



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:

2022: December 22, 26 & 29

2023: January 2 & 16, February 20, April 6, May 29

Sledding Party

Everyone had so much fun last year at the sledding party hosted by the Parks Commission that there will be one in 2023! On Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Grace Macdonald Park, stop by for some hot cocoa, sledding, and hear about what the Park Commission is working on in 2023. Additionally, book donations will be accepted at the party for the "Little Libraries" located throughout the Township's parks. Please consider bringing a gently used book to donate. Stay tuned to eastbaytwp.org for any weather-related date changes on this event.



Community Garden Update

The Community Garden Committee has been hard at work seeking input on the proposed community garden at the Township Hall. Last year a survey was conducted to determine interest in a community garden and what activities should occur at the garden. The top 4 activities for the community garden were determined to be:

Learn to Grow Programs  Learn How to Compost  Seed Exchange  Creative Workshops

The Community Garden Committee is now moving forward with a design for the community garden and will be looking for funding opportunities to move the project forward.

Park and Recreation Plan Update - Survey Coming Soon!

Every five years, the Park Commission must review and adopt a Park and Recreation Plan to be eligible for State grants; the current plan is set to expire at the end of 2023. The Park Commission will spend 2023 seeking input and updating this plan for 2024-2028. It is anticipated that a community wide survey will be open in the spring of 2023 to seek input on township parks and recreation! When available, a link to the survey will be posted at eastbaytwp.org. Public input is always welcome at Park Commission meetings which are held the third Monday of every month at 6 pm. Find the meeting calendar, agendas, packets, and minutes on the Township website!



Holiday Woodlands Natural Area

Visit the newest addition to the East Bay Township park system...Holiday Woodlands Natural Area is located on Five Mile Road and open to the public for non-motorized activities such as hiking and mountain biking. The Township acquired this property with funding assistance from a MDNR Trust Fund Acquisition Grant and the Holiday Woodlands Preserve 501(c)(3), with assistance from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and Mt. Holiday. The purchase was finalized in July. The next steps include the Park Commission working on a Park Plan for the property which includes community input. The Park Plan develops a vision for the property which will be used to prioritize future action items. Keep an eye on the Township website for dates!

East Bay Township Works to Update the Township Zoning Ordinance

As the East Bay Township Planning Commission wraps up the master plan update, the next step will be updating the zoning ordinance to ensure consistency with the master plan. The Township has contracted with the planning firm Giffels Webster to facilitate the zoning ordinance rewrite. This process officially kicked off in late September with a presentation to the Planning Commission. To date, Giffels Webster has gathered considerable feedback on desired zoning changes from members of the public, local developers, engineers, nonprofits, agency representatives, and other stakeholders. A subcommittee of board representatives, Township staff, and legal counsel will be meeting bimonthly with the consultant team over the next 10 months on the ordinance update. These subcommittee meetings will be held on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and will be posted online and open to the public. Regular updates will be provided at the Planning Commission evening meetings. Input is welcome and encouraged throughout this process.

Multiple Trail Projects Coming to East Bay Township

Design and construction engineering is underway for two transformative trail projects in East Bay Township. Prein & Newhof is kicking off the first phase of engineering design for the Safe Routes to School sidewalks and pathways, which will connect four Township schools with safe walking and biking infrastructure – Cherry Knoll Elementary, Grand Traverse Academy, East Middle School, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School. Meanwhile, OHM Advisors kick-offed design engineering for the Three Mile Trail extension in September. The new Three Mile Trail will extend from its current terminus at Three Mile and South Airport Road, cross through the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy’s Mitchell Creek Meadows Nature Preserve and connect users to the planned safe routes pathway on Hammond Road. Adjacent property owners have been actively engaged and in a number of cases are donating trail easements. This 12-month process will include multiple opportunities for public input throughout the design process.



How to Pay Property Taxes

The above image depicts how a dollar of taxes is spread out among all taxing units on the winter tax bill.

2022 tax payments are accepted at the Township office until March 1, 2023 when remaining taxes will be turned over to the Grand Traverse County Treasurer’s Office. Be sure to mail payments early to ensure it arrives on time. Postmarks are accepted through February 14, 2023. Visit eastbaytwp.org for payment options.

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.



Avoid the Call by Avoiding the Fall

Did you know that falls is Metro's number one call for service? In 2021, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, which serves Garfield, East Bay, and Acme Townships responded to 335 lift assist calls. About 36 million falls are reported in the U.S. among older adults each year—resulting in more than 32,000 deaths. One out of every five falls causes an injury, such as broken bones or a head injury (Source: Center for Disease Control). Winter brings with it slippery conditions, which only contributes to fall risks! While Metro is always here to assist residents, we would much rather meet you under a less dire situation and when you are in an upright position!

There are 8 steps that you can take to reduce your risk of falling (Source: National Fire Protection Association). While each person has different restrictions, try to do something in each of these eight categories to the best of YOUR ability. Something is better than nothing!

1. Exercise Regularly – to build strength and improve balance and coordination.
2. Take Your Time – to get up from chairs, bed, etc.. and take your time before walking.
3. Keep Areas Clear – this includes stairs and all walking areas, so they are free from any walking obstacles.
4. Improve Lighting –both inside and outside your home, to include stairways, bathrooms and hallways.
5. Use Non-Slip Mats & Grab Bars –in the bathroom they are essential and there are many types to choose from.
6. Be Aware of Uneven Surfaces – both indoors and outdoors, such as rugs, thresholds and carpets. All rugs should have a non-slip backing.
7. Wear Sturdy Shoes – that are well fitted, with a rubber sole should be worn both outside and inside.
8. Review Medication List – with your healthcare provider to include all prescribed, over the counter medication and supplements.

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department offers two different fall prevention programs. *Steps to Safety* which covers both fire and fall prevention and is great for group presentations. While *Matter of Balance* is an in-depth 8-week fall prevention program that also incorporates simple exercises to help increase strength, movement, and addresses those forgotten body parts such as wrists and ankles. If you have any questions regarding fall prevention, please reach out to Metro's Public Educator at 231-947-3000 ext. 1234 or jfroehlich@gtmetrofire.org.



Coffee with a Cop will be held on March 22 and May 17, 2023 at 9 a.m. at Oleson's Grocery Store at Hammond and Three Mile Roads. Please stop by to meet and chat with East Bay Township Community Police Officer (CPO) Zach Root.

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.

East Bay Charter Township Accepts Passport Applications



U.S. citizens may apply for passports by appointment Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 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.



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 a.m. through January 1 until 1 a.m.

Please visit eastbaytwp.org for additional dates and times during other holidays.



Did you know that the Township currently hosts five Little Libraries? Libraries are available at Gen's Park, Grace Macdonald Park, Killingworth Park, Pine Grove Park, and the Township Hall. Little libraries are a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. In addition to leaving a book at a Little Library, book donations are accepted at the Township Hall. While all books are accepted, there is a desperate need for middle school and high school novels for the libraries. Feel free to leave your book at any of the libraries, drop at the township hall, or bring with you to the Grace Macdonald Sledding Party on February 4th!



East Bay Branch Library

The East Bay Branch Library would like to invite you to our Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 3, from 1-3 p.m. Join us for snacks, crafts, and community, while we enjoy seasonal music by Miriam Picó and David Chown. Hope to see you there! Find more information on the library's Facebook page or at tadl.org/ebb. Have any questions? Stop in or call us at (231) 922-2085.

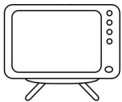
Boards and Commissions Meeting Days and Times

Board of Trustees meets the 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.



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



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/Darren Darge
Building and Grounds	Bob Burns

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rburns@eastbaytwp.org



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