



# WATERTOWN

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Volume 37 Issue 1

Spring 2023

12803 S. Wacousta Road  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517) 626-6593  
[www.watertownmi.gov](http://www.watertownmi.gov)

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
9am - 5pm

### Township Offices Closed:

Monday, May 29  
Monday, June 19  
Tuesday, July 4  
Monday, September 4

### DUMP YOUR JUNK DAY

Saturday, April 22  
Page 3

## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP

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

The last few years have been challenging. The good news is, Watertown Township has been able to take these challenges in stride and maintain all services.

The Watertown Township board has provided its residents with a 2023 balanced budget that is fiscally responsible and meets the community's needs. The township has taken the necessary steps to assure that programs and services continue at their current levels even with a township millage rollback. The 2021 tax bills were the first year of the new voter-approved fire and emergency services millage. The 2022 tax bills are the second year of the fire and emergency services millage and the 1.5 mills applied to the tax bills is expected to generate \$529,981 of the \$665,000 total fire and emergency services budget with the rest of the funds coming from the township general fund.

Many of the township projects and purchases that were put on hold due to supply chain and workforce issues were still on hold for 2022 and are planned for the 2023 construction season. The lack of workforce and the supply chain issues has put a large premium on projects causing the postponement. Continued road maintenance and improvements will occur throughout the township as planned with the Clinton County Road Commission. In response to several complaints in 2021 concerning the aggressive township chloride program, the township tested a new chloriding method in 2022 and received no complaints. The same chloride application used for 2022 is planned for 2023. The township was affected by the highway and primary road work in the 2022 construction season; the 2023 construction season should have less of a direct impact on township residents. Check the township website or the Clinton County Road Commission website for updates.

The township has begun negotiations with the Grand Ledge School District about the possibility of purchasing the Wacousta Elementary School for the purposes of relocating the township hall and providing community space. These negotiations are at the preliminary stage and will include an engineering feasibility study.

**State of the Township Continued on Page 2**

## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP (Continued from Page 1)

The township board has passed two resolutions regarding the importance of farmland and smart growth. Both resolutions are included in this newsletter (pages 10 and 11) for your review and were unanimously adopted. Watertown Township has a long practice of planning for development in areas where infrastructure makes sense or is currently available and that puts the least pressure for development on farmland.

The township board continues to prioritize fiscal responsibility and in doing so demands a balanced annual budget, while insisting on a high level of service to the residents. The township has met the challenges of the last decade and has been able to continue services without interruption. The township board has made thoughtful decisions to save funds in advance for equipment, future projects, and unforeseen events. This foresight has set Watertown Township up for another exciting year of progress.

## 2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

If you know an individual who should be honored as the 2023 Watertown Charter Township Citizen of the Year, please nominate them now. Nominations will be accepted through the close of business on **Monday, May 1, 2023**.

To be considered for Citizen of the Year, the nominee must:

- Be a resident of the township.
- Give freely of their time and energy in the interest of the community.
- Illustrate a personal concern for the well-being of the community.
- Demonstrate a desire to make the community a better place.
- Serve the community in single or multiple areas: for instance, in civic affairs; athletic events; scouting; senior programs; etc.
- Give generously of their time and expertise to help others.

When submitting your nomination, include your contact information, the nominee's contact information, and the reason why you believe this person should receive the 2023 Citizen of the Year award.

Nominations should be mailed to **Watertown Charter Township, Attn: Citizen of the Year Committee, 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI, 48837**.

# DUMP YOUR JUNK DAY

## Self-Serve Only!

**DATE:** Saturday, April 22

**TIME:** 8am – 12pm (noon), or until bins are full  
Please do not line up before 8am, it causes a long wait for the bins and dangerous road conditions on Wacousta Road. There is usually no line by 9:30am.

**LOCATION:** Heritage Park - Behind the Township Hall  
12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Residents may make one trip with trash ONLY; trailers are limited to no larger than 6x10 open trailer between 8am and 11am. NO exceptions. Note: proof of Watertown Charter Township residency is required. **You must come prepared to unload your own materials! Please allow yourself plenty of time for self-service and bring your own help if it will be needed.**

**THIS EVENT IS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF JUNK/TRASH, TIRES, AND SCRAP METAL ONLY.** Appliances will NOT be accepted. Please see the guidelines below for information on what is accepted/not accepted for disposal.

## Items not listed as prohibited will be accepted.

### GUIDELINES FOR DUMP YOUR JUNK DAY

**Prohibited Waste.** The following prohibited wastes cannot be accepted under any condition or from any source: Hazardous wastes and hazardous containers/labels. Hazardous wastes are materials that are ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and/or toxic, as well as listed wastes such as pesticides, herbicides, solvents, and their containers. Explosives, ammunition, firearms, low level radioactive waste, and radioactive labeled containers, PCB's, lead, acid batteries, liquid wastes (or free liquids), sewage and septic waste, oil-based paint, used oil, and materials that may adversely affect the liner or leachate system. Asbestos, empty drums, medical waste, yard clippings or yard waste, fluorescent tubes, fluorescent light ballast, and used beverage containers (such as \$0.10 deposit cans and bottles). Appliances will not be accepted.

**Special Wastes.** The following special wastes can be accepted *if the specific conditions indicated are met*: Compressed gas cylinders (must be empty and disabled), electronic waste and e-waste (only from households and exempt generators), household paint (must be completely dried out with the lids off; home improvement stores carry a product to dry out paint).

Please visit the township website for updated information.

# BIG CHANGES COMING TO MICHIGAN ELECTIONS

CAROLYN BROKOB, TOWNSHIP CLERK | CHRISTY SOCHAY, DEPUTY CLERK

At the November 8, 2022, General Election, voters had the opportunity to consider a constitutional amendment (ballot Proposal 22-2) bringing significant changes to elections in Michigan. Proposal 22-2 was sponsored by several special interest groups focused on voter rights, including Promote the Vote, the ACLU of Michigan, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, All Voting is Local, Voters Not Politicians, etc. It was added to the ballot after supporters gathered nearly 670,000 valid signatures. Once on the ballot, the proposal passed with approximately 60% approval (including passage in Watertown Township) and the changes are now enshrined in the Michigan Constitution.

The passage of the proposal brings far-reaching changes to Michigan elections, some of the most impactful include:

- The fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct.
- A minimum of nine consecutive days of early in-person voting (minimum of 8 hours per day), starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday prior to Election Day thru the Sunday prior to the Election. **Previously**, early voting was done by submitting an *absent voter ballot* by Election Day.
- The ability to apply to automatically receive a ballot for each election. **Previously**, you could only apply to automatically receive an absent voter application for each election; no ballots were sent automatically.
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by Election Day and received within six days after the election. **Previously**, these ballots were required to be *received* by the local clerk by Election Day.
- Require state-funded absentee ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots. **Previously**, these were not requirements.

The passage of the proposal also preserved certain current election procedures by placing them in the Michigan Constitution, including:

- The right to use a photo ID or signed affidavit to verify voter identity.
- The right to be placed on a permanent absent voter (AV) list.

For a comprehensive list of changes brought by the passage of this proposal, read the full language here: <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/upcoming-election-information/voters/candidatesproposals> (Proposal 22-2).

Because the proposal was crafted without the involvement of election officials and administrators (the individuals responsible for conducting elections), the State Bureau of Elections, as well as the Michigan House and Senate, are currently working on follow-up legislation to integrate these changes with existing election law, best practices, and procedures. They are also working on funding for state-mandated costs. However, certain changes, such as the requirement for nine days of early voting, are not required to be funded by the State; **these costs must be paid for by local municipalities (such as Watertown Township) and will have a significant impact on their budgets.** Watertown Charter Township will be exploring solutions with neighboring municipalities and Clinton County, to honor nine days of early voting while reducing the staffing and financial burden to the township.

The passage of Proposal 22-2 brings about some of the most significant changes to election law in the lifetime of most Michigan voters. With the enshrining of additional *rights*, it is the *responsibility* of the **VOTER** to be informed as these changes roll out. We will continue to communicate information through this newsletter, as well as on our township website, which you can access via the “Elections” button at [www.watertownmi.gov](http://www.watertownmi.gov).

# TOWNSHIP TREASURER INFORMATION

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

Inflation has been a regular topic for the last couple of years. Inflation influences property taxes in the form of the yearly CPI (Consumer Price Index) adjustment to your taxes. The CPI is a measure of how much inflation has changed the price of goods and services. For every tax year, the taxable value of all properties increases by the CPI amount, unless it would be higher than the assessed value. Typically, this number has been around 1 or 2%, with the 2021 number of 3.3% being the highest in several years. This year, however, that inflation measure is 7.9%. Luckily, there is a 5% cap for the CPI applied to property taxes, meaning taxable values for many properties will only increase by 5%, instead of 7.9%, for this year. This is the highest adjustment we have seen since implementation of the taxable value and the inflation cap.

If you are interested in finding more information about the CPI, the information is published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Historical Inflation Rate Multipliers (IRM):

Year	IRM
2018	1.021
2019	1.024
2020	1.019
2021	1.014
2022	1.033
2023	1.05 (Capped Value) 1.079 (Headlee)

## Important Dates for 2023

- March 31 - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter utility bills due
- June 30 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter utility bills due
- July 1 through September 14 - 2023 summer property taxes payable
- September 14 - Last day to pay summer property taxes without interest
- September 29 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter utility bills due
- December 1 through February 14, 2024 - 2023 Winter property taxes payable
- December 29 - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter utility bills due

## Tax Season Reminders

We have 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.

Tax bills that are paid by escrow payments from your lender or ACH authorization given to us by you will be mailed to the property owner with a watermark stating, "COURTESY COPY."

# GET WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP NEWS UPDATES ELECTRONICALLY

The Watertown Charter Township Newsletter Committee has explored a monthly online newsletter in addition to this paper newsletter. At this time, the most efficient and cost-effective online news and announcements can be obtained by SUBSCRIBING to “News & Announcements” from the website subscription at [WWW.WATERTOWNMI.GOV/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.WATERTOWNMI.GOV/SUBSCRIBE) or by clicking on the **SUBSCRIBE TO E-ALERTS** link at the top of the township website home page. You can also see news and announcements at the bottom of the website home page. Other options for subscription include meeting agendas, minutes, urgent alerts, and more.



### Subscribe

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## WACOUSTA CEMETERY INFORMATION

With the increased popularity of cremains burials, the Watertown Charter Township Cemetery Board has been exploring options for the placement of a columbarium and cremains garden in the Wacousta Cemetery. What is a columbarium? A columbarium is a granite structure of 12” X 12” vaults, also known as niches, for funeral urns with cremains to be stored and memorialized. We will keep the community informed as the project progresses.

Watertown Township residents have the opportunity to purchase burial rights in the Wacousta Cemetery at the reduced cost of \$360 per space. The cost to purchase burial rights for non-residents is \$900 per space. Each space can accommodate one vault burial, two cremains burials, or one vault and one cremains burial. Contact the township clerk’s office or visit the Wacousta Cemetery page of the township website for more information.

# GROUNDWATER AND WELL MAINTENANCE

## **Groundwater Testing Results and Well Maintenance Recommendations**

In 2022, Watertown Township worked in partnership with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to conduct a study of groundwater quality throughout the township.

Residents who do not receive public water from the Board of Water and Light get their water from private wells. These private wells are drilled into the bedrock groundwater aquifer hundreds of feet below us.

By testing the groundwater of 21 properties across the areas of the township not served by a public water supply, the township was able to get a better understanding of the condition and chemistry of our groundwater, including important drinking water parameters such as arsenic, boron, chloride, fluoride, and nitrates.

The results of the testing were very positive. Of the 21 wells tested, 17 had average water chemistry, where all the testing fell within expected limits set by various state and federal agencies. One well had above average chloride levels, but specific characteristics of that site provided a reasonable explanation of the test value. Two sites were found to have slightly above average arsenic levels, which can be naturally occurring, and is believed to be in these isolated cases. One site was found to have slightly above average boron levels.

Despite these few incidences of elevated levels of certain chemicals, overall, the quality of the township's groundwater was found to be very safe and clean.

One of the recommendations which came from this program was a need to provide resources to residents regarding well maintenance and testing. Homeowners should routinely check the physical condition of their well, such as the cap and casing. Private wells should also be periodically tested for bacteriological and chemical analysis. Not sure what you should be looking for, or where to get more information about water testing? You're not alone. That was one of the main take-aways from our water testing program. Below are some basic recommendations, and be sure to check the township's website for more information.

### **Inspecting your well and surroundings:**

The wellhead and well cap – the parts of your well that are above ground – should be checked regularly for cracks or openings. The cap keeps rainwater, insects, and small animals from getting in the well. Set a schedule – maybe you check your wellhead and cap when the seasons change, or on specific days of certain months. If you find a problem, contact a registered well driller.

It's important to make sure that the area around the well is also kept safe from harmful materials, like fertilizer or pesticides. The top of the wellhead should be 12 inches above ground, and the grade around the well should slope down and away to keep water from collecting near the wellhead.

**Groundwater and Well Maintenance Continued on Page 9**

## WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS INFORMATION

The township cares for two beautiful parks, which are ideal for reunions, family get-togethers, anniversaries, and other outdoor activities. Both parks have a pavilion, bathrooms, ball fields, river access with canoe launch, and play equipment for children of all ages. A pavilion rental application is available on the township website.

**Heritage Park** has its entrance behind the township hall. It has an artesian well, walking trails, tennis courts, volleyball pit, fire pit, horseshoe pit, and pickleball court. There are two 20-amp circuits at Heritage Park.

**Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park** is located next to the Wacousta Cemetery and is visible from Wacousta Road. It has a basketball court. There is one 20-amp circuit at Looking Glass Valley Park.

Please note, other people may still enjoy use of the parks during your pavilion rental time.

Please keep in mind the following park rules:

- Township parks are open until dusk during summer hours.
- Playground equipment is available for use at own risk.
- Keep dogs on a leash and pick up after them when visiting parks.
- Hunting is not permitted on property owned by Watertown Charter Township.
- Snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles are prohibited on township property.
- The township does not reserve the soccer fields.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Tuesday, April 4 at 6pm

Watertown Township is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Don't be late! The "hunt" begins at 6pm SHARP behind the township hall, located at 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. Bring a basket or bag to collect the surprise-filled eggs. The Wallace Watt Community Center (gym) will not be open.

Contact Donna at (517) 626-6593 ext. 207 with any questions.





## 2023 MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

The annual Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 27, beginning at approximately 11am. Line-up will be at 10:45am in the parking lot of the township hall (12803 S. Wacousta Road). Please join us for the parade, cemetery service, and a community picnic provided free of charge by the Lions Club in the Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park under the Jack Huntoon Pavilion after the service. We appreciate the opportunity to share our gratitude and respect for those who have served our country in the past and those who continue to serve.



## GROUNDWATER AND WELL MAINTENANCE (Continued from Page 7)

Often, we try to hide our wellhead from view with trees, shrubs, and plants. This can cause damage to the well over time, as roots can grow into the mechanisms and cause problems.

Keep animals and animal waste areas away from your wellhead.

Never build over the wellhead. Decks, porches, play structures, fences, and landscaping should all be kept at least ten feet from the wellhead to protect the area, and to provide access should maintenance be necessary.

### **Water testing:**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends testing your well annually for coliform bacteria, *E. coli*, nitrates, and nitrites, and every five years for arsenic, copper, and lead.

There are some community programs which offer free testing for various bacteria and nitrates and nitrites, look for more information on these on the township's website.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy offers well testing laboratory services. Their website, [Michigan.gov/EGLELab](http://Michigan.gov/EGLELab) links to drinking water testing forms, and various instructions on how to collect a sample, interpret your results, and where to drop off samples for testing.

The Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution at their meeting on December 19, 2022.

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE IN WATERTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is a major industry in Watertown Charter Township, and the production of food, fiber, and fuel is critical to the local, state, national and international community and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Watertown Charter Township enjoy a food supply that is abundant, affordable, and among the world's safest, thanks in part to the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of the township's farmers; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, agriculture in the State of Michigan contributes more than \$104.7 billion annually to our state's economy, and is second only in diversity to California; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers in Michigan are the second-largest influencers of Michigan's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting and promoting the agricultural economy in Watertown Charter Township is vital to the long-term sustainability of the township's family farms; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township is home to over 1,600 acres of farmland enrolled in the State of Michigan's Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program, commonly known as PA 116; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to productive agricultural crop and grazing lands, farms in Watertown Township are home to productive woodlands, wildlife habitat, and wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, county-wide, nearly 170,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and oats were planted and harvested in 2021, and the county was home to more than 60,000 head of cattle, the predominant livestock animal in Clinton County; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is a predominant land use in Watertown Charter Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township has adopted a master plan, which recognizes that some lands are particularly well-suited to agricultural uses, and it is the Township's intent to minimize the encroachment of non-farm uses into these prime agricultural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the master plan further describes the township's intent to retain the existing agricultural area along Grand River west of Wacousta Road, and

**Resolution in Support of Agriculture Continued on Page 12**

The Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution at their meeting on February 21, 2023.

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SMART GROWTH**

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township has been engaged in, and has recognized the value of, long-range comprehensive planning which considers anticipated regional growth and development for more than 40 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township has an adopted Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act 33 of 2008, which requires the consideration of neighboring municipalities and is coordinated, adjusted, harmonious, efficient, and economical; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township's adopted master plan, was updated to recognize the ten principles of Smart Growth in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, these principles of Smart Growth are a foundation on which Watertown Charter Township supports economic growth, a strong community, and environmental sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, Smart Growth strategies offer a framework to adopt a vision that enables the entire community to benefit from its local rural heritage and resources, just as all can share jointly in its sensible growth and development and thoughtful conservation of rural character; and

**WHEREAS**, by using Smart Growth principles and targeting new development into existing growth areas where infrastructure already exists, or for which expansion is planned, the township and local region can ensure that private investment generates the maximum benefit for the community while avoiding the expense of providing new infrastructure that is required for greenfield development at unnecessary cost to taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fiscally irresponsible and in conflict with Smart Growth principles to extend utilities, public water and sewer infrastructure, and other services to greenfield areas when regional brownfields with access to these facilities exist and are in need of redevelopment, particularly when communities with these brownfield sites have developed redevelopment ready strategies and incentives to target this type of development; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township specifically recognizes the Smart Growth principle to "Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration: Growth can create great places to live, work, and play – if it responds to a community's own sense of how and where it wants to grow," as the township firmly believes in building a strong community through public input and strategic, long-range planning that fosters buy-in from the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township also acknowledges the Smart Growth principle to "Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair, and Cost Effective," as the township has adopted a master plan and zoning ordinance with this goal in mind; and

**Resolution in Support of Smart Growth Continued on Page 12**

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE (Continued from Page 10)

**WHEREAS**, the master plan identifies a major goal to strengthen the Township’s rural character and community identity by preserving agricultural land and open space; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township has adopted a Zoning Ordinance which intends to ensure that large tracts of land well-suited for the protection of food and fiber production are retained for such purposes; and that many of the problems associated with scattered residential uses that would hinder farm operations and deplete farmland are lessened; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture touches the lives of all residents, visitors, and businesses within the township, whether it be in the daily meals they eat, the clothes they wear, or the pastoral farm views they see as they traverse the township; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Watertown do hereby desire to support our local agricultural industry and farmers to encourage a safe and abundant food supply, to provide for a strong agricultural economy, and to maintain and strengthen our agricultural land, community, and heritage.

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SMART GROWTH (Continued from Page 11)

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township specifically recognizes the Smart Growth principle to “Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty, and Critical Environmental Areas: Open space preservation supports smart growth goals by bolstering local economies, preserving critical environmental areas, improving our communities quality of life, and guiding new growth into existing communities,” as the Board of Trustees addressed in their recent Resolution in Support of Agriculture in Watertown Charter Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Watertown Charter Township also acknowledges the Smart Growth principle to “Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities: Smart growth directs development towards existing communities already served by infrastructure, seeking to utilize the resources that existing neighborhoods offer, and conserve open space and irreplaceable natural features on the urban fringe,” as for decades Watertown Charter Township has ensured that utility and infrastructure planning has concurrency with the township’s long-range development plans; and

**WHEREAS**, development decisions affect the daily lives of the residents, business owners, and visitors to Watertown Charter Township – their homes, their health, the schools their children attend, the taxes they pay, their daily commute, the natural environment around them, economic growth in their community, and the opportunity to achieve their personal goals – and how the township directs development decisions will have significant effects on their lives and livelihoods; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that when the principles of Smart Growth are realized through careful planning for growth, development, conservation, and sustainability, Watertown Charter Township preserves the best of its past while creating a bright future for generations to come.

## BURN REGULATIONS AND BURN PERMITS

Burn permits are required for all outdoor burning. The permits are valid for one calendar year, from January 1 - December 31. Burn permits are free, but the fine for not having a permit is \$500. Burn permits can be obtained online through the Watertown Charter Township website (under Departments/Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority/Burn Permits). You can also view the burning ordinance in its entirety on the township website.

Please note: The following items may NOT be burned at any time:

- Garbage
- Hazardous waste or explosives
- Animal carcasses or waste
- Petroleum based products
- Plastics
- Shingles
- Demolition or construction materials
- Buildings
- Tires
- Automobiles or parts thereof
- Refuse from multiple dwellings
- Any material giving off foul odors



## 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING DATES

The Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees meet the **third Monday of each month at 7:00pm (Tuesday when the third Monday falls on a township holiday)** in the South Room of the Township Hall located at 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. The meetings are held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. If you need special accommodations to fully participate with these public meetings, please contact the clerk at [clerk@watertownmi.gov](mailto:clerk@watertownmi.gov) or (517) 626-6593.

You can obtain agendas, meeting packets, and minutes on the township website at [www.watertownmi.gov](http://www.watertownmi.gov). You can also subscribe to automatically get these documents emailed to you when they become available. See the top of the website home page to **SUBSCRIBE TO E-ALERTS**.

# GRAND LEDGE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

131 E. JEFFERSON STREET, GRAND LEDGE

## OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

**In-Person:** We are open Monday - Thursday from 10am - 9pm; Friday and Saturday from 10am - 5pm; and Sunday from 1pm - 5pm. If you are unsure about what you want or are looking for recommendations, give us a call at (517) 627-7014. Browse our online catalog at [gladl.org](http://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 our seniors or patrons with mobility issues, we also offer **Book by Mail**. Fill out an application on our website([gladl.org/booksbymail](http://gladl.org/booksbymail)) or call. If we don't have the item you're looking for, GLADL patrons have access to MelCat, with over 40 million items from school, public, and university libraries across Michigan.

## LIBRARY OF THINGS!

Providing access to practical, hands-on items to learn new skills, explore areas of interest, or help with everyday tasks. Most items have a two-week checkout period. GLADL's "Library of Things!" collection contains practical/tech items, ready-to-go packs, science kits, musical instruments, and more. For more information, visit [gladl.org/libraryofthings](http://gladl.org/libraryofthings).

## 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. Show us your reading progress for a chance to win one of our Monthly "Experiences!" Help your child discover the magic of reading today! Visit [gladl.org/readingchallenges](http://gladl.org/readingchallenges) to find instructions on how to participate. What if you can't get out to the library? You can use the free app, READ Squared, for both Android and iOS mobile devices. Players create a fun character, complete missions, and earn badges to finish their reading challenge.

## MARCH IS READING MONTH

- Tiny Art Show - See and vote for your favorite tiny pieces of art created by members of our community for our "People's Choice Award!"
- Birth - K - **Early Literacy Activity Table**. Try different weekly activities that support early literacy.
- Grades 1-4 - **Play Library Detective!** Solve the mystery. A treat for playing and prize drawing.
- Grades 5+ - **Teen Tech/Craft Challenge**. Solve a challenge and make a different craft each week.
- Adults - **Guess this Book**. Guess the title/author from pages in the guessing jar to win.

## UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS AT GLADL

See our Event Calendar for more information at [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

- Eaton County Historical Commission History Happy Hour on April 12 from 6pm - 7:30pm.
- GLPS Student Art Showcase and Reception on April 20 from 6pm - 7:30pm.
- Michigan Safe Boating Course and Certification [registration required] on April 22 from 8am - 4:30pm. Ages 12+; under 16 with adult.
- Bear with Me: Wildlife photographer and author Ron St. Germain on April 26 from 6pm - 7:30pm.
- Kids' Bike Safety Rodeo [registration required] on May 11 from 6pm - 8pm. Ages 3-12.

# 2023 SPECIAL RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

KATE NEESE, CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management is working hard to provide special recycling and waste collection events this year. For more information or to learn about other disposal and recycling options that may be available, please check out the Waste Wizard search tool on the Watertown Charter Township website (Our Community/Recycling) or at [www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard](http://www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard). You may also visit the Clinton County Department of Waste Management webpage at [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org) and look for the link to the Department of Waste Management. Finally, you may call the office at (989) 224-5186 or send an email to [recycle@clinton-county.org](mailto:recycle@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 drop off programs noted below. Do not put medications “down the drain” or in the trash. They can end up in surface waters and negatively impact local ecosystems. The preferred disposal option is through designated drop off sites, which ensure safe disposal through incineration. *Please keep your medications in their original containers but be sure to black out any personal information.*

Pills, tablets, and capsules can be safely and securely dropped off at the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office lobby, Bath Township Police Department, and DeWitt Charter Township Hall, Monday through Friday from 8am - 5pm. More drop off locations can be found online at [www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard](http://www.clinton-county.org/679/Waste-Wizard).

*Please be sure to black out personal information, but leave the drug name visible!* Used needles, Epi pens, inhalers, aerosols, and patches will be accepted at the Special Spring and Fall Collection Events.

## **Spring Collection Event**

**Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 8am – 1pm. An appointment is required to attend.** Online registration will begin February 1<sup>st</sup> – check out our website for details <https://www.clinton-county.org/314/Current-Events>.

This event will take place in St Johns and is open to all Clinton County residents. Clinton County residents are encouraged to check the website <https://www.clinton-county.org/314/Current-Events> or follow the County’s Facebook page (Facebook/ClintonCountyMI) for details.

Acceptable items include household hazardous waste, unwanted medications, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil and antifreeze, household computer equipment and electronics, and car tires (limit of 10). Most items are accepted free of charge, but nominal fees do apply (\$10 a piece for televisions and computer monitors. Pay online with credit card or by cash or check on the day of the event).

## **Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter**

Want more recycling news? Don’t want to miss a special collection event? Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter today at [www.clinton-county.org/196/Waste-Management](http://www.clinton-county.org/196/Waste-Management).

# CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TRACY BARBER, DEPUTY

## CLINTON COUNTY TEXT-TO-911 SERVICE

Clinton County now offers a Text-to-911 service. This service is intended for emergency situations when calling 911 is not an option.

Texting 911 should only be used in certain emergency situations, such as:

- An individual who is speech or hearing impaired
- A person who is unable to call 911 due to a medical emergency that renders them unable to speak
- In the event of a crime, such as a home invasion or active shooter situations, where speaking might give away the location of a person in hiding
- Domestic violence situations where it's not safe to make a voice call

To find out how to use this service, please visit <https://www.clinton-county.org/562/Text-to-9-1-1>.

## FRAUD ALERTS

As fraud becomes more common, be alert for these different types:

- **TAX FRAUD** - Guard your social security number, especially during tax season. Suspects have used social security numbers to file taxes in another person's name and collect the refund. If this happens to you, please contact the IRS and report it to your local police department. Remember, the IRS will NOT contact you by phone. If someone calls saying they are from the IRS this should be a "red flag;" report it.
- **TELEPHONE SCAMS** - Please be alert when receiving suspicious phone calls requesting money or gift cards be sent as payment. The Sheriff's Office is receiving reports of many different types of this scam. Examples include the "grandparent scam," where the suspect poses as a grandchild in trouble and in need of money and the "Consumer's Energy scam," where the suspect will tell the victim that their power is going to be turned off if the victim doesn't send money. If you are called and asked to send money or gift cars over the phone, call your local police agency to report it.

If you are suspicious of any phone calls you receive, please call Central Dispatch at (989) 224-6792 to report this activity.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Please be cautious when school buses are stopped to pick up or drop off students. The sheriff's office takes many calls each year regarding vehicles not stopping for school busses that have their red flashers on. Remember, most busses have video cameras that catch these infractions.

"According to Section 257.682 of the Michigan Vehicle Code, drivers on Michigan roads must stop **"not less than 20 feet from a school bus and not proceed until the school bus resumes motion** or the visual signals are no longer actuated," when" a school bus has stopped and is displaying two alternately flashing red lights"

If you see a school bus violation, try to obtain a license plate number and report it to 911. Please help to keep our children safe!





**GRANGER.**  
WASTE SERVICES

[www.grangerwasteservices.com](http://www.grangerwasteservices.com)

# RECYCLING DROP OFF

WATERTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**BE GREEN. BE CLEAN.**



This site is provided at no cost to you and your neighbors. Containers are emptied several times a week. Please help us ensure the site can continue to operate by being GREEN and CLEAN.



## Plastic Bottles, Containers

Items should be clean and dry. No plastic bags, paper or wax-coated milk or juice cartons.



## Mixed Residential Paper

Newspaper, magazines, office paper. No plastic bags, twine or books.



## Metal Cans & Foil

Includes tin and aluminum foil trays. No paint cans, appliances, hangers, or aerosol cans.



## Clear & Colored Glass

No light bulbs, mirrors, tv screens.



## Corrugated Cardboard & Brown Bags

Research how you can take small steps in your daily life to save energy.



## Boxboard

Tissue boxes, cereal boxes. Dry goods boxes only.

**Watertown Charter Township Hall**

**12803 S. Wacousta Road**

**Open 24/7**

(Drop-off located northeast of the township offices)

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
GRANGER WASTE  
SERVICES



SCAN ME

## TOWNSHIP CONTACTS (517) 626-6593

*Please listen to the prompts to select an extension.*

[www.watertownmi.gov](http://www.watertownmi.gov)

### TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

John Maahs - Cell (517) 242-6336  
[johnny@tir.com](mailto:johnny@tir.com)

### TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Chad Cooley - Work (517) 819-4980  
[lookingglasscyclery@gmail.com](mailto:lookingglasscyclery@gmail.com)  
Todd Hufnagel - Work (517) 626-2200  
[hufnagelauto@gmail.com](mailto:hufnagelauto@gmail.com)  
Holly Madill - [madilltwp@gmail.com](mailto:madilltwp@gmail.com)  
Ronald Overton - Home (517) 626-6447  
[overtonron@wowway.com](mailto:overtonron@wowway.com)

### TOWNSHIP MANAGER

**EXT \*207**

Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager  
[jtubbs@watertownmi.gov](mailto:jtubbs@watertownmi.gov)  
Donna Minton, Administrative Assistant  
[dminton@watertownmi.gov](mailto: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](mailto:sbiergans@watertownmi.gov)  
Melanie Wright, Deputy Treasurer  
[mwright@watertownmi.gov](mailto:mwright@watertownmi.gov)  
Lisa Winans, Assistant  
[lwinans@watertownmi.gov](mailto: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](mailto:cbrokob@watertownmi.gov)  
Christy Sochay, Deputy Clerk  
[csochay@watertownmi.gov](mailto:csochay@watertownmi.gov)  
Susan Hunter, Bookkeeper  
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](mailto:apolverento@watertownmi.gov)  
Melanie Wright, Planning and Zoning Assistant  
[mwright@watertownmi.gov](mailto:mwright@watertownmi.gov)  
Lisa Winans, Assistant  
[lwinans@watertownmi.gov](mailto: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](mailto:jmackenzie@watertownmi.gov)  
Jill Schliep, Assistant  
Office hours: 9am - 5pm 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