

# Chippewa Township

Mecosta County, Michigan

2016 Winter Newsletter

Supervisor: George Griffis 231-867-3777    Clerk: Kristin Lytle 231-867-3991    Treasurer: Julie Austin 231-867-3777

Trustee: Ilene Stein 231-867-3469

Trustee: Duane Scott 231-867-3777

Assessor: Earl Spalo 231-745-3397

Township Hall/Fax: 231-867-3777

Chippewa Lk. Sewer Dept. 231-867-3616

Community Bldg Rental: 231-867-3991

Emergency Service: 911

Animal Control: 911

Burn Permits: (866) 922-2876 or [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit)

Township Board meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 6:30 pm, in the Fire Station

Fire Board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm, in the Fire Station

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION – 2016 WINTER TAX INFORMATION**

2016 Winter Tax Bills are **due on or before 2-14-2017**. **POSTMARKS** will be accepted, as payment date for 2-14-2017. On 2-15-2017 late penalties will apply. **DELINQUENT** 2016 Summer Taxes are **NOT** reflected on the 2016 winter tax bills. On March 1, 2017 **all unpaid** taxes are **TURNED OVER DELINQUENT** and become payable to the Mecosta County Treasurer at 400 Elm St. Big Rapids, MI 49307. (231)592-0169 & are subject to additional penalties. **IF YOUR TAXES ARE ESCROWED A COPY OF THE 2016 WINTER TAX BILL HAS BEEN SENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY. BY LAW, THE ORIGINAL BILL MUST BE SENT TO THE PROPERTY OWNER (MCL 221.44(1)).**

**Mail your payment(s) to:** Chippewa Township Treasure, P.O. Box 26 Chippewa Lake, MI 49320

**Make Remittance Payable to:** Chippewa Township Treasurer. A secure mail drop box is located just to the right of the Chippewa Township Hall's main entrance. A self-addressed stamped envelope is requested for the return of your paid receipt. If making payment in 'cash' please have the exact amount. **The Township does not accept credit/debit card payments.** **TREASURER'S OFFICE HOURS: (UNLESS POSTED)** Monday thru Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm. **The Treasurer's Office will be December 27<sup>th</sup> thru January 2<sup>nd</sup>.** The Treasurer's email: [julie@chippewatwp.org](mailto:julie@chippewatwp.org)

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** Make sure you carefully check the enclosed Tax Statement(s). If you find an error you need to contact the Treasurer **immediately** to have the statement corrected @ December 13, 2016 Board of Review. Upon the adjournment of the 2016 December Board of Review, corrections cannot be made, to the 2016 Tax Roll, until the 2017 July Board of Review. The December Board of Review is for "Qualified Errors & Poverty Appeals" only. The 2016 taxes are assessed to a property as it existed on 12/31/15 (MCL211.2). If a property is sold during the 2016 tax year, it is the responsibility of the buyer & seller or their agents to prorate the whole tax year obligation. **All address changes need to be submitted in writing.** If ownership has changed documentation supporting the change must be submitted. **Failure to receive the property tax notice does not prejudice the right to collect or enforce the payment and or penalties, of the payment of the property tax.**

**DISABLED VETERANS EXEMPTION:** Governor Snyder signed law P.A. 161 of 2013 into law November 2013. Honorably discharged veterans with a **100% disabled veteran classification** or their surviving unmarried spouse may be eligible for exemption from real property tax, for property that is used and owned as their principle residence. Forms can be downloaded, on the Township's website ([chippewatwp.org](http://chippewatwp.org)), by clicking on the "Forms" tab or by contacting the Chippewa Township Hall @ 231.867.3777 or email [julie@chippewatwp.org](mailto:julie@chippewatwp.org) **You must file for the Veterans Exemption each year, to qualify.**

**DOG LICENSE:** Mecosta County Dog License are available at the Township Offices, from December 1, 2016 thru February 28, 2017. (1) Year and (3) year licenses are available depending the expiration date of the rabies vaccination. **COST: Male & Female – (1) year \$8 or (3) years \$20 Unsexed – (1) year \$4 or (3) years \$10** **You must have a current rabies vaccination certificate to obtain a dog license. The certificate must include dogs name, age, breed, rabies vaccination tag number and the veterinarian or clinic that gave administered the vaccination.**

**PetVet Vaccine Clinics now at Tractor Supply Company Store:** 754 Perry St. Big Rapids, MI

**Clinic times:** Sunday December 04, 2016 from 1:00pm until 2:30pm and Sunday January 29, 2017 from 1:00pm until 2:30pm. **Check out their website for clinic information and pricing,** <http://www.tractorsupply.com>

**CHIPPEWA LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH FOOD PANTRY:** If you or someone you know is experiencing a difficult time the Chippewa Lake Community Church offers assistance through their Food Pantry. For more information please contact Mary @ 231-250-9540 or Linda @ 231-867-2053.

**CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP FOOD DRIVE:** The Chippewa Township Board is sponsoring again sponsoring a non-perishable "Food Drive", for the month of December. All food donations will be distributed to the Chippewa Lake Community Church Food Pantry. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Chippewa Township Hall during normal business hours or you can call Julie Austin 231.867.3777 to arrange pickup of your donation. Your donation will be greatly appreciated and will allow the Church to meet the area's needs. *Please help us to help those in need and to make sure no one goes hungry!!*

**MICHIGAN'S NEW ROAD FUNDING RULES:** Beginning in 2017, gas taxes will increase 7.3-cents per gallon and diesel taxes will jump 11.3 cents. Beginning in 2022 both fuel tax rates will be indexed to inflation and could increase without further legislative action. **"2016 Michigan Department of Transportation Fast Facts"** - Approximately half of MTF revenue comes from vehicle registration fees: approximately \$1 billion in 2016, rising to \$1.181 billion in 2017, when the fee on most cars and trucks will rise by 20 percent. Cars and light truck fees are based on their original list price: half a percent for a new car, declining to about a third of a percent for a 4-year-old car. Fees for cars older than 1984 and trucks weighing more than 10,000 pounds are based on weight. Registration fees for interstate trucks are apportioned among the states in which each truck travels. The registration fee for a car of median value is about \$100 per year in 2016, and the fee for a standard 80,000-pound semi-truck is \$1,660. These fees will rise by 20 percent in 2017. Permanent trailer registrations are \$75 to \$300. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2017, an annual \$30 surtax will be charged for plug-in hybrid cars and \$100 for pure electric cars. A formula in Act 51 distributes the MTF among 697 transportation agencies: State Trunkline Fund. . 36 percent County road commissions. . 35 percent City and villages. . 20 percent Comprehensive Transportation Fund. . 9 percent Townships were not included in the distribution formula.

**TOWNSHIP ROAD PROJECTS:** Chippewa Township in conjunction with the Mecosta County Road Commission and Federal Road Funds will be replacing the failing tubes between Chippewa Lake and the Millpond, with a bridge (box-culvert). ***The Dwight Street Bridge project*** is scheduled to start on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The Road Commission is estimating that Dwight Street (Chippewa Lake Road) will be closed to thru traffic for at least one month. Included in the bridge project is a 5 foot walking/bike path on the millpond side of the road and an 8 foot path on the Chippewa Lake side.

***Fourth Street/Chippewa Drive*** between Dwight Street and East Chippewa Drive is also on the 2017 Mecosta County Road Project List, for reconstruction.

***19 Mile Road*** – The Mecosta County Road Commission has received Safety Funds to repair the failing culvert between 60<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. This project is slated for 2018. The Township has earmarked \$25,000 towards this project.

***23 Mile Road*** – The Mecosta County Road Commission has resurfacing of 23 Mile Road on their Primary Road list. It will be a multi-year project.

***65<sup>th</sup> Avenue*** – Between 19 Mile Road and 20 Mile Road. The Road Commission began to remove trees along this stretch, during the winter of 2015-16. The cost of the project is estimated at \$43,000. Because this road is classified as a "local" county road, the project cost must be paid by the Township. To save money, on the project, the Road Commission will continue to remove trees, during their slow periods. The Township is hoping that the tree removal will be completed during the 2017 winter.

**CHIPPEWA-MARTINY FIRE DEPARTMENT:** ***The Chippewa-Martiny Firefighters would like to remind everyone that it is the time of year for every household to check and/or replace the batteries in their smoke detectors.*** If you would like to become a part of this great public service organization, you can obtain an application at either the Chippewa Township Hall or the Martiny Township Hall. You can also contact Chief, Brian David or Assistant Chief Carl Kerns, for more information. As always, The Chippewa Township Board would like to say, "Thank



**You",** to all of our firefighters. You risk your lives, to help others when needed without thought to your own safety and we truly appreciate all of your dedication and hard work.

The Fire Department saw some changes this year with the retirement of Chief, Aaron Holsworth. We would like to extend our best wishes to Aaron and his family in their new ventures, as part of the Foreign Exchange Student Program. The Board would also like to welcome firefighter Brian David as the new Chief and firefighter Carl Kerns as the Assistant Chief. They both bring several years of firefighting experience and training to the Department.

The Chippewa-Martiny Fire Board is currently getting pricing for a new utility truck. Trucks can be purchased from Ford, GM or Chrysler through a government rate program. The new truck will replace the old ambulance, which was bought used from the County several years ago and has become costly with continued required repairs. The new truck will be used to house the "Jaws of Life" equipment along with additional firefighting equipment.

The 2016 Halloween Open House was once again a HUGH success. It was estimated that 250 children and adults visited the Fire Station!! Thank you to Kristin Lytle for her organization, of the event. It is truly appreciated!!

**CHIPPEWA MARTINY FUNERAL DINNER COMMITTEE:** Some of you may not be aware that our area is blessed with a committee of caring individuals that provide funeral luncheon food, for local Chippewa Township and Martiny Township Funerals. The current Committee Director is Carol Lintemuth, who had the torch passed to her several years ago when Evelyn Nott passed away. Prior to that Carol played in instrumental role, in the Committee, as a member. At this time we would like to extend our appreciation to Carol and all the Committee Members and individuals that are called upon (usually with very short notice) to pull together and provide this service to grieving families. You are all true Blessings to our Communities! A short time ago Carol acknowledged that more volunteers are needed for both the "dishes" to pass and the help to serve at the luncheons. If you are willing to help this great committee please contact the Township with your name, phone number and address. This information will be given to Carol, for future funeral luncheons. Without continued volunteer support, it is unknown how much longer this service can be provided.

**2016 CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP NON-HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CLEAN-UP DAYS:** Mark your calendars! The Chippewa Township Annual Spring Clean-up day will be Saturday, June 17, 2017 9:00am-noon. The location is the Township's vacant land just east of the Chippewa Township Community Building. Please remember that all loose trash must be put into trash bags. Also large items must be cut down to manageable size. If you have a large amount of trash, please have help to unload. Do to past problems, each property owner is limited to (1) pickup and (1) trailer load. This service is provided, free of charge, to the property owners and residents of Chippewa Township only.

**RECYCLE OF MECOSTA COUNTY:** RECYCLE OF Mecosta County located at 424 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Big Rapids, has new hours! Monday 9-11:00am, Wednesday 9am-5:30pm, Thursday 3pm-5:30pm, Friday 9am-5:30pm and Saturday 9am-1pm. Other mobile sites are Village of Barryton Community Building (2956 20 Mile Rd. Barryton) 9am-Noon 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month; Village of Morley Village Parking Lot(Corner of Cass St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.) 9am-Noon 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month and Mecosta Township Hall (19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids) 9am-Noon 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month. For more information on recycling please contact Recycle of Mecosta County @ 231-796-9872 or visit their website at [recyclemecosta.org](http://recyclemecosta.org)

**ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION:** Saturday October 14, 2017, 9am to Noon, @ Mecosta County Fair Grounds – 540 West Ave., Big Rapids. Call the Mecosta County Conservation District at 231.796.0909 Ext. 3 or visit their website @ [www.mecostacd.org](http://www.mecostacd.org) for more information or to receive your 2017 Spring and Fall Tree Catalog. *The Conservation District offers free site assessments for Forestry Assistance Program.* Now is a great time to make an appointment with your CD Forester to discuss forest management. For forestry information please call Rick Lucas @ 231.832.2950 Ext. 104. *Invasive Species Management Program* offers information to identify, prevent, monitor and respond to invasive species. Contact Vicki Sawicki, North Country CISMA Coordinator @ 231.429.5072. *For information on Natural Resources Conservation Service* please contact Jennifer Taylor, Mecosta County District Conservationist @ 231.796.0909 Ext. 3.



**SENIOR NEWS:** If you haven't checked out "THE KEYHOLE", Mecosta County Monthly Senior Newsletter, you can do so, online at [www.co.mecosta.mi.us/seniorservices.html](http://www.co.mecosta.mi.us/seniorservices.html) or on Facebook: Mecostacountyseiorcenter.

The newsletter is a very informative booklet and includes a calendar of activities, for the Mecosta County Senior Center.

**CHAIR DANCING and LINE DANCING:** Chair Dancing (with Ila Seiffert) and Line Dancing (with Elma Griffis) is held every Monday at the Barryton Elementary School. Chair Dancing is 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm, followed by Line Dancing from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. All skill levels are welcome to join. For more information please call Elma Griffis at 231.867.3426 or stop into the Township Hall and speak with the Township Supervisor, George Griffis. Both the Chair Dancing and Line Dancing Lessons have become very, very popular and we would like to extend a GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!! To Elma Griffis for providing these activities.

**2017 POLAR PLUNGE:** The 2017 Polar Plunge is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2017. Registration is 11 a.m. @ Eastbay General Store. The Parade of Costumes will begin @ 12:30 p.m. with the Plunge following. For more information or to register you can contact Patricia Rosales @ 231-867-5713. The Polar Plunge Awards & "After Splash Bash" is held at the Chippewa Lake Community Church at 1:30 p.m. There will be food, awards, & 50/50 drawing. **Plunge participants get in free and it's a \$5.00 donation for the public.** The series of Polar Plunges is made possible by the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a group of law enforcement officers and corrections department employees throughout the state who are committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan Athletes. **ALL PROCEEDS from the Special Olympic Polar Plunge Events go to benefit the Michigan Special Olympics.** For more 2017 Polar Plunge Information and events, visit [www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge/chippewalake2017](http://www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge/chippewalake2017)

**2017 CHIPPEWA LAKE WINTERFEST:** Come out and join us for some fun during the Annual Chippewa Lake Winterfest on February 25, 2017. Participate in the fishing tournament (7-11am), the chili cook off (1-3pm), listen to music, watch the brave polar plungers, and visit with friends. All events are held on the ice near the east bay. If you would like to enter your chili or volunteer to help throughout the day, please contact Travis Palmer at 231-349-0869. We would love to have new chili makers and are always in need of help to set up, tear down, and assist throughout the events. Money raised throughout the day helps fund the Special Olympics and the Chippewa Lake Fireworks.

**WHATS UP WITH THE COMMUNITY BUILDING??** After losing the Chippewa Township Community Building to a fire in February 2016, we are anxious to start building the new Chippewa Township Community Center. The new building will also house new Township Offices and meeting room. The Township Board is in the process of finalizing the Architectural Drawings and bid packets are scheduled to be let in January 2017. A tentative start date is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with completion sometime in August 2017. Thank you to everyone that has made suggestions, commented and supported the project! To put rumors to rest, the new facility is being funded through the fire insurance proceeds and will not be spread through taxes or special assessments. The Township carried "replacement" cost insurance, on the old building and the insurance replacement budget was set, by the insurance company, at \$460,000, for the new building. The Township also received additional insurance funding for the demolition and contents. The Township has also been able to save on costs by joining the State MI-Deal Program, which allows municipalities, the state contract rates, for various services and goods. The current Township Hall-Library will continue to be used to house the Chippewa Branch, of the Barryton Library.

**TOWNSHIP WEBSITE:** A new Township Website will be available the Spring of 2017. The new site will be more "User Friendly" for both the Public and Township Officials. You will still access the site through [chippewatwp.org](http://chippewatwp.org)

***As always, please feel free to stop and visit with the township officials at the office or call them if you have any questions, suggestions or comments.***

***Wishing you all a very blessed Holiday Season! The Chippewa Township Board***