter applications and ballots. There are now two secure, camera-monitored drop boxes available at the Watertown Charter Township office: a walk-up box that drops directly into a locked area within the building, and a metal drive-up drop box near the bell tower at the township office. You can confirm that your voted ballot has been received at www.michigan.gov/vote. More tools are under development that will allow you to opt-in to receive email/text notifications to track your ballot.



OTHER PROVISIONS FROM THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL 22-2:

- Every voter is asked to provide a photo ID when voting in-person. The right to sign an affidavit to verify voter identity if you are not in possession of photo ID has now been enshrined in the Michigan Constitution.
- Military and Overseas Ballots are now considered timely if received by the Clerk's office within six days of the election.
- If an AV ballot is rejected because a signature doesn't match or the signature is missing, voters now have up to three days after Election Day to remedy the issue.
- Election audits must be conducted publicly under the Secretary of State's supervision and not be affiliated with a political party.
- Results of the election shall be determined solely by the ballots cast and certified by the Board of Canvassers. Neither the Board of Canvassers nor the legislature can override the will of the voters.
- Each registered voter has a fundamental right to vote. No person or legal entity can act to interfere with that right, either by act of law or by harassment or intimidation. There are misdemeanor and felony penalties for violating election laws.

TOWNSHIP TREASURER INFORMATION

SUE BIERGANS, TOWNSHIP TREASURER | MELANIE WRIGHT, DEPUTY TREASURER | LISA WINANS, ASSISTANT

General Property Tax Information:

Your 2023 winter property tax statement(s) will be mailed the last week of November. Winter 2023 taxes are payable from December 1, 2023, through February 14, 2024. Please see the back of your tax statement for payment options.

Please be sure to include the bottom portion of your tax bill with your payment, making address corrections if needed.

Summer and winter property taxes paid after February 14, 2024:

Late payments will be assessed a 3% penalty. On March 1, 2024, taxes not paid will be considered delinquent and turned over to the Clinton County Treasurer's Department. Please remember that the township does NOT accept mailing post-marks when determining timely payments.

There is a secure drop box located on the front of the building near the entrance facing Wacousta Road. Payments placed in the drop box after hours will be applied on the next township business day. DO NOT use the large silver library drop box or the voter drop box.

Tax statements that are paid by escrow payments from your mortgage lender will be mailed to the property owner with a watermark stating, "COURTESY COPY."

When making payment by check, the township accepts the written numerical portion as legal tender.

Partial tax and sewer payments are accepted. Remember that applicable fees and interest will be applied on the balance due after the due date.

*Township offices will be open on Friday, December 29, 2023, from 9am - 5pm to accept tax payments.

Upcoming Holiday Office Closures

Veterans Day (observed):	November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving:	November 23 and 24, 2023
Christmas:	December 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2023
New Year's:	January 1 and 2, 2024

Occasionally, the township offices will close due to inclement weather. If in doubt, please call or check the township website before driving to the office. Your safety is our main concern.

DINE WITH SANTA

Thursday, November 30, 2023

4pm - 6pm

12803 S. Wacousta Road

Dine with Santa at Watertown Charter Township! On Thursday, November 30, from 4pm - 6pm, you are invited to enjoy a craft, decorate a cookie, receive a small gift, and eat a slice of pizza while awaiting the arrival of Santa. This free, drop-in event is sponsored by Watertown Charter Township. For those wishing to donate, a "Toys for Tots" box will be available to collect new, unwrapped toys.



AEDS AVAILABLE AT WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP

In the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, Watertown Charter Township has installed two new state-of-the-art Automated External Defibrillators (AED) machines. One new AED is located in the gym entry hallway. The other new AED is located in the township hall office. Each machine is marked with a sign. The AED station includes a First Response Kit with gloves, a razor, scissors, and gauze pads to be helpful in an emergency.



An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It is a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

Watertown Township staff recently participated in an AED training. AEDs are portable and can be used by nonmedical, lay-rescuers making it possible for more people to respond to a medical emergency when defibrillation is required. The state-of-the-art unit will talk you through providing CPR with specific but simple instructions.

Please remember, in the event of an emergency, ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST.

2023 WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

At their May 15, 2023, meeting, the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees presented ANN MANNING with the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award. This award honors residents who have displayed exemplary commitment, support, leadership, or service to the Watertown Township community. The following tribute was presented:

Special Tribute to Ann Manning 2023 Citizen of the Year

LET IT BE KNOWN that it is a privilege to extend our sincerest praise and commendation to Ann Manning in acknowledgement of her attaining the distinct honor of being named the Watertown Charter Township "2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR."

Commitment, reliability, and integrity have been reflected in all of Ann's work in the community that enhances the quality of life in Watertown Charter Township. Ann is very active at the Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, Grand Ledge Public Schools, and in the local community.

Ann and her husband Rick have been married for almost 40 years. They have lived on the corner of Francis and Stoll Road for over 30 years, raising their children Kara and Brad. Ann has been a Grand Ledge Public Schools bus driver for 31 years and is the lead trainer for new drivers. She is well-loved and respected by the kids she transports, and by the parents and school staff. Miss Ann has taught hundreds of children to swim during her 25 years of teaching through the Grand Ledge swim programs. She helps train new lifeguards and swim instructors. She also teaches private swimming lessons and enjoys sharing how important water safety is. Miss Ann has a special gift of teaching, and coached the Special Olympics swim team and took them to competition for many years. Ann is CPR and First Aid certified and shares her knowledge of these courses with family, friends, and community members free of charge.

In her free time, Ann enjoys sewing, crafting, being physically active, and spending time with girlfriends. Most of all she loves sharing her heart with her beloved grandchildren, Cal, Jordan, Luke, Clark, Camryn, and James. In everything she does, Ann exudes kindness and a willingness to help everyone in need, always with a smile on her face.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore, this document is adopted on May 15, 2023, by the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees to commend and congratulate Ann Manning as Watertown Charter Township's "2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR."



Trustee Todd Hufnagel, Citizen of the Year Ann Manning, Clerk Carolyn Brokob, Supervisor John Maahs, Trustee Holly Madill, Trustee Ron Overton, and Treasurer Sue Biergans

WACOUSTA CEMETERY

CAROLYN BROKOB, TOWNSHIP CLERK | CHRISTY SOCHAY, DEPUTY CLERK

ORDINANCE UPDATED - The Wacousta Cemetery Ordinance was recently amended. A copy can be found at the ordinance button on the main page of the township website.

GRAVESITE REMINDERS - Due to the high costs of maintaining the cemetery, it is necessary for the township to enforce the Wacousta Cemetery Ordinance (Section 8-8). Only grave markers (headstones), plantings eight inches in front of a grave marker, and flower urns are allowed to be placed on gravesites. Artificial flowers, grave blankets, and artificial wreaths are permitted at ground level on gravesites during the winter months, from November 1 to April 1. **PROHIBITED ITEMS** include but are not limited to: artificial flowers that are not in permitted urns, artificial wreaths, glass items, statues, ornaments, solar lights, glass, alcohol, ornamental flags, mulch, shepherd hooks, and flowerpots. View the cemetery ordinance online to see a complete listing of prohibited items.

We know that items have sentimental value, and we want to be considerate of your loved ones, so we are asking that you remove any prohibited items at this time. If the items are not removed, the Sexton will remove prohibited items and place them outside the storage barn for 60 days for your retrieval. Remaining items will be disposed of after that time.

COLUMBARIUM - The installation of a 48-niche columbarium has been completed. A columbarium is a granite structure that contains individual 12"x12" vault spaces (niches) that can hold up to two urns containing cremains (human ash remains). Engraving of decedent name and dates can be placed on the front of the niche. Construction is continuing on the cremains garden area around the columbarium. The serene garden is slated to be complete with plantings and benches in the Spring of 2024. Columbarium niches are available for purchase at the Watertown Charter Township Office. More information and prices are available at watertownmi.gov/wacousta-cemetery.



TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN UPDATE

In 2016, the township adopted a new master plan to help guide future development. State law requires townships with adopted master plans to review these documents approximately every five years. The Planning Commission began this review process over a year ago and has been working diligently to complete this five-year review since that time.

In 2022, the Planning Commission held an open house and solicited feedback on a draft of the plan's main strategies and policies. Thoughtful feedback from township residents was received and included in the plan to the greatest extent possible. As the remaining items of the draft master plan have been completed, the Planning Commission has begun a statutory 63-day review period, which allows the township's neighbors, utility providers, and other agencies time to review and provide comments on the draft plan, prior to adoption. Township residents and business owners are also encouraged to review and provide comments on the draft plan.

The final step in this review process will be a public hearing, which will be advertised in the Lansing State Journal, on the township's website, and will be posted outside the township hall on the bulletin board. While a specific date has not yet been selected for the public hearing, it's likely to be scheduled in early 2024. You can sign up to receive email notifications of meeting agendas and public hearing notices on the township website at <https://www.watertownmi.gov/subscribe>.

The draft master plan document is available online for review on the township website at <https://www.watertownmi.gov/planning-zoning>. The link to the PDF is listed in blue at the top of the page. Again, the Planning Commission encourages your participation in this process – the master plan is most effective when township residents provide comment and feedback.

The Planning Commission meets monthly on the first Wednesday, at 7pm in the south room of the township hall. All Planning Commission meetings are open to the public, and we encourage your attendance and any additional comments you may wish to share on the master plan or any other planning-related issues.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OF TOWNSHIP
SERVICE!

RECEIVE TOWNSHIP NEWS UPDATES ELECTRONICALLY

Be in the know about public meetings, township business, urgent alerts, and other happenings in Watertown Charter Township by subscribing to e-alerts at www.watertownmi.gov/subscribe. Select one or more items from the list of subscription options to ensure you never miss important township news. You can also unsubscribe at any time.



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News or Announcement

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- Board of Trustees
- Election Commission
- News & Announcements
- Township Clerk
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Upload File

TOWNSHIP VENDOR/PEDDLER ORDINANCE

Has someone shown up at your house attempting to sell you something? Did you know that Watertown Charter Township has a Vendor Ordinance that requires anyone vending, selling, or soliciting within the township to obtain a current vendor license? The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate vendors, peddlers, solicitors, and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents. Vending activity is prohibited at private residences prior to 9am and after 7pm. Vending is not permitted on property where the owner or occupant has posted a "no soliciting" or similar sign on premises. The township does not currently have any active vendor licenses at the time of this publication. If someone attempts to sell or solicit at your residence, please ask for their current license. Note that religious and political organizations are exempt from this requirement. More information can be obtained by contacting the township or visiting VENDORS/PEDDLERS at <https://www.watertownmi.gov/our-community> web page.

NOTARY SERVICE AVAILABLE

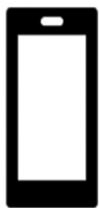
The Michigan Department of State commissions approximately 1,300 notaries public each month. The total number of notaries public currently commissioned in the State of Michigan is more than 113,000. A notary public is an officer appointed by the Michigan Secretary of State to attest to the authenticity of a person's signature, to administer oaths, and to witness acknowledgements. Notarization on a document certifies that the person named on it appeared before the notary, displayed valid identification, and was in the presence of the notary at the time of signature.

Watertown Charter Township provides notary services for our residents. There are several notaries available in the office during business hours. A notary cannot provide advice of any kind regarding documents, including the legalities of a document and/or where a signature is required. This notary service is offered free of charge.

CLINTON TRANSIT - THE BLUE BUS



Clinton County offers public transportation. The blue bus offers more than just a ride. Through safe and reliable public transportation, the blue bus creates a more connected, accessible, and vibrant community. The blue bus provides curbside service with accessible, lift-equipped buses and vans. Their friendly drivers and dispatchers take pride in keeping riders safe and making riders' day a little brighter. Rides are provided in Clinton County and *beyond*. Do you have an appointment, job, or school in neighboring counties? The blue bus can accommodate your transportation needs. Veterans ride free! The blue bus will also be providing free rides during elections to voting locations.



Download
Clinton Transit
In the App Store

MyBlueBus.com



CALL (989) 224-8127



GOT UNWANTED MEDICATION?

KATE NEESE, CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Medication disposal options are available year-round for unwanted tablets, pills, and capsules. Please keep all medications in their original containers and black out (with a marker) your personal information. Please call your preferred drop-off site for details and hours.

- NO inhalers, patches or injectables (sharps)
- NO empty containers
- NO leaking liquids

Bath Charter Township Police Department (517) 641-6271

Clinton County Sheriff's Office (989) 224-5200

DeWitt Charter Township Hall (517) 668-0270

City of St Johns Police Department (989) 224-6721

Sparrow Clinton Pharmacy in St Johns (989) 224-8155

Meijer Pharmacy in DeWitt (517) 669-4600

If you have other medical waste that needs proper disposal, please check out Clinton County's online Waste Wizard search tool <https://www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard>. More information is also available by calling Clinton County Department of Recycling and Waste Management at (989) 224-5186 or by emailing recycle@clinton-county.org.

SMART 911 AND EMERGENCY ALERTS FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS

When emergencies happen, be the first to know. Clinton County uses Rave Alert to send official, real-time alerts to the public with information about potentially life-saving actions you may need to keep you and your family safe. By signing up for RAVE Alert, you are taking a big step toward improving your personal safety. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Rave Alert and Smart911. **Create an account at smart911.com or download the app** in either the Apple Store or on Google Play.

Your Family's Safety...all in one place!

 Rave Alert

 Smart911.com™

 **Get notified of dangerous situations in your area!**

 **Help responders help your family faster!**

 **Easy one-step sign up!**

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DEPUTY TRACY BARBER

DEER SEASON

With deer season upon us, motorists should pay extra attention to their surroundings when driving. Motorists should remember to never swerve for a deer, which could cause a more serious crash. If you hit a deer with your vehicle, call 911 for a car/deer crash report at any time of the day. Clinton County Central Dispatch maintains a list of people who are interested in a deer if it is struck by a car and is in good shape. Anyone interested in being placed on that list should call Central Dispatch at (989) 224-6792.

If you are heading into the woods for any reason during hunting season, always remember to wear hunter's orange so you can be seen by other hunters. Also, remember to practice safety when carrying your weapon of choice while hunting.

ROADKILL SALVAGE

If you would like to keep a deer that has been struck and killed by a vehicle, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources website now has a Michigan Road Kill Salvage application that can be filled out online. This application allows a person to obtain a free salvage permit to possess wildlife killed in vehicular collisions. To find out more please visit the DNR website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>.

BURN PERMITS

Remember to obtain a burn permit from your local fire department before burning leaves. If you are caught burning leaves without a permit, it could lead to a fine. In Watertown Township, you can apply for a burn permit online via the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority link on the township website.

TRAVEL

If you are leaving for the holidays on vacation or for a long weekend, please call the Clinton County Sheriff's Office at (989) 224-6792 to schedule a property check. The Sheriff's Office will put your home on a list for deputies to check while you are away, which helps to deter possible break-ins.

Some other ways to deter break-ins are to put your lights and TVs on a timer, leave a vehicle in the driveway, or have a family member stop by to make it look like someone is home. Also, have your mail stopped by the postal service; mail and newspapers left in the mailbox are an indicator for criminals that no one is home.

LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILES

This summer saw a rash of larceny from automobiles in the Watertown Township and Dewitt Township area. Please remember to keep your vehicle(s) locked at night when parked in your driveway. Criminals are looking for unlocked vehicles so they can steal gifts, electronics, etc. Locked vehicles are a deterrent to criminals from breaking into them.

During the holiday shopping season please keep your gifts hidden in your vehicle. Put gifts and other items in the trunk of your vehicle; if there isn't a way to put them in the trunk, keep them covered with a blanket. This will also deter criminals from breaking into your vehicle.

DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY

13101 SCHAVEY ROAD, DEWITT

New Resource: Financial Ratings Database

Coming this fall: DeWitt District Library (DDL) cardholders will have access to the Weiss Financial Ratings website. This website gives you powerful tools to help you select the best insurance companies, check the financial strength of your bank or credit union, invest wisely, compare Medicare Supplement Insurance plans and prices, select mutual funds, and more. This resource is FREE with your DDL library card! Visit the library's website for more information.

Upcoming Events

Battle of the Books - Registration opens November 1

Fourth and Fifth grade students form teams and read a selection of books over the course of a few months before coming together for a book "battle" in March. Registration forms are available for pickup at the library. The deadline to register is February 1.

Adult Crafternoon Club - Last Wednesday of month at 1pm

Bring your latest craft project and work on it alongside others once a month in the library's annex. Next date is November 29.

Santa Visit – Monday, December 11 at 6pm

Mark your calendars! Santa visits the library the evening of Monday, December 11. View our online calendar for more details.

AARP Fraud Watch Seminar – Wednesday, December 13 at 10am

Learn practical ways to spot scams and protect yourself against fraud. Presented by the AARP.

Contact the DeWitt District Library at (517) 669-3156 or visit www.dewittlibrary.org for information about library programs and services. The library is located at 13101 Schavey Road, next to the Schavey Road Shopping Center.

GRAND LEDGE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

131 E. JEFFERSON STREET, GRAND LEDGE

Open 7 Days a Week!

We are **OPEN** Monday – Thursday from 10am - 9pm; Friday and Saturday from 10am - 5pm; and Sunday from 1pm - 5pm. Browse our online catalog at gladl.org, place your hold, and pick up your item at your convenience. Hold pick-up choices: **In Person**, via **Curb Service**, or use one of our **Outdoor Lockers**. For seniors or patrons with mobility issues, we also offer **Book by Mail**. Fill out an application on our website, gladl.org/booksbymail or call (517) 627-7014. If we don't have the item you're looking for, GLADL patrons have access to MelCat (over 40 million items, from over 400 school, public, and university libraries across Michigan!). **Remember, our Library Dropbox at the Watertown Township Hall is always available.**

LIBRARY OF THINGS

Providing access to practical, hands-on items to learn new skills, explore areas of interest or help with everyday tasks. Most of the items have a two-week checkout period. For more information, visit gladl.org/libraryofthings. More items are being added as community need and space allows! GLADL's "Library of Things!" collection contains:

- **Practical/tech items:** Bike locks, scanner, LCD projector, hotspots, laptops, portable speaker, and mic
- **Ready-to-go packs:** Daycare backpacks, literacy booster packs (reading and math), senior memory care packs
- **Science Kits:** Thank you to IEEE – Region 4 and Science Kits for Public Libraries (SKPL)
 - ◇ Robots – Botley, Cubelets – learn coding at any age
 - ◇ Citizen Scientist – sky meter, air monitor, help scientists collect data about nature and the environment
 - ◇ Snap Circuits and Makey Makey – try out thousands of experiments
 - ◇ Kits on machines, rocks, energy, magnets, telescopes
- **Musical Instruments**
 - ◇ Ukuleles – Thank you to Music is the Foundation (mightyukeday.com/mitf)
 - ◇ Snare Drum and Guitars – Thank you to Music Instrument Swap (musicinstrumentswap.com)

GLADL READING CHALLENGES

Grade-level Reading Challenges for children **Pre-K through 4th grade!** Each challenge includes curated book lists, information and tips for parents, and tracking logs to inspire your child's progress in reading and comprehension. New in 2024, **"Flamin-GO to the Library."** Kids will get their very own flamingo standee when they complete their first Reading Challenge level, and as they keep reading they will earn "mystery eggs" containing fun accessories for their flamingo to wear. Visit gladl.org/readingchallenges to find further instructions on how to participate.

GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Give the gift of reading and help put a "Book on Every Bed" this Christmas! The Grand Ledge Shopping Tour will distribute your donated books to local children in need during their Christmas party. Books can be dropped off at the library from November 11 - December 12.

GET CREATIVE AND/OR LEARN A NEW SKILL WITH OUR NEW DIGITAL SERVICES!

CreativeBug (gladl.org/project/creativebug) offers unlimited access to over 1,000 online art and crafts classes taught by artists and creative experts, with more being added monthly. Enjoy an all-access, no-boundaries pass to explore thousands of classes. People of all skill levels can work alongside instructors to learn craft techniques.

Gale Presents: Udemy (gladl.org/project/udemy) offers thousands of high-quality, on-demand video courses taught by world-class instructors across 75 categories for upskilling in the areas of business, technology, and design. Achieve your own personal success with courses on health and well-being, the arts, language learning, and more.

Watertown Charter Township
12803 S. Wacousta Road
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING MI
PERMIT 193

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS (517) 626-6593

Please listen to the prompts to select an extension.

www.watertownmi.gov

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

John Maahs - Cell (517) 242-6336
jmaahs@watertownmi.gov

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Chad Cooley - Cell (517) 819-4980
ccooley@watertownmi.gov
Todd Hufnagel - Work (517) 626-2200
thufnagel@watertownmi.gov
Holly Madill - hmadill@watertownmi.gov
Ronald Overton - Home (517) 626-6447
roverton@watertownmi.gov

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

EXT *207

Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
jtubbs@watertownmi.gov
Donna Minton, Administrative Assistant
dminton@watertownmi.gov
Questions concerning special assessments, sewers, roads, non-zoning ordinance enforcement, sewer and water permits, park/pavilion rental

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

EXT *206

Sue Biergans, Township Treasurer
sbiergans@watertownmi.gov
Melanie Wright, Deputy Treasurer
mwright@watertownmi.gov
Lisa Winans, Assistant
lwinans@watertownmi.gov
Questions concerning tax bills, special assessments

LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

(517) 321-6622
Questions concerning fire coverage districts, burn permits

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

EXT *201

Carolyn Brokob, Township Clerk
cbrokob@watertownmi.gov
Christy Sochay, Deputy Clerk
csochay@watertownmi.gov
Susan Hunter, Government Accounts Specialist
Questions concerning the cemetery, Freedom of Information Act, elections, meeting dates, voter registration, township records, accounts payable

CEMETERY

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

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICE

EXT *205

Andrea Polverento, Planning Director
apolverento@watertownmi.gov
Melanie Wright, Planning and Zoning Assistant
mwright@watertownmi.gov
Lisa Winans, Assistant
lwinans@watertownmi.gov
Questions concerning building/zoning/trade permits, zoning requirements, zoning & subdivision ordinances, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission

ASSESSOR

EXT *210

Jeff MacKenzie, Assessor
jmackenzie@watertownmi.gov
Jill Schliep, Assistant
Office hours: 9am - 5pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
Questions concerning assessing, SEVs, property listings, property splits

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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

For more information visit www.watertownmi.gov