



# 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:

2023: December 25 & 26

2024: January 1, 2 & 15, February 19, March 28, & May 27

Township Offices closed for regular business February 27 during the Primary Election

## Shaping the Future of the U.S. 31 Corridor through the East Bay Beach District Visioning Process



WHERE SUN MEETS SHORE.

East Bay Township recently secured two federal grants to support the development of a cohesive vision for public investments and revitalization of a section of the U.S. 31 corridor (The East Bay Beach District). This corridor has long been identified as a priority district in the Township, in need of an actionable framework for placemaking, safety improvements, and public infrastructure investment. The recently adopted 2023 Community Master Plan identifies a series of priorities for this corridor, including improved pedestrian amenities, better access to East Grand Traverse Bay, enhanced tree canopy and preservation of iconic white pines, and redevelopment of vacant and underutilized properties. The upcoming visioning process will include a public survey, stakeholder

meetings, focus group discussions, and public workshops. The grant funding will also support quarterly business networking meetings with educational opportunities, a unified branding and marketing effort for the corridor, and an ongoing implementation team to ensure priority actions are implemented over time.

## East Bay Trail Connections Move Forward

The Township continues to work with partners at TART Trails, Norte, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy on the Three Mile Trail Extension and the East Bay Safe Routes to School trail system. Combined, these projects will add an additional four miles of connected trails in East Bay Township to benefit students, residents, employees, and the public. The project team hosted a successful open house in August with around 100 people attending at the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's new headquarters to learn about the proposed trail connections. Engineering consultants are assisting with final design and easements. The Safe Routes to School segment of the trail system will likely be constructed first, with anticipated 2025 construction. Students and parents are encouraged to join the Township and Norte in celebration of National Bike & Roll to School Day on May 8, 2024. Community Police Officers with the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department will be on hand to assist with safe crossings. Students who live too far away to walk or bike can participate using remote drop-off locations. Updates on this celebration will be posted at [eastbaytwp.org](http://eastbaytwp.org) leading up to the event.



## Welcome Zoning Administrator Bill Vandercook

East Bay Township is thrilled to welcome Bill Vandercook, who joined the Planning & Zoning Department in late July. Bill has a passion for assisting landowners and communities to plan for sound growth. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint in Urban and Regional Land-use Planning (2018) and has completed several training and certification programs including a Zoning Administrator's Certificate from Michigan State University. Before joining East Bay Township, he was the Land Use Specialist for Lapeer, St. Clair, and Sanilac County's Conservations Districts (2001-2004), developed a proprietary land planning system to consult with landowners of working farms, forests, and recreational land (2008–2023), and most recently was the Zoning Coordinator/Planner II for the City of Flint Planning and Zoning Division. Bill can be reached at (231) 947-8681 ext. 3 or [zoning@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:zoning@eastbaytwp.org).



A Naloxone Distribution Box is placed at the Township Hall, near the drop boxes. Free to the Township, Harm Reduction MI provides and manages the stock of Naloxone which is available for free at any time. Consider adding this life-saving nasal spray to your home or business first aid kit. In 2022, more Michiganders died from drug overdoses than from car accidents.

### Proposal A's Impact on 2024 Property Taxes

Property owners, with property that is unaltered and without a transfer in ownership, can expect their 2024 taxable value to rise by 5% from their 2023 taxable value. The Michigan Department of Treasury released Bulletin 2023-16 which calculates the Inflation Rate Multiplier (IRM) and shows how it is used to determine the 2024 capped value in properties which have not changed ownership. This is only the second time since Proposal A's enactment in 1994 that properties have been capped at a 5% increase. Last year was the first time this occurred. The formula for a property's 2024 taxable value is:

2024 Capped Value = (2023 Taxable Value – Losses) x Capped IRM + Additions

An example of a "loss" is demolition of an existing structure. An example of an "addition" is new construction. Thus, if a property's structure(s) and ownership are unchanged, the property owner can expect to see their 2024 taxable value rise by 5% from their 2023 taxable value. For questions related to assessing, contact Susan Karakos or Darren Darge at [assessor@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:assessor@eastbaytwp.org) or call (231) 947-8647, extension 4.



### 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](http://eastbaytwp.org) for additional dates and times during other holidays.



### NOTARY SERVICE

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](http://travel.state.gov).



Coffee with a Cop will be held on February 1 and May 15, 2024 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 Officers (CPOs) Zach Root and Kole Rosa.

There are some changes and options for the way Michigan voters may cast their ballots:

### **Absentee Ballot and Permanent Absentee Ballot List**

In 2022, Michigan Voters approved the option to receive an Absentee Ballot by completing an application once and receiving an absentee ballot for all elections moving forward. When receiving an application for absentee ballot, make sure to review your options. If you feel that the Permanent Absentee Ballot is right for you, complete the application by checking the box to join the Permanent Absentee Ballot List. Make sure to sign and date where appropriate. This is not mandatory and may not be appropriate for each voters' situation. You may request in writing, which must include your signature, to be removed from this list at any time. If you are going to temporarily be away for an upcoming election, it is your responsibility to notify the Clerk's Office to send the absentee ballot to a different address. Ballots are *non-forwardable* through postal mail. If you move within the State of Michigan and update your voter registration address, your status on the Permanent Absentee Ballot List will remain with you at your new Michigan location.

### **Early Voting: New for 2024**

Voters have the right to vote and place their completed ballot into the secure tabulator during the 9 days of early voting beginning the second Saturday before each State and/or Federal Election. The East Bay Township Hall is the host site for Early Voting for all East Bay registered voters as well as the registered voters from Peninsula, Acme, Whitewater, and Union Townships. Early Voting will take place in the Township Hall North Conference Room from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. each of these 9 days. If you are not currently registered to vote, stop by the Clerk's Office to get registered before going to the Early Voting site.

### **In Person voting:**

In-person voting on Election Day at your assigned precinct location continues to be an option.

Dates of interest for the Presidential Candidate Primary Election:

- ◆ Early December 2023: Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots will be mailed out to those that have requested them.
- ◆ Thursday, January 18, 2024: Absentee Voter Ballots will be mailed to voters that have returned their completed applications; Absentee Voter Ballots will also be available during regular office hours for voters who apply for ballots. Make sure to bring your photo ID.
- ◆ Saturday, February 17, 2024, Early Voting begins at 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday, February 25, 2024, Last Day of Early Voting ends at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, February 26, 2024, Registered voters may apply for an Absentee Voter Ballot in person at the Clerk's Office with the requirement that it must be voted in the building. This option ends by 4:00 p.m. The Clerk's Office closes at 4:00 p.m. to prepare for the Election.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 27, 2024**: In-person Voting on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Please visit the Clerk's webpage at [eastbaytwp.org](http://eastbaytwp.org) or scan the QR Code for additional information.

Clerk Susanne Courtade MiPMC<sup>3</sup>/MMC [scourtade@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:scourtade@eastbaytwp.org)  
Deputy Clerk Holly Couturier MiPMC [hcouturier@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:hcouturier@eastbaytwp.org)





Parks Commission Annual Sledding Party at Grace Macdonald Park on Saturday, February 3 from 1 PM to 3 PM. Join the fun with sledding and hot chocolate! Watch the township website for any changes due to weather.



During 2023, the Parks Commission has been working to update the Parks and Recreation Plan. The 5-year Park and Recreation Plan is in the public review period with a public hearing scheduled for December 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Find a copy of the draft on the Township website and email comments to [pks@eastbaytwp.org](mailto:pks@eastbaytwp.org)

### Welcome and Thank You to Little Library Volunteer Diane Krenn

Diane is an area retiree who enjoys giving back to the community by servicing the Township's five Little Libraries. The libraries are located at Gen's Park, Grace Macdonald Park, Killingworth Park, Pine Grove Park, and the Township Hall. These 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. The type of books currently needed are 1) young children's books (there is already an abundant supply of upper elementary and middle school books); and 2) adult novels, particularly romance and murder mysteries. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>!



**East Bay Branch Library** Join the East Bay Branch Library for a Holiday Open House, on Saturday, December 9, from 12-2. We'll celebrate the season with a chance to spend time together and enjoy snacks, activities, and holiday music. We look forward to seeing you there! Find more information 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
Director of Planning & Zoning	Claire Karner
Zoning Administrator	Bill Vandercook
Office Manager	Leslie Couturier
Assessors	Susan Karakos/Darren Darge
Building and Grounds	Dan Boersma
CEDAM Fellow	Sam LaSusa

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<a href="mailto:slasusa@eastbaytwp.org">slasusa@eastbaytwp.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