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The Board of Trustees meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Bay Township Hall in Horton Bay

# BAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

## WOW - DID WE HAVE TRASH



*Township Supervisor Larry Moeschke reviewing the progress of the trash pick-up with Kevin Russell, owner of Preferred Waste 2.*

Over the years numerous residents have suggested the township establish a curbside trash pick-up program. At our September 2015 Board of Trustees meeting, Wendy Simmons presented a proposal complete with research on various options for a Township-wide Spring Cleanup. The Board budgeted up to \$10,000 for this project. We held our first one on June 9<sup>th</sup> and it became clear that residents have been waiting for this service. Kevin Russell, owner of Preferred Waste 2 located in Ellsworth, informed us that it took six truck loads to remove the trash. His staff of six men even had to take an extra day to complete the work. In the end, 165 cubic yards of trash were removed at a cost of approximately \$7,000.

Being the first time, we did have a few minor glitches. One, service was not provided on private driveways and roads. Trash was to be placed along the curbs of public roads only. Two, one public road was missed. Trash was removed the next day in both instances. We have good news for those of

you who put tires out. Charlevoix County will be holding a free tire drop-off on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Time and location are not available yet, but you can call the county's Recycling Program at 231.547.7221 or Frank Shaler at 231.582.6193 to be placed on the notification list.

Feedback has been positive but the board would like to hear your comments and recommendations before making a decision on future plans. Please contact Bill Wehrenberg at 231.439.9880 or janewehrenberg@hotmail.com with your thoughts.

Contact Charlevoix County Recycling Program at 231.547.7221 or Frank Shaler at 231.582.6193 to schedule a time to drop off tires at no charge on July 8th.



*A huge thank you to J L Sumpter of Northern Michigan Equine Therapy, Tony Tabone (pictured above) and Dave Skornia for volunteering to pull trash out of an old abandoned dump site on Reycraft Road for the Bay Township Trash pick-up. Over two dozen tires were also pulled and will be recycled at the County Tire Recycling July 8th.*

## BAY TOWNSHIP DOCK IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED

We are so excited to announce that the two applications submitted to Charlevoix County's Park Millage were approved and accepted by the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners. The first application for funds was in the amount of \$2,886.00 to extend the dock at the end of Lake Street going in to Lake Charlevoix. The current dock is 50 feet long and ends in approximately 19 inches of water. By extending the dock another 20 feet, the depth of the water will almost double (depending on lake levels). This will provide a safer, more enjoyable area on beautiful Lake Charlevoix in historic Horton Bay.

The second application request was for Sumner Road end on Walloon Lake. The current dock system is being replaced with 70 feet of dock, including a new platform area and swim ladder. Access will be safer and easier because of planned excavation. The construction of a granite boulder outcropping and excavation of the dock entrance area will provide a safer access onto the dock. The Township was awarded \$10,000.00 towards this \$14,838.00 project.

Both projects will be completed between now and the end of August. A big THANK YOU goes out to Wendy Simmons for researching, preparing, and submitting these grant requests for Bay Township Board approval and to the Board members approving these investments back into Bay Township.

Bay Township to receive \$12,886 from Charlevoix County Park Millage Appropriation for improvements on docks at Sumner Road and Lake Street

## BALANCING THE LIVING, WORKING AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Bay Township Master Plan is written to reflect what our township property owners would like the township to look like now and in the future. In an attempt to balance the living, working and recreational needs of the community with the Township Master Plan, the township zoning ordinance divides the township into six zoning districts. Those districts are Agricultural, Residential, Commercial, Village Overlay, Waterfront Overlay and Planned Unit Development. In each of those districts the ordinance allows appropriate uses that are compatible with that district. For example, the Agricultural Zoning District allows the following permitted uses that are allowed by right within that district:

- Farms for general and specialized farming, including nurseries, and single family farm dwellings, and buildings and other structures essential to farming and farm operations.
- Timber management operations.
- Single family dwellings.
- Roadside stands for the sale of produce raised on the premises, provided that off-street parking is provided, and no hazardous traffic condition shall result from such activity.

In addition, because residents are very creative and want to utilize their properties for purposes other than those allowed by right, the Township has a process called Special Use Permit. This process is conducted by the Township Planning Commission and takes into consideration all aspects of the planned use with the primary consideration to ensure it is compatible with surrounding properties. This process is conducted as a public hearing with all public invited with a notice of the meeting in the local newspaper and special written notice to property owners within 300 feet of the property.

Examples of special uses that can be considered in the Agricultural district are non-intensive recreational facilities, dog kennels and boarding facilities, landing strips that are incidental to permitted uses, commercial natural resource mining operations and bed and breakfast facilities.

All of the six zoning districts have uses by right and special uses as outlined in Article VIII of the Bay Township Zoning Ordinance. These uses and the criteria the Planning Commission needs to consider in each case can be found online at baytownshipmi.org.

## VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

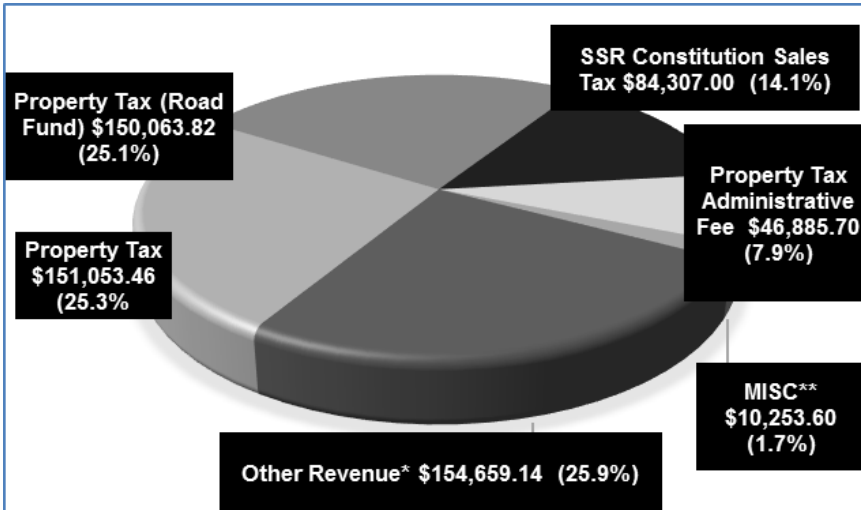
Absentee voter ballots are available for all elections. They provide a convenient method for casting a ballot when you are unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

Away at college? PLAN AHEAD! Make sure you are registered to vote, allow plenty of time for mailing an absentee ballot application AND the return mailing of the ballot.

For absentee ballot requirements and/or the application form, contact Jim Vanek, Clerk at clerk@baytownship.org or visit the Michigan Voter Information Center website and click on "Absentee Voting". Return instructions will be included in your ballot. Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at michigan.gov/vote where you can view your sample ballot, track your absentee ballot, verify your voter registration and find your polling place.

## INCOME RECEIVED APRIL 2015 - MAY 2016

**\$597,222.72**



Voted in by township residents, Bay Township receives one (1) mil for roads along with State Revenue Sharing monies, which are the portion of sales tax returned to the Township. \*\*Other income (misc) comes from administrative fees, cemetery fees, permit fees, swamp taxes and interest income. The graph shows a breakdown of total monies received by Bay Township for the fiscal year 2015-2016.

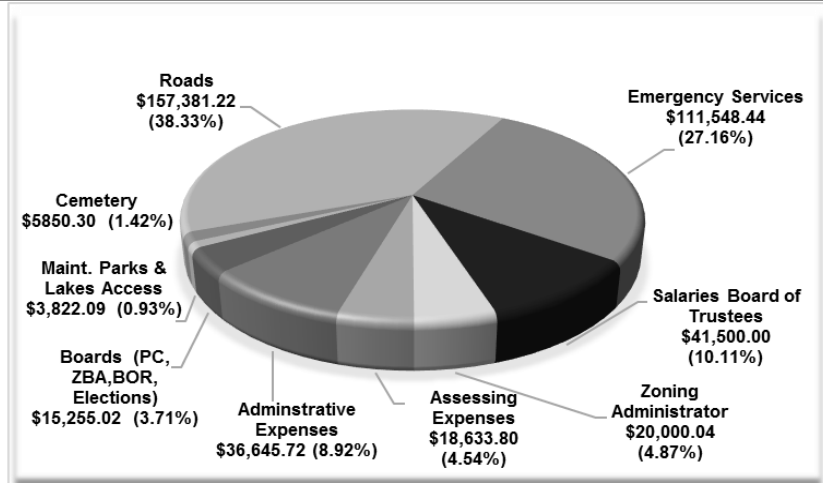
\*This year additional income was received from a private Bay Township citizen to upgrade a portion of Church Road and is reflected as a portion listed as Other Revenue.

Bay Township was required to collect a total of \$4,998,228 in taxes and administration fees in 2015. Out of this amount \$4,845,159. was collected by the Bay Township Treasurer with the balance listed as delinquent taxes. These funds were distributed as follows:

State Education	\$	867,813
County Allocated	\$	679,785
BC School Oper	\$	1,514,831
BC School Debt	\$	478,703
Char Em Alloc	\$	28,575
Special Ed 64	\$	95,921
Special Ed 08	\$	165,756
Vocational Ed	\$	107,168
Boyne Library	\$	138,548
County Transit	\$	35,719
Co. Sr. Citizen	\$	92,879
County Recycling	\$	21,429
County Roads	\$	142,894
County Parks	\$	21,429
County Veterans	\$	14,285
Grandvue Oper	\$	107,168
Twp Alloc	\$	141,106
Twp Road	\$	142,320
School Oper FC	\$	-
QFF Forest Fee	\$	227
Admin Fee	\$	46,885
Interest Penalty	\$	1,718
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,845,159</b>

## APRIL 2015 - MARCH 2016 EXPENDITURES

**\$410,636.46**



Bay Township Expenditures for the fiscal year 2015 - 2016 graph shows a breakdown of expenses incurred for the past fiscal year. All monies in excess of the actual expenditures are put into the Township reserve funds that are held for major road projects, emergency services (fire and ambulance coverage) and in case of an unforeseen emergency.

## SUMMER TAXES - IMPORTANT DATES

July 1 - September 14, 2016 - Tax plus 1% Administrative Fee is due.  
 After September 15th - 1% per month is added to the base tax amount.  
 February 15 - 28, 2017 - Additional 3% penalty due.

For questions contact Stephen L. Ritter, Bay Township Treasurer at 231.881.0098 or treasurer@baytownship.org.

## WHY THIS ROAD AND NOT MINE?

Over the past 16 plus years the residents of Bay Township have voted to pay an additional 1 mil for the purpose of road upkeep and repair. This road millage provides approximately \$143,000 in annual funding. Your Bay Township Board of Trustees, with input from the Charlevoix County Road Commission, decides annually how to allocate the millage throughout the 6.49 miles of Primary Roads (Boyne City Rd., and Horton Bay Rd. N) and 31.50-miles of Local Roads (all of the other roads in the township).

When talking about township roads it is useful to consider their history. This starts with the McNitt Act.

### McNitt Act—1931

The Depression of the 1930s was already in its initial stages. With property tax collections plummeting and tax delinquency mounting, there were immediate and widespread demands for a reduction in real estate taxation and for the support of a larger share of local road improvements from more state motor vehicle revenues. These demands led to the passage in 1931 of the McNitt Act. State tax revenues were earmarked to provide the most needed relief demanded by local government. The legislature in 1932 decreed that the entire weight tax be returned to the counties.

The McNitt Act of 1932 was intended primarily as a property tax relief measure, but it brought about major reform in local road administration as well. While county road administration in Michigan had reached a level of competence not surpassed in any state in the country, road building by 1,269 separate township authorities was widely recognized as wasteful and inefficient. The largest township covers but a small area and has such small taxing powers that it is entirely unfit to cope with even a small fraction of the road problems in the highly motorized age of 1931.

The McNitt Act provided for the consolidation of the 68,000 miles of township roads into 83 existing county road systems at the rate of one-fifth the total mileage each year for five years. County road systems were increased by the McNitt Act from 17,000 miles to about 85,000 miles, with virtual elimination of previous methods of support for township roads. A large portion of the township road mileage consisted of semi-improved or unimproved roads which did not permit economical maintenance. County road commissions found it necessary to spend considerable sums to improve these roads to a standard high enough to make possible some form of minimum maintenance. Allocations from motor vehicle revenues were insufficient to meet the counties' heavily-increased road obligations. At the same time, imposition of a statewide 15-mill property tax limitation by constitutional amendment in 1932 made it difficult for the counties to raise local taxes for highway purposes.

As a result, the counties were forced to curtail improvements on their primary road systems in order to maintain local roads. Moreover, elimination of local property taxes for highway purposes created a demand for improvement of the former township roads to standards far beyond those justified—the result of eliminating local financial responsibility. Thus, the tendency was to drain revenues from heavily-traveled county roads to those more lightly-traveled and to reduce standards of improvement on all roads to the level of local roads.

Appointment of motor vehicle revenues for former township roads among the counties on a mileage basis, without taking into account varying traffic loads as between counties, further contributed to unsound dispersion of available highway funds. Under this method of apportionment, amounting to about \$57 per mile per year, a mile of road serving one or two farms receives the same allotment of funds as a mile of road in a metropolitan area carrying several thousand vehicles a day. The McNitt Act remained on the statute books until it was incorporated into Act 51 and was never revised except to open road mileage for recertification every two years and through amendment, in 1937, to add to county road systems the entire mileage of streets and alleys in recorded plats of unincorporated subdivisions (1).

Therefore, all roads in Bay Township are “owned” by Charlevoix County and their maintenance and improvement are also the County's responsibility. According to Pat Harmon, Charlevoix County Road Commission Manager, the County received sufficient funding from the State of Michigan to maintain all rural roads, that is, until the early 1980s. From the early 1980s and continuing through today, the county has experienced a lack of funding to properly maintain, let alone improve, the roads under its authority. As a result of this funding shortfall, 11 of the 15 townships in Charlevoix County, including Bay Township, have voter authorized road millages. For comparative purposes, City of Boyne City residents pay 2.94 mils toward street maintenance and improvement as part of the City's General Operating Millage. Boyne City's millage has been in place for over 32 years.

Today, it costs approximately \$100,000 to \$300,000 to prep and pave 1 mile of road, so Bay Township has to consider how to best allocate its road millage funding. In 2016 we will continue the Camp Daggett Road repaving project started two years ago. In addition we will do partial road work on Stolt Road to repair the worst portions. While we would like to do more on Stolt and other roads, the cost of road construction and maintenance relative to our annual road millage funding limits what we can do. Although Horton Bay and Camp Daggett Roads are the most heavily travelled and require attention, we recognize that all residents pay the road millage and we strive to be responsive to all road needs in the township.

Thank you for your support of the Bay Township Road Millage.  
Larry Moeschke, Supervisor

## NEW BAY TOWNSHIP WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Bay Township has updated its website! The new website can be accessed at baytownshipmi.org and is still under construction so please be patient while the former website content is being migrated to the new site. We hope you will find that the new site is much more user friendly. You can now use your mobile device to access information on the new township website!

## FOCUS ON SAFETY: PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM FIRE AND CARBON MONOXIDE

Fires can strike anywhere – in structures, buildings, automobiles, and the outdoors – but fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and the most preventable. Over 75% percent of all fire fatalities occur in home fires.

This year's National Fire Prevention Week theme is **"Don't Wait Check the Date"** it is an important message because most people don't know that smoke alarms have a life span. You can protect your family by:

1. Installing smoke alarms on every level of your home,
2. Testing smoke alarms once a month,
3. Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, and
4. Making and practicing a home fire escape plan.

Families can dramatically increase their chances of surviving a fire simply by installing and maintaining working smoke alarms.

Fires can occur in a varie-

ty of ways and in any room of your home. But no matter where or how, having a smoke alarm is the first key step towards your family's safety. A smoke alarm stands guard around the clock and, when it first senses smoke, it sounds a shrill alarm. This often allows a family the precious but limited time it takes to escape.

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are considered to be one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and could reduce the risk of dying from a fire in your home by almost half.

Over the past five years Resort Bear Creek Fire Department has applied and received grants from Energizer Battery for 9 volt batteries. These batteries are given to the residents to replace the batteries in their detectors. Batteries, at no cost to all Bay Township residents, can be obtained for your smoke and CO detectors by calling

the RBCFD office at 231-347-2496 to make arrangements to obtain them. This will continue while supplies last.

Children as young as three years old can follow a fire escape plan that they have practiced often. Yet, many families don't have detailed escape plans, and those that do usually don't practice them.

In the event of a fire, remember – time is the biggest enemy and every second counts! Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire.

It is important to:

1. Practice your escape plan every month. .
2. Plan two ways out of every room.
3. Leave your home when a fire occurs.
4. Designate a meeting place away from your home.
5. Get out and stay out! Never return to a burning building!

Each year in America, unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning claims more than 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

*Continued on page 8*

Contact Resort

Bear Creek

Township Fire

Dept. to obtain

9 Volt

replacement

batteries for your  
smoke detectors

at no charge

231.347.2496

**Zoning Board of Appeals** scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2016 are: **Tuesday, July 12th at 7:00 PM and Tuesday October 11th at 7:00 PM** Bay Township Hall

Bay Township's **NEW** website now under construction will be available soon. Visit the new site: **[baytownshipmi.org](http://baytownshipmi.org)** for the most up to date information.

### **ISO FIRE CLASSIFICATION**

For northern Bay Township residents - RBCFD has received their new ISO rating of 6. The previous rating was 10. Check with your insurance company. Full report is available on the new web site: [baytownshipmi.org](http://baytownshipmi.org)

### **2016 Election Schedule:**

August 2 - State Primary Election

November 8 - State General Election

### **City of Boyne City Fire Dept. Report**

Dennis Amesbury, City of Boyne City Fire Chief, reported no major runs during March thru September in 2015. There were 3 lines down, 1 brush fire and 1 trapped response.

**To Obtain a Burn Permit** Check the DNR web site: [dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits](http://dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits) or call 866.922.2867 then call 911 and give address and time you will be burning.

### **SMALL BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

If you are a business owner and the combined true cash value of all personal property owned by, leased by or in your possession is less than \$80,000 in the township, you may claim Eligible Personal Property Exemption. The owner must annually file an affidavit, (Form 5076) with the local tax collecting unit where the property is located not later than February 10 each tax year that the exemption is claimed. If an affidavit is filed, the owner is not required to file a personal property statement in that tax year. Late filings are not accepted and there is no appeal process with the Board of Review.

### **BOARD OF REVIEW**

Bay Township Board of Review consists of three electors of Township, two of whom must be property taxpayers. The Board of Review's responsibility is to make an independent determination in every case heard. There are several Board of Review meetings during each tax year and here is what each Board can do.

#### **March Board of Review:**

- 1) Considers Poverty Exemption
- 2) Considers Veteran Exemption
- 3) Changes only current year assessment/taxable values
- 4) Hears classification appeals

#### **July and December Board of Review**

- 1) Considers appeals for Primary Residence Exemptions
- 2) Considers Poverty Exemptions
- 3) Considers Veteran Exemptions
- 4) Considers Qualified Ag Exemptions
- 5) Corrects Qualified Errors
- 6) Hears Primary Residence Exemption for previous years

### **PROPERTY INSPECTION**

Each year the township assessor is required to inspect 20% of all parcels to keep the records updated and accurate. Sometimes it means just taking a new picture, other times measuring the whole existing structure. If you do not wish the assessor on your property, or if you have any questions for Anna Wasylewski, you can reach her at 231.549.3019 or [assessor@baytownship.org](mailto:assessor@baytownship.org).

## **Resort Bear Creek Fire Department Report**

Al Welshiemer, Fire Chief for Resort/Bear Creek Fire Department (RBCFD), presented his department's 2015 annual report to the Board of Trustees at its May 2016 meeting. The department started providing fire protection to the northern portion of the township in March of 2015.

**Personnel** - During 2015 the department reported that there were no injuries to any fire fighters. Personnel completed more than 1600 hours of practical and classroom training.

**Incidents: Total** – The department received 14 emergency calls in Bay Township. **Major** – There were four major incidents: a house explosion due to a propane gas leak, a home struck by lightning, and two grass fires. There were no injuries associated with these incidents. **Minor** – There were five other reported incidents such as control burns and downed power lines. **False Alarms** – There were five false alarms.

**Emergency Medical Services** – There were no requests for medical assistance.

**Response Time** - Response time is the amount of time it takes a fire apparatus to arrive on scene after notification by 911 Central Dispatch. This time includes both fire and emergency medical responses. The average response time for incidents within the jurisdiction of the R/BCFD is 6.55 minutes. The National Fire Protection Association recommended response time for a volunteer agency is 8 minutes.

The township has retained RBCFD for fire protection service for the northern portion of Bay Township. Northern residents who live within five miles of Resort/Bear Creek station now have an insurance **ISO Fire Classification of 6**. Previously the insurance rating was 10 (>5 miles from a fire station). The township has posted the full report on our new website [baytownshipmi.org](http://baytownshipmi.org).

## PROUD TO HONOR OUR VETERANS

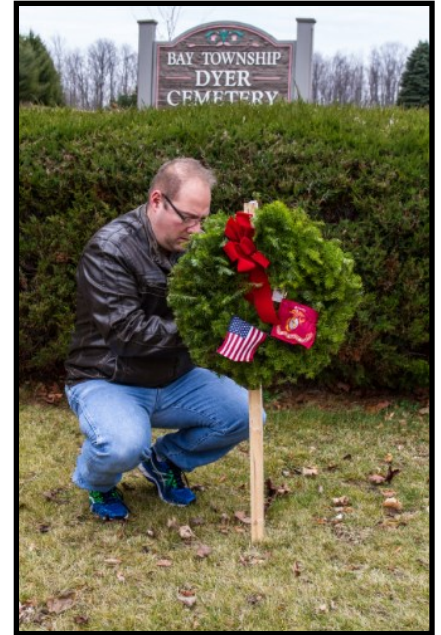
Your Bay Township Cemetery Committee has been very busy over the past six months sponsoring the annual "Wreaths Across America" and Memorial Day Ceremonies. Once again Bay Township partnered in December 2015 with the Horton Bay Methodist Church's North Bay Cemetery, to participate with the "Wreaths Across America" project, and we continue to be the only township in Charlevoix County to dedicate a wreath on all 45 veterans' graves in our township. Please remember this project in December 2016 with wreath donations and also attend the memorial service, this year on Saturday, December 17th at 11:45 AM sharp. You can obtain more information about WAA on the township's new website: [baytownshipmi.org](http://baytownshipmi.org) or by calling Georganna Monk at 231.883.9867.



This Memorial Day's event was a success. The attendees, approximately 100, remembered our veterans with the honor guard from the American Legion Post 228's military salute followed by taps. Dean Kleinschrodt, Post Commander, proclaimed Bay Township celebration the Post's favorite! All enjoyed the coffee and doughnuts and conversation that followed.

*Veteran Paul Drewanz and others enjoyed refreshments served at the Memorial Day 2016 Flag Ceremony at Dyer Cemetery.*

*Photo courtesy of Walter T. Barkley*



*Desert Storm Veteran Dallas Culvahouse placed the U.S. Marine Corps ceremonial wreath at Dyer Cemetery.*

*Photo courtesy of Diane Burke*

The landscaping plans at Dyer Cemetery must be updated and then implemented. Right now we have executed simple improvements including a new bench at the top of the hill overlooking the grave sites in the newer portion of Dyer Cemetery and vehicle signage instructing the direction of traffic. But long-range plans include improvements to parking and beautifying the plantings. Importantly the Committee is diligently working to produce a Cemetery Guidelines booklet and to coordinate our ordinance with the State's guidelines. Both Oaklawn Cemetery and the old section of Dyer Cemetery require mapping and graves' identification. In order to achieve this mapping economically, we hope to partner with other cemeteries to conduct this simultaneously.

Please contact Christine Redman, chair of the committee, at 231.582.3458 if you are interested in joining our all-volunteer Cemetery Committee or have concerns or suggestions.

### CHERRY CAPITAL CONNECTION BRINGS INTERNET ACCESS TO PARTS OF BAY TOWNSHIP

Cherry Capital Connection efforts to expand High Speed Internet Access and Telephone service in Bay Township progresses. A commercial tower, to bring service to the East side of Walloon Lake, has been improved. A micro neighborhood service site has been established along Camp Sherwood Road and Cherry Capital Connection currently has six locations that enable their ability to provide services in Bay Township.

CCC is in the process of justifying the demand for constructing the approved towers near Pincherry and the Boyne City – Charlevoix Road as well as on West Road. The process for finding tower sites will continue, however, the present focus will be on developing current locations.

Fiber to feed Bay Township from Petoskey (redundancy) is in process. For additional information residents can call the Cherry Capital Connection at 855.674.4159 or reference their web site at: [cherrycapitalcommunications.com](http://cherrycapitalcommunications.com).

Community WIFI Hotspots for Bay Township are in progress and will be released during July. The WIFI hotspots enable access to the internet anywhere CCC can provide a service signal. Look for "CCCWIFI" and connect.

## HORTON BAY PARADE LIVES AGAIN

Starting at noon the famous 4th of July Horton Bay Parade will kick off with the local band "Horton Creek" playing on the front porch of the Horton Bay General Store. The parade will start at 1:00 PM and will line up at the corner of the Boyne City-Charlevoix Road and Horton Bay Road North and will end at the United Methodist Church.

This year's theme is "Political Scandals: Past, Present, and Future". As in the past, the rules are; Nothing mean, dangerous, or commercial and no campaigning. Pick up entry forms at the Horton Bay General Store. Further information can be found on their Face Book page or by contacting Michael Harmeling at 231.675.2247.



*Horton Bay Parade - 1925 (courtesy photo)*

*Article continued from page 5*

### **Focus on Safety**

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles. Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide detector goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not.

#### **If no one is feeling ill:**

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

#### **If illness is a factor:**

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling sick.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Make sure the alarm has been evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.

Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year. Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage. Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO. When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

*A special thank you to all contributors to the Bay Township Summer 2016 Newsletter including, michiganhighways.org; Al Welshiemer, RBCFD; Dennis Amesbury, BCFD; Tim Maylone, Cherry Capital Connection; Frank Schaler, Charlevoix County Maintenance Supervisor; Walter T. Barkley, Photographer; Diane Burke, Photographer; Betty Simon, Charlevoix County Deputy Treasurer; Autumn Hoffman, KCI; Michael Harmeling, Horton Bay Parade; Larry Moeschke, Supervisor; Jim Vanek, Clerk; Steve Ritter, Treasurer; Georganna Monk, Trustee; Bill Wehrenberg, Trustee; Anna Wasylewski, Assessor; Ron Van Zee, Zoning Administrator; Dave Skornia, Planning Comm. Chair.; Chris Redman, Cemetery Comm. Chair.; Rob Maxwell, ZBA Chair.; Wendy Simmons, Planning Comm. and ZBA member.*

*Georganna Monk and Wendy Simmons, Co-Editors*