



East Bay Charter Township Newsletter

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed on Friday and the following upcoming holiday dates:
July 4, September 4, November 9, 22, and 23

Election News

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk are continuing to attend additional election trainings as the State prepares for the voter-approved nine days of early voting before each State and/or Federal Election. Look for updates as they are available on the website at eastbaytwp.org, under the Voter & Election Information page. There are no local Elections in 2023. As of press time, it is expected that the State will hold the Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. This election will be for the Presidential candidates for both major political parties.

When can Fireworks be enjoyed?



- June 29 through July 4 from 11 am to 11:45 pm
- Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day from 11 am to 11:45 pm
- December 31, beginning 11 am through January 1 at 1 am.

Park and Recreation Open House



Join the Parks Commission on **September 18, 2023** from 4 to 6 pm at East Bay Township Hall south meeting room to provide input on the 5-year Park and Recreation Plan.

This will be open house style meeting so stop by at a time that works for you to provide input on the goals and action items that will be included in the park plan.

Holiday Woodland Community Engagement

East Bay Township was awarded a Rotary Seed Grant to do intensive community engagement for the future use of Holiday Woodland Natural Area. These community engagement opportunities will provide the public an opportunity to assist the Parks Commission in establishing a vision for the Park. Stay tuned to the Township website for upcoming engagement opportunities this summer and fall.

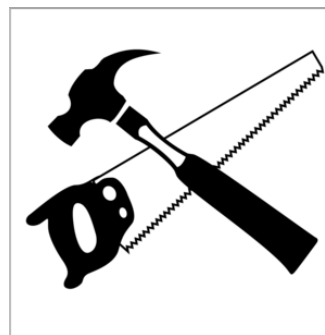


Change in the Building & Grounds Department

Congratulations to Building & Groundskeeper Bob Burns on his retirement after 20 years of employment with East Bay Township! Wishing him the best and much more time with his wife Nancy, their grandchildren, his Harley, camping, and up north.

Welcome incoming Buildings and Groundskeeper Dan Borsma! Dan is a part-time Paramedic with East Bay Ambulance and will be working part-time as Building & Groundskeeper, augmented by local lawn care maintenance and janitorial service contractors. Dan's primary responsibility is to oversee the maintenance of the grounds and facilities of the Township. Dan's former occupation was a traveling nurse. Dan has a keen interest in construction and maintenance and is looking forward to his career change. When you meet Dan, ask him about his experience constructing his own home!

Arbutus Lake No. 5 Park Improvements



This summer Arbutus Lake No. 5 Park will be closed for the 2023 summer season. While this is disappointing as it is a favorite park for many locals, there are great things to come. During the summer, utilizing a Michigan DNR

Trust Fund grant award and township funding, the park will receive an ADA-accessible bathhouse, fishing pier, kayak launch, restored shoreline, reduced & improved seawall, picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, ADA lake accessibility, new fencing, footbridge, and a few additional parking spaces. Here's to good things to come!



In 2022, there were 51 struck-by emergency responder fatalities across the country. These fatalities included personnel from fire, law enforcement, EMS, tow operators, road service technicians, and transportation departments. These were individuals on a call assisting others in need. To view the Faces of the Fallen Memorial videos, go to <https://www.respondersafety.com/news/struck-by-incidents/yearly-fatality-reports>.

We owe it to one another to do what we can to keep everyone's loved ones safe on the road. Here are some things to consider:

- Slow down and be aware of your surroundings.
- Follow the posted speed limits.
- Be aware of changes around you (i.e. Is traffic slowing ahead?)
- Don't drive distracted, remember to:
 - Physically – keep your hands on the wheel
 - Visually – keep your eyes on the road
 - Cognitively – keep your mind on driving
- Adhere to construction zone restrictions.
- Do not drive impaired – by any substance.
- Learn to zipper merge – it will make everyone move much more efficiently.



Michigan's Move Over Law

Requires motorists to slow down and move over for stationary authorized vehicles with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights activated.

When approaching a stationary authorized vehicle with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights activated, carefully slow down to at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit and fully move over into an open lane.

If this is not possible due to traffic, weather, or road conditions, slow down to at least 10 mph below the posted speed limit and pass with caution allowing the authorized vehicle as much space as possible.

The Move Over law also applies to these other authorized vehicles with flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights activated: solid waste haulers, utility service vehicles, and road maintenance vehicles.

Depending on the situation, penalties range from two points on their driver's license and a fine of \$400 up to 15 years in prison and/or a \$7,500 fine.

Wishing everyone a safe summer from Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department!

2023 Notice of Assessment

If you opened your 2023 Notice of Assessment this year and was surprised, join other Michiganders around the state. Recent home sales have been strong, and inflation has been high – both are two factors which impact property taxes in Michigan. The General Property Tax Act requires assessors to determine assessments through a two-year sales analysis. For 2023, property sales from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022 must be used to determine values. Sales of properties with similar characteristics within this time period create an Economic Condition Factor (ECF) which is then applied to individual properties. This is why it is important to review your property's tax card to ensure the characteristics are accurate. Assessed values from the Assessing Department, once they have gone through review by the County and State, create the State-Equalized-Value (SEV). This is approximately 50% of the property's market or true cash value. Tax bills are calculated on the Taxable Value (TV), which is a capped value. While SEV follows the market through the two-year analysis, TV is limited to an increase by 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. This limitation was enacted in 1994 by Proposal A. Typically, the only time the SEV and TV are equal is when a property is uncapped after a change in ownership. When a property is held by the same owner, Proposal A limits the impact the market can have on a property's taxes. This is the first time since the enactment of Proposal A the maximum of 5% has been reached. Assessing property and creating the tax roll is a highly technical calculation dictated by the General Property Tax Act and implemented by licensed professionals. If you have any questions or want to view your property tax card, reach out to MAAO licensed assessors Susan Karakos and Darren Darge at 231-947-8719 ext. 4.

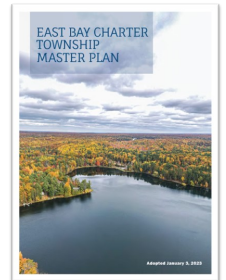
Community and Economic Development Fellow

East Bay Township received a grant and was selected to participate in the Community and Economic Development Fellowship from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Community and Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM). There are a total of 10 Fellows placed in municipalities across the state as part of this capacity building program. Sam LaSusa was selected as the Community and Economic Development Fellow who will be serving East Bay Township over the next 15 months. He will be helping with many initiatives, including the US-31 Corridor Economic Improvement effort, trail planning including Safe Routes to School and the TART Three Mile Road extension, and assisting in the zoning ordinance rewrite process based on the Master Plan approved in January 2023.

Sam is a Traverse City native and graduated from St. Francis High School. He moved to Minneapolis, MN to pursue a bachelor's degree in architecture from Dunwoody College of Technology. After graduating in 2020, he relocated back to Traverse City and put down roots in the community. He purchased a tiny home in downtown Traverse City. Sam started a residential architecture firm in 2020, Untethered Enterprises LLC, and began working with clients on ecologically minded designs. Sam contributes to accessible local food production by serving as the Assistant Manager of the Sara Hardy Farmers Market through SEEDS Ecology and Education Centers. Sam continues his drive for community development by co-founding the non-profit organization Evergreen Community Group that provides spaces for adults to socialize without the sale or promotion of alcohol at their events. Sam will bring this wide range of experience and passion for community development to his role at East Bay Township.

East Bay Township Master Plan Guides Community Vision

After two years of in-depth community input and visioning sessions, the East Bay Township Planning Commission adopted the Community Master Plan in January 2023. A master plan is a guiding document intended to set forth a community's vision of its long-term future, usually 10 to 20 years. It covers just about everything—an analysis of the community's residential, commercial, industrial sectors; transportation; and natural features. The master plan outlines a vision, goals and objectives to help chart a path forward for East Bay Township. Key initiatives identified in the adopted master plan include reviewing and strengthening the environmental protections, supporting workforce housing, creating a subarea plan for the U.S. 31 Beach District corridor, and enhancing the non-motorized network of trails and sidewalks in East Bay Township. A full rewrite of the zoning ordinance for alignment with the master plan is currently underway. The master plan can be reviewed at the Township Hall and can also be reviewed online at eastbaytwp.org under Planning & Zoning > East Bay Township Master Plan.



On the heels of the recently adopted Community Master Plan, East Bay Township received a USDA Rural Development grant to support economic improvement and place making efforts along the U.S. 31 N Corridor, branded the East Bay Beach District. The USDA grant funding will support implementation of priorities and feedback from the community, including issues of high vehicle speeds, vacant parcels, business turnover, public transportation improvements, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, and inadequate safe and accessible routes to access the waterfront. The process will allow for a more in-depth analysis and design to inform public infrastructure in the built environment to make the corridor a more desirable place to work, live, shop, eat, and recreate – for residents and visitors alike. The grant will also fund development of marketing and communications materials along the corridor to promote existing businesses, including Beach District brochures and light pole banners. East Bay Township will engage with business owners, managers, residents, and other stakeholders during the visioning process to foster transparency and gain valuable feedback. Please stay tuned for upcoming public engagement opportunities.



STAY UP-TO-DATE



Staying informed on when topics are on the Township's agenda? The Planning Commission? The Parks Commission? The Zoning Board of Appeals? Here's an easy way to stay up to date, visit the township's website and sign up for email alerts. Go to eastbaytwpmi.documents-on-demand.com and pick which board or commission and page topic from which you would like to receive alerts. Every time a document is uploaded to this topic, you receive an email alert.

Can you volunteer to visit the Little Libraries in the parks, making sure there's a great collection of books stocked? If you have a car and the heart to share your time and love of books, call Leslie Couturier at (231) 947-8647 and volunteer!

Visit the Little Libraries in every East Bay Township Park!

Pine Grove Gen's

"I can't imagine a man really enjoying a book and reading it only once."
- C.S. Lewis

Grace Macdonald
Arbutus No. 5
Killingsworth

Brush and Yard Waste Passes

East Bay Township is offering residents a fee-free yard waste pass to help with spring and fall cleanups. Each property owner requesting a pass will receive two passes. Each pass allows disposal of three cubic yards at one time. Once the passes are received, please put them in a safe place as once they have been issued for a property, replacement or additional passes cannot be issued.

**Where Your Annual Property Tax Payments Go
For Homeowners with a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)**

Taxing Authority	Millage	Per \$100,000 Taxable Value	Per \$1* Taxes
State Education Tax Act	6.0000	\$600.00	\$0.23
Grand Traverse County	4.7268	\$472.68	\$0.18
TCAPS Capital Debt	3.1000	\$310.00	\$0.12
Northwest Education Services	2.8871	\$288.71	\$0.11
Metro Fire	2.7500	\$275.00	\$0.10
NMC	2.0572	\$205.72	\$0.08
Ambulance	1.0000	\$100.00	\$0.04
Road Commission	0.9734	\$97.34	\$0.04
Library	0.9044	\$90.44	\$0.03
East Bay Township	0.6871	\$68.71	\$0.03
BATA	0.4788	\$47.88	\$0.02
Commission on Aging	0.4739	\$47.39	\$0.02
Community Police Officers	0.2600	\$26.00	\$0.01
Veterans	0.1135	\$11.35	<\$0.01
GT Conservation District	0.0958	\$9.58	<\$0.01
Senior Center	0.0945	\$9.45	<\$0.01
Animal Control	0.0370	\$3.70	<\$0.01
TOTAL TAX	26.6395	\$2,663.95	\$1.00*

*slightly more due to rounding



Watch the East Bay website for the 2023 fall dates for Coffee with a Cop!

Boards and Commissions Meeting Days and Times

Board of Trustees meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals meets on an as-needed basis on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Park Commission meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Regularly scheduled meetings are held in south meeting room at the township hall.
Always check the website calendar for any changes to dates/times/locations due to elections, weather, and holidays.
[Watch meetings on local access cable television on channel 191 or on the computer at www.tacm.tv.](#)

East Bay Charter Township, 1965 N. Three Mile Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49696

Office hours are Monday - Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed on Fridays, visit eastbaytwp.org for holidays

Township Office Main Number (231) 947-8647

Planning & Zoning (231) 947-8681

Supervisor	Beth Friend	bfriend@eastbaytwp.org
Clerk/Deputy Clerk	Susanne Courtade/Holly Couturier	scourtade@eastbaytwp.org/hcouturier@eastbaytwp.org
Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer	Tracey Bartlett/Deb Hamilton	tbartlett@eastbaytwp.org/dhamilton@eastbaytwp.org
Planner	Claire Karner	ckarner@eastbaytwp.org
Zoning Administrator	TBD	zoning@eastbaytwp.org
Office Manager	Leslie Couturier	lcouturier@eastbaytwp.org
Assessors	Susan Karakos/Darren Darge	skarakos@gtcountymi.gov/ddarge@gtcountymi.gov
Buildings and Grounds	Dan Boersma	dboersma@eastbaytwp.org
CEDAM Fellow	Sam LaSusa	slasusa@eastbaytwp.org

NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Ambulance: East Bay Ambulance: 231-947-0299
 Fire: Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GT Metro): 231-947-3000
 Police: East Bay Township Community Police Officers: 231- 947-3631
 Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office: 231-995-5000 or Non-Emergency Dispatch at 231-922-4550

