

*Chippewa Township  
Mecosta County, Michigan  
2016 Summer Newsletter*

<i>Supervisor: George Griffis 231-867-3777</i>	<i>Clerk: Ilene Stein 231-867-3469</i>	<i>Treasurer: Julie Austin 231-867-3777</i>
<i>Trustee: Kristin Lytle 231-867-3777</i>	<i>Trustee: Nancy Helzerman 989-382-7672</i>	<i>Assessor: Earl Spalo 231-745-3397</i>
<i>Township Hall/Fax: 231-867-3777</i>	<i>Chippewa Lk. Sewer Dept. 231-867-3616</i>	<i>Community Bldg Rental: 231-867-3991</i>
<i>Emergency Service: 911</i>	<i>Animal Control: 911</i>	<i>Burn Permits: (866) 922-2876 or <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit">www.michigan.gov/burnpermit</a></i>

*Township Board meets the 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 SUMMER TAX INFORMATION**

**2016 Summer Tax Bills are due on or before 9-14-2016. POSTMARKS will be accepted, as payment date, for 9-14-2016. On 9-15-2016 a 1% late penalty must be added to your unpaid tax bill and an additional 1% penalty must be added the first of every month thereafter until the tax bill is fully paid.**

**On March 1, 2016 all unpaid taxes are TURNED OVER DELINQUENT and become payable to the Mecosta County Treasurer 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 SUMMER TAX BILL HAS BEEN SENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY. BY LAW THE ORIGINAL BILL MUST BE SENT TO THE PROPERTY OWNER (MCL 211.44(1)).**

Mail your payment(s) to: Chippewa Township Treasurer, PO Box 26 Chippewa Lake, MI 49320-0026

Make Remittance Payable to: Chippewa Township Treasurer. A secure mail drop 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 9:00am to 4:00pm. The Treasurer's Office will be closed July 4<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Deferred Payment of 2016 Summer Tax Bills:**

Senior Citizens (age 62 and over), veterans and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of 2016 summer taxes if your household resources (taxable and non-taxable income) is \$40,000 or less. Qualified agricultural property also qualifies for deferment. The deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the Township Treasurer's office before September 14, 2016. If you qualify, payment of your summer 2016 taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2017 without any penalty added. Please call Chippewa Township Treasurer for the required form and/or information regarding the deferment process. You may also 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 @ the July 19, 2016 Board of Review. After the July Board of Review, tax bills will not be able to be corrected until the December 13, 2016 Board of Review meeting. The July Board of Review is for "Qualified Errors and Poverty Appeals", only. The 2016 taxes are assessed to a property as it existed on 12/31/2015(MCL 211.2). **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. You may also email [julie@chippewatwp.org](mailto:julie@chippewatwp.org) This exemption must be filed each year.

**ELECTION NEWS:** If you are a new resident to Chippewa Township, just turned 18 or have not voted in several years, or you are not sure if you are registered to vote here please contact the Township Office at 231.867.3777 or email [ilene@chippewatwp.org](mailto:ilene@chippewatwp.org) If you wish to vote in the August 2, 2016 Primary Election and any future elections Michigan Election Law requires you to register at least 30 days before the election. This means you must be registered to vote by July 5, 2016. You can register to vote at the Township Office or a Michigan Secretary of State's Office.

### CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP ELECTION COMMISSION

The Chippewa Township Election Commission is comprised of the Township Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer. The Election Commission will hold a Public Meeting on July 6, 2016 @ 6:15pm, in the Chippewa-Martiny Fire Station. The purpose of the meeting is to appoint the election inspectors, for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election and to set the date and time for the Public Accuracy Test

### ELECTION LAW CHANGE

In January of 2016, the State of Michigan Legislature enacted a law whereby, the voter can no longer choose a single box for straight party voting. **This does not change the requirement for straight partying voting in primary elections, which require the voter to vote only one party, it only removes the ability to mark one box for all candidates in your party choice.** In the State of Michigan, the law states, that in a primary election (such as the August 2, 2016 Primary Election) a voter can only vote a single party.

### ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you are 60 years of age or older or unable to go to the polls because of a physical disability or you will be absent from the community on August 2, 2016 please call the Township Office (231.867.3777) or stop by for an Absentee Ballot Application. Absentee Ballot Applications must be filed before an Absentee Ballot can be issued.

Absentee Voters – If you should mistakenly or inadvertently vote both Republican and Democratic candidates on the primary election ballot, the only portion of your ballot that will count is the non-partisan portion and the proposals that may be on the ballot, everything else will be disqualified. *If you make a mistake on your absentee ballot you can bring it back to the Township and receive a new ballot.* For those of you who go to the polls to vote, should you mistakenly vote both parties, your ballot will be rejected by the tabulator when you try to process it. Should this happen the election inspectors will spoil your ballot and issue you a new ballot to vote.

In addition to local, county, state and federal candidates, on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Ballot, there will include two local millage renewal proposals and a county proposal. They are:

- The Chippewa Township Fire Protection Service Millage Renewal Proposal
- The Chippewa Township Road Repair/Maintenance Millage Renewal Proposal
- The Mecosta County Parks Millage Proposal

### ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Election	Voter Registration Deadline
Tuesday, August 2nd 2016	State Primary	Tuesday, July 5th 2016
Tuesday, November 8th 2016	State General	Tuesday, October 11th 2016

Sample ballots, for the August 2ns Primary, are available at the Township Hall.

The Official Township website address is [www.chippewatwp.org](http://www.chippewatwp.org). If you have questions or need information regarding any Township matter please call the Township Hall at 231.867.3777 or any of the Township Officials directly.

### **JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> EVENTS:**

The Chippewa-Mecosta Lions Club will be hosting their "On the Lake Poker Run" on Chippewa Lake. Registration is 9am to Noon at Millett Park. Cards will be handed out at docks denoted with a flag and will take place from Noon to 3pm. You must be back in line by 4pm to turn in cards. If you would like to volunteer your dock and pass out cards please contact **Bob Roebuck at 231.972.8885**.

The Chippewa Lake Community Church will be hosting a Bake Sale starting at 9am in Millett Park.

The Fireworks Display will be at dusk, over the waters of Chippewa Lake.

The Chippewa Lake Fireworks Committee will also be hosting a "4 Person Golf Scramble" on July 23, 2016 at the Clear Lake Golf Course. Golfing starts at 10:00am and will include a dinner. Please call Travis Palmer (231.349.0869) for registration and information on this event.

### **CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP ROAD PROJECTS:**

Chippewa Drive between Dwight Street and East Chippewa Drive – This section of road is on the Mecosta County Road Commission Federal Project list for 2018. They have estimated the project at \$500,000 and have been awarded federal monies. The Township is currently working with the Road Commission to try to get the project moved up.

Dwight Street Bridge (The Chippewa Lake outlet tubes) – This project will replace the current failing road tubes with a bridge. This project is slated for 2017 and the Township has earmarked \$35,000 for this project. The Mecosta County Road Commission will be funding the remaining balance. The Township has asked that the bridge be wide enough to allow for a pedestrian/bike lane and the Road Commission has agreed.

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. If funds are available they are hoping to resurface between 80<sup>th</sup> Ave and 105<sup>th</sup> Ave this year.

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.

65<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Between 19 Mile Road and 20 Mile Road. You may have noticed that the Road Commission last winter began to remove trees along this stretch. The Township is working with the Road Commission to upgrade this section of road. 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 this winter so the grade project can begin in 2017.

The Chippewa Drive Project and the Dwight Street Bridge Project are currently being engineered by the Mecosta County Road Commission Engineering Firm. The Road Commission will contact the Township when the prints, for the project, can be reviewed.

**CHIPPEWA-MARTINY FIRE DEPARTMENT:** After 30 years in the Fire Service and 18 years as Fire Chief, Aaron Holsworth has retired. Assistant Chief, Brian Davids, has been appointed to fill that position. To Aaron we would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude for his many years of service and to wish him well in his new pursuits; we would like to welcome Brian into his new position.

The Chippewa Township Board would like to extend a THANK YOU to all our Firefighters. Your dedication to our community is greatly appreciated!!

Over the next several months the Fire Chief and the Chippewa-Martiny Fire Board will be researching the purchase of a new utility vehicle to house the "Jaws of Life" equipment and additional firefighting equipment. The new truck will replace the current rig, which is an old ambulance that was converted to a utility vehicle and it is becoming more costly to maintain.

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.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION:** The Mecosta County Household Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2016 9:00-noon, at the Mecosta County Senior Center 12954 80<sup>th</sup> Ave., Mecosta. A pre-registration form is required if bringing over 200 lbs. to the collection site. If you have any questions please call Charmaine Lucas @ Phone: 231-796-0909 ext.3 or visit [www.mecostacd.org](http://www.mecostacd.org).

**Fall 2016 Non-Hazardous Household Clean-up Day:** Mark your calendars. The Chippewa Township Fall Clean-up day will be Saturday, September 10, 2016, 9 a.m. – noon at the Chippewa Township Community Park on 19 mile road. ***This is for township property owners and residents only.*** Please remember that loose trash must be placed in bags, large items must be broken down into manageable sizes and that each property is limited to one truck and utility trailer only. It is on a first come first serve basis, once the reserved dumpsters are full no more items will be accepted. No tires will be accepted. **NO EARLY DUMPING.**

The Spring Clean-up was once again very successful with (5) 40yd dumpsters of trash being collected along with (2) trailer loads of scrap metal. However, there were a few problems that need to be addressed. First and foremost a few people unloaded their trash before the workers were in attendance. Because the workers have to make sure there are no hazardous materials being disposed of, no early dumping is permitted. If early dumping continues, in the future, the Township will not be able to continue this service. Also, we ask that loose garbage be bagged and large items cut into smaller manageable sizes.

The Township Board is looking to possible expanding the clean-up day service (2017) to include a company that will collect tires. We are hoping to get a grant to cover the cost or there may be a small per tire charge for this service.

**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)

**TOWNSHIP DUMPSTERS:** The Township has been experiencing problems with people dumping their household trash in the Community Park Dumpster. **The Township Dumpsters are not intended for Public Use.** Please make arrangements with one of the local refuse companies to properly dispose of your refuse.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:** As many of you may have heard, during the months of November and December (2015), five area residences were broken into. To help keep our community a safe place to live and vacation; Gordon Curtin is starting a Neighborhood Watch program. He is looking for people who are interested in being a subdivision coordinators. You do not have to live on Chippewa Lake to be part of this program. The north east property owners of the Township have had a very successful program, for several years. You can email Mr. Curtin at [camel616@live.com](mailto:camel616@live.com)

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Chippewa Branch Library is part of the Barryton Public Library District. A Librarian is on duty at the Chippewa Township Branch on Tuesday noon-5pm, Thursday 10am-5pm, Friday 11am-6pm, & Saturday 9am-1pm. The library is also open during regular Township Office hours. Come in and check out the large variety of books, movies, free Wi-Fi and services provided through the Barryton Public Library District. The main branch of the Barryton Public Library is located at 198 Northern Ave, Barryton.

The Library is sponsoring a Summer Reading Program "***Take your Child's Mind on an Adventure!***" in the month of July: Chippewa Township Branch 1:00pm on Thursdays and Barryton Main Branch 1:00pm on Wednesdays

Your child does not have to attend every week, so if you are here on vacation, please feel free to bring your child or children in for Fun! Fun!! Fun!!!! This is a free event.

The Library hosted their first "Boater Safety Classes" this spring with 40 participants, at the main branch. They are hoping to be able to offer this class annually, in the spring.

***INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW:*** The Township has had several inquiries regarding the Community Building. If you are unaware the building suffered a total fire loss on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The Township Board has been working with the insurance company regarding the claim and recently have received the "replacement cost" budget. The Township will be building a new Community Building and if costs allow the building will also house new Township Offices. The next step will be to hire an architect, for the plans. Once plans are drawn the project will go out for General Contracting bids. We do not know how long this project will take but we are hoping we can be in the new building spring or early summer of 2017. Once the building plans are drawn, the Township Board is planning a public meeting to allow property owners to review the plans before being finalized. *The Community Center held a lot of wonderful memories, for our community, it is our hopes that we will ALL make many new memories in the new facility!*

There have been many questions regarding the Chippewa Lake Bar. The Township Board accepted an offer. During the title work it was discovered that many title insurance companies do not recognize State Property Tax Foreclosures for clear title. The bar is still sold but the Township's legal counsel is in the process of obtaining a "Quiet Title" to remove any of the prior owner's interest in the property. The paperwork has been filed with the court and the Township is currently waiting for the court date. It should be completed in July. Once we have the "Quiet Title" and the sale closing is completed the new owners will be able to start their renovation.

***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.

***PALM BIKE TOUR:*** On Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> the Peddle across Lower Michigan Bike Tour peddled their way through Chippewa Township. They had over 700 bikers that participated in their tour. The tour started at Pentwater and ended in Oscoda. Various property owners, within our Township provided welcoming rest areas, for the cyclists. The Township set-up two "Welcome" stations with water and lemonade and provided restroom facilities. Thank you, to ALL our property owners for showing what a GREAT COMMUNITY we have!! The cyclists and the Tour Coordinator asked us to extend their gratitude and appreciation for the "Welcome" and hospitality they received.

As, always if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or need factual information, please do not hesitate in contacting the Township Office or any Township Official.

Have a Safe and Fun Filled Summer!!  
The Chippewa Township Board