



# East Bay Charter Township Newsletter

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Closed on Friday and the following holiday dates:

2021: December 22, 23, 29 & 30

2022: January 17, February 21, April 14, May 30

## Sledding Party

Grace Macdonald Park Sledding Party is Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Check the township's website for further details or changes due to the weather. The Parks Commission will have hot chocolate and coffee and there will be cardboard sleds races. Make a sled at home and bring to the races. It will be fun to see the creativity and speed of the sleds!



Coffee with the Cops will be held on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 am at Oleson's Grocery Store at Hammond and Three Mile Roads. Please stop by to meet and chat with East Bay Township Community Police Officers Matt McKinley and Zach Root. They will be joined by State Representative John Roth who represents the 104<sup>th</sup> District which includes East Bay Township. East Bay Ambulance's paramedics and EMTs will also be on hand to visit with residents.

## Election News

The Township Election Commission approved adding a fifth voting precinct to East Bay Township. Due to this change, Precinct #1 voting location has changed. If you live in Precinct 1 and want to vote in person, your polling location is now at the Grand Traverse Metro Administration Office located at 897 Parsons Road. Precincts #4 and #5 vote at the East Bay Charter Township Hall 1965 N. Three Mile Road, with Precinct #4 voting at the South Conference Room and Precinct #5 voting at the North Conference Room. Precincts #2 and #3 will continue to vote at East Bay Station 9 located at 110 High Lake Road. Please visit the township's website for a detailed precinct map at [eastbaytwp.org](http://eastbaytwp.org)

Clerk departments throughout Michigan are required to send out new voter Identification Cards. If you do not receive your East Bay Voter Identification card by May 2022, please contact the Clerk's Office. On the front of the card will be the QR code pictured below, using your smart phone, scan the QR code to be directed to the Voting Information page on the township's website. Additionally, on the back of the ID card is a tear off strip that will allow you to sign up to provide written permission for the Clerk's Office to send you a Permanent Absent Voter Application before every election. It is not necessary for you to re-sign up if you already receive this service. Please do not return the entire ID card, only the signed tear off section.

If you are interested in serving the community as an Election Inspector and can work on average a 16-hour day, please sign up using the application on the township's website. Susanne M. Courtade MiPMC<sup>2</sup>/MMC, Clerk, and Holly L. Couturier, Deputy Clerk, are available to answer any questions about elections and to assist residents at (231) 947-8647.





# H!gh F!ves All Around

## Awards & Recognitions



TART trails recognized East Bay Township as Government Partner of the Year. East Bay Township and TART have collaborated with other organizations in the redevelopment of the TART trail along Parsons Road and with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and Norte in the planning of the Three Mile trail extension. These partnerships are valuable in East Bay's initiative to advance trails. The Township Board, Planning Commission, and Parks Commission were recognized for supporting these projects at every opportunity. East Bay Township is very appreciative of TART, their staff, and volunteers.

The Grand Traverse County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association jointly awarded the Grand Traverse County Road Commission (GTCRC) and East Bay Township a *Municipal Excellence Award* for collaboration on the Hammond Road Roundabout at Four Mile Road. As the GTCRC began planning the Hammond Road roundabout, the Township and GTCRC collaborated on the design of placemaking features, the installation of water and sewer infrastructure, and the construction of the roundabout. The multiple projects were completed in one seamless project which joined resources and saved time, future construction issues, and money.

The Grand Traverse County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association also awarded *Certificates of Appreciation* to Rob Tubbs, Ted Hentschel, and Steve and Carol Shuckra. Rob Tubbs served East Bay residents for 15 years as a Planning Commissioner, with the last 12 years as Chair of the Planning Commission. Ted Hentschel served East Bay residents for over 25 years as a Planning Commissioner and Zoning Board of Appeals member. The dedication and service to others required to serve such tenures is admirable. Steve and Carol Shuckra and their family conserved 80 acres of the Boardman River watershed that contains a defining ridge with viewscapes familiar to those entering the Grand Traverse region. In conjunction with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the Rotary Foundation, and the Shuckra's personal sweat and resources, they raised \$270,000 to preserve the acreage. Rob Tubbs, Ted Hentschel, and the Shuckras personify the Anthony J. Dangelo quote, "*Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.*"

### **Master Plan Update**

With significant community input through the transparent process of an online resident and property owner survey and a series of facilitated focus group sessions, progress on the updated East Bay Township community master plan continues. The Planning Commission has been holding monthly work sessions, open to the public, to review public input to date and refine the action plan. The draft action plan for the updated community master plan can be reviewed on the Planning & Zoning Department's *Master Plan Update* page of the township's website at [eastbaytwp.org](http://eastbaytwp.org). This page will be continually updated as new draft documents for the master plan are available.

### **How to Pay Property Taxes**

There are several methods to pay the tax bill. Please see the back of bill or the township website: [eastbaytwp.org](http://eastbaytwp.org) for all the options. Payments are accepted until March 1, 2022 when the taxes will be turned over to the County Treasurer's Office. Be sure to mail your payment early to ensure it arrives on time. Postmarks are accepted through February 14, 2022. The U.S. Postal Service does not forward the tax bills. Therefore, please let the Treasurer's Office know the address for the summer tax bill. Tracey Bartlett, Treasurer, and Deb Hamilton, Deputy Treasurer, are available to answer any questions about the tax bills and to assist residents at (231) 947-8647.

### **Notary Services**

Notarization is one of those things you never really think about until you are told that you need to get something notarized. East Bay Charter Township offers free notary services during business hours.

Happy Holidays from Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. With winter setting in, make sure to follow these safety guidelines:

- \* Have your furnace, fireplace, and chimney checked by a professional
- \* Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- \* Keep a proper ABC fire extinguisher accessible in your home
- \* Keep snow clear from all furnace exhaust openings
- \* Never leave candles burning unattended
- \* Constantly attend all cooking
- \* Keep Christmas trees watered daily



Slippery roads and snow equal increased stopping distance and reduced visibility. Slow down, manually turn on your headlights and drive defensively.

Follow Grand Traverse Metro's Facebook page at [facebook.com/GTMESA](https://facebook.com/GTMESA) for up-to-date information and safety tips or check out Metro's website at [gtmetrofire.org](https://gtmetrofire.org). Watch for the date and location of Metro's Community Forum coming this February which presents Metro's Annual Report and gives citizens the opportunity to ask questions related to Metro and fire safety. Grand Traverse Metro proudly serves the citizens of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships and appreciates the support of the citizens.

## Welcome Zoning Administrator Preston Taylor

In July, Preston Taylor joined East Bay Township as the new Zoning Administrator. Preston has a strong background in code enforcement and has been a tremendous asset to the department in his first few months. He holds an associate degree from Northwestern Michigan College in Law Enforcement and a bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor University in Management and Organizational Development. Preston graduated NMC's police academy in 1996 and served as a police officer for 24 years, with three of those years serving East Bay Township as a community police officer. Preston is responsible for zoning enforcement and issuing land use permits and can be reached at (231) 947-8681 ext. 3 or [ptaylor@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:ptaylor@eastbaytwp.org). Leslie Couturier, with 30 years of service with the Township, has moved into the position of Planning & Zoning Office Specialist. Claire Karner continues to serve at the Director of Planning & Zoning and can be reached at (231) 947-8681 ext. 2 or [ckarner@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:ckarner@eastbaytwp.org). We are appreciative to have a fully staffed Planning & Zoning Department to serve the residents of East Bay Township.

## Hammond Corridor Coordinated Planning

Given the ongoing upgrades to the Hammond roadway, including a new roundabout, East Bay Township has been working with Garfield Township and the Grand Traverse County Road Commission to develop a coordinated approach to land use planning, street design, placemaking, and economic development along the Hammond corridor. The Hammond corridor is significantly less developed compared with other east-west corridors in the region, and given access to municipal infrastructure and available land, both communities have experienced an uptick in interest for higher density and multi-family residential investment along the corridor. In a memo presented to both Planning Commissions, land use patterns, design standards, zoning, private drive access, public infrastructure, and non-motorized transportation options were evaluated. Moving forward, the two townships plan to continue to coordinate through regular communication on these important issues.

## East Bay Charter Township Accepts Passport Applications



U.S. citizens may apply for passports by appointment Monday-Thursday, 7 am-5 pm. Please call (231) 947-8647 to schedule an appointment. For application forms, required documentation information, fees and other passport and international travel information, visit [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov).



Interested in serving your community through involvement with the township? Please visit the township's website to find out more about its boards and committees and how you can express your interest.

### When can Fireworks be enjoyed this Winter Holiday Season?

December 31, beginning 11 am through January 1 at 1 am.

Please visit [eastbaytpw.org](http://eastbaytpw.org) for additional dates and times during other holidays.



Little Libraries are located at all township parks and the township hall for everyone to enjoy. The premise is simple...feel free to take a book and enjoy it! When you are done or if you have another book, feel free to leave a book for others to enjoy. Thank you to Parks Commissioner Sabrina Garland for routinely visiting the Little Libraries to make sure they are stocked. If you have any children's books to donate, they are particularly appreciated and needed. Feel free to leave them in your nearest Little Library or drop off at the township hall.

### East Bay Branch Library

Come stop by the East Bay Branch Library, located next door to the township offices! The library is open to the public, though curbside service is available if preferred. The East Bay branch has done some rearranging and there are constantly new books for all ages. For something new, check out a STEM Kit or pick up a free take-home craft kit. There are kits available for children, teens, and adults. Please join in on programs at the library branch, such as Sing & Stomp, the weekly story time for children, and a monthly Book Club for adults. Find more information about these and other programs on the library's Facebook page or at [tadl.org/ebb](http://tadl.org/ebb). Have any questions? Stop in or call us at (231) 922-2085.

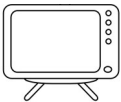
### Boards and Commissions Meeting Days and Times

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

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

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

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



**Please see meeting agendas for more information.**

Always check the website calendar for any changes to dates/times/locations due to elections and holidays.

Watch meetings on local access cable television on channel 191 or on the computer at [www.tacm.tv/eastbaylive](http://www.tacm.tv/eastbaylive)



**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**

**Township Office Main Number (231) 947-8647**

**Planning & Zoning (231) 947-8681**

Supervisor	Beth Friend
Clerk/Deputy Clerk	Susanne Courtade/Holly Couturier
Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer	Tracey Bartlett/Deb Hamilton
Planner	Claire Karner
Zoning Administrator	Preston Taylor
P & Z Office Specialist	Leslie Couturier
Assessors	Susan Karakos/Joel Bremer
Building and Grounds	Bob Burns

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<a href="mailto:rburns@eastbaytpw.org">rburns@eastbaytpw.org</a>



#### NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

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