

05045 Boyne City Rd.
Boyne City, MI 49712

231.582.3594
231.582.7313 fax
baytownshipmi.org

BAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

Meet your Board of Trustees:

Supervisor:

L.A. Moeschke
06571 Horton Bay Road
North
Boyne City, MI 49712
231.439.8556
larry.moeschke@53.com

Clerk: Wendy Simmons

08266 Horton Bay Rd.
Petoskey, MI 49770
231.675.3457
clerk@baytownship.org

Treasurer:

Stephen Ritter
06755 Zenith Heights Rd.
Boyne City, MI 49712
231.582.5453
treasurer
@baytownship.org

Trustee:

Georganna Monk
05644 West Road
Boyne City, MI 49712
231.883.9867
ff0123@gmail.com

Trustee:

William Wehrenberg
07700 Fox Run
Petoskey, MI 49770
231.439.9880
janewehrenberg
@hotmail.com

The Board of Trustees meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Bay Township Hall in Horton Bay.

Zoning Administrator: Ron Van Zee

06399 Boyne City Rd.
Charlevoix, MI 49720
231.497.4701
zoning
@baytownship.org

WENDY SIMMONS APPOINTED TOWNSHIP CLERK

The Bay Township Board unanimously appointed Wendy Simmons to the Clerk's position in March of 2018. Wendy has been an active member of the Bay Township Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals the past four years. She completed the Citizen Planner accreditation program through the Michigan Township Association to help better serve on these boards. Previous to moving to Bay Township she held both the positions of Clerk and Supervisor in Wilson Township. As Bay Township clerk, she is currently completing the State of Michigan Voter Elections Accreditation Program.

Wendy has been employed with EJ for the past 41 years and holds the position of Office Services Manager, bringing a great amount of experience with her to the Board. Please welcome her to the Bay Township Board.



2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The Bay Township Planning Commission is continuously examining its planning and zoning goals and policies. The Bay Township Master Plan was last updated in 2006. During this update process, the Planning Commission developed a similar survey to form goals, policies, and objectives for the 2006 Master Plan, and ultimately the Zoning Ordinance. As applicable, results from the 2018 survey are compared with results from the last community survey, which was conducted in 2004.

In February of 2018, a total of 1,103 surveys were mailed to Township residents. Addresses were compiled from the list of registered voters and from the County Equalization office. Due to the seasonal nature of many residents, it was common for residents to receive a copy of the survey at their permanent address and at their Bay Township address. Every effort was made to reach all residents, including renters.

A total of 421 individuals completed the survey. Because one survey was mailed to each household (including seasonal property owners living outside the Township), we can estimate the response rate to be approximately 51%. This is based on the fact that there are 847 housing units in the Township (2016 American Communities Survey 5-year estimates). While 340 of the housing units are classified as vacant, the Census estimates that 92% of all vacant housing units are actually occupied seasonally. The vast majority of the surveys were returned by mail (92%), while 8% of surveys were completed online.

The Planning Commission developed the 2018 Community Survey to better understand the needs and desires of the residents of Bay Township. The results from the survey will be used to update the Bay Township Zoning Ordinance and will also help identify future land use practices and provide guidance to the Township Board. Some highlights of the survey:

- ◆ **Water Quality** is the #1 issue of importance
- ◆ 69% of survey respondents report being over 60 years of age
- ◆ 84% of respondents have no children under the age of 17 years in the household
- ◆ Lack of quality cellular and internet services is of high concern
- ◆ Annual trash pick up is important to respondents
- ◆ Majority of respondents want to allow for growth while encouraging large parcels of land to be maintained for the rural look and feel of Bay Township

A full compilation of all responses to the survey questions is available on line at the Bay Township web site: baytownshipmi.org.

Bay Township continues to invest a significant portion of township revenue for emergency services. Combined, we spend more than \$120,000 for both fire and ambulance services annually. The Board of Trustees recognizes that this represents a large portion of the total township revenues, however, they feel the costs are a sound investment. We are fortunate that our demand for these services has been relatively low.

The Resort/Bear Creek Fire Department provides fire protection for the northern portion of the Township. Chief Al Welsheimer reported that the department has an average response time of 7.03 minutes for all incidents. The department responded to 16 calls in 2017 in Bay Township. There were 4 trash/yard waste fires, 1 downed power line, 4 false fire alarms, and 7 false fire alarms that were canceled by residents before equipment was dispatched. In comparison, the township had 24 calls in 2016. Chief Welsheimer also has informed us that the department purchased a new rescue truck.



RBCFD's new rescue truck

The Boyne City Fire Department provides service for the southern portion of the township. Dennis Amesbury, Chief, reports that the department had 232 total calls in 2017. They responded to 13 calls in Bay Township. The breakdown is as follows: 4 fires (3 minor and 1 assist Resort/Bear Creek FD), 4 downed power lines, 3 assist police/personal injuries, 1 gas leak, and just 1 false alarm. He also indicated that the new fire department building has been an excellent asset to the department in providing services.

2018 Township wide trash pickup collected 164+ cubic yards compared to 173 last year.

Watch for the 2019 dates in the winter newsletter or check the Township website.

Ambulance services are provided by the Boyne City EMS Department. It is staffed 24 hours a day with paramedics who can also respond in a non-transporting vehicle that can provide basic life support services. Director John Lamont reported that in 2017 his department responded to a total of 1,025 calls with 39 requests coming from Bay Township. There were 16 for medical emergencies, 6 for trauma, and 6 for cardiac symptoms. In addition, 11 calls were made that did not require transporting the victim. This is similar to 2017 when the township had 38 EMS calls.

BAY TOWNSHIP NEEDS ELECTION PRECINCT WORKERS

If you have ever wondered how to become more active in local government, there are plenty of opportunities for you that do not involve running for elected office. Michigan has 83 counties, 274 cities, and 1,242 townships. During an election, each of these units of government requires a staff of paid workers to work at the polls.

Precinct inspectors are people who are paid to assist voters at the polls on Election Day. Registered voters interested in serving as election inspectors may contact, Clerk Wendy Simmons, Clerk for an election inspector application. In addition to their name, address and date of birth, applicants must include their political party preference. The State of Michigan is now allowing 16 and 17 year old residents to also work at the poles waiving the registered voter status for them. Election workers can live outside the township and still work the Bay Township Elections. Training is required and each inspector must update their training every two years.

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. Electors who wish to vote must be registered no later than Monday, July 9, 2018.

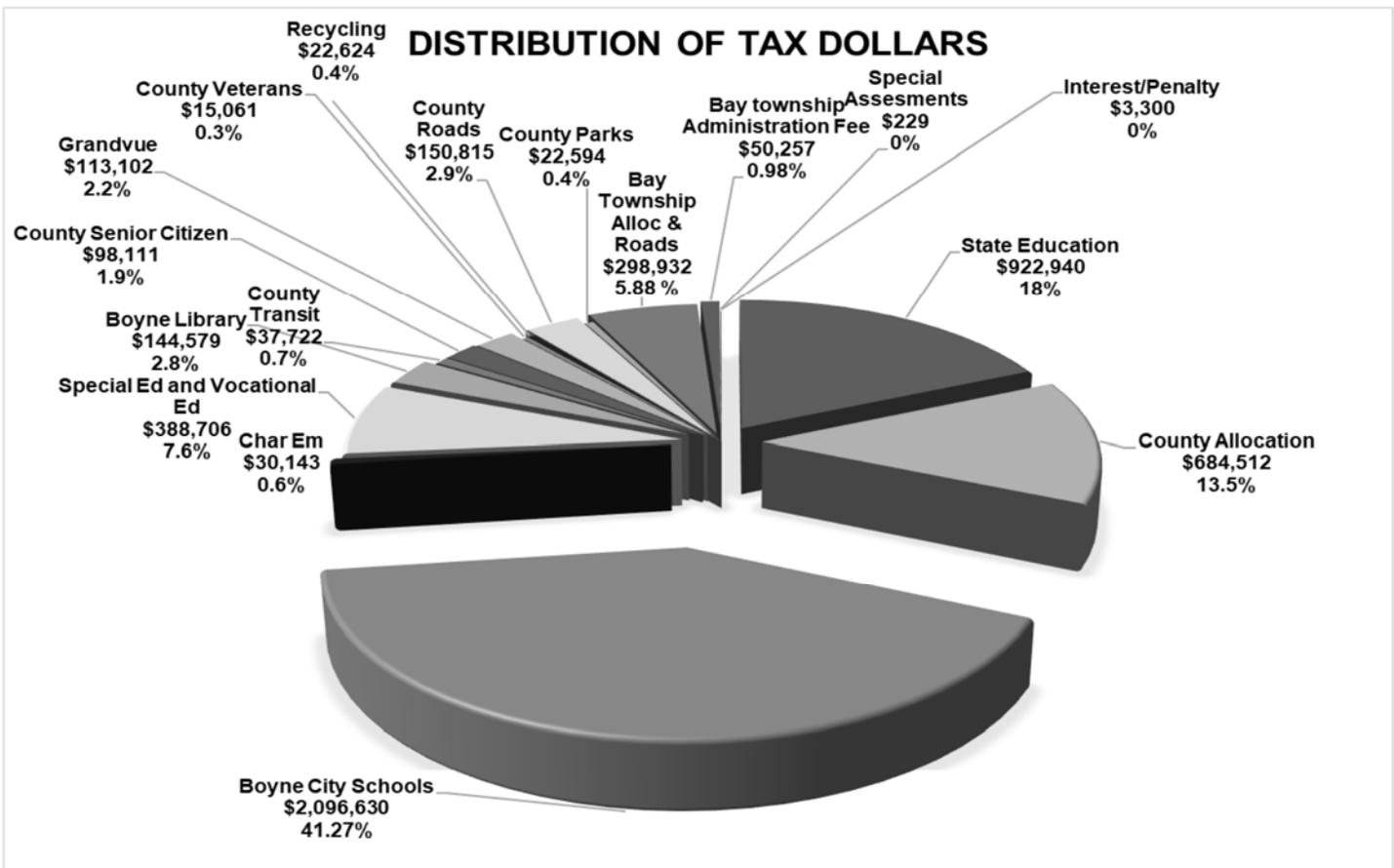
The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Electors who wish to vote must register no later than Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Due to incidents of vandalism last year on the dock and the improvements at the Sumner Road Walloon Lake Access, Charlevoix County Sheriff Charles Vondra has instructed his department to increase road patrols at this busy summer road end. Bay Township spends money annually to provide safe and functional access for boaters and other lake users, and we are disappointed in the damage and vandalism that has been done to the dock and landscaping that your tax dollars have provided. If anyone has information that might lead to the identity of any person or persons responsible for these acts of vandalism, please contact the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Department at (231) 547-4461.



(Right) Sumner Road Lake End on Walloon Lake

EVER WONDER WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?



Bay Township collected a total of **\$5,080,257** during the June 2017 to May 2018 tax season. Total combined millage for education, including State Education, Boyne City Schools, Special Education and Char Em accounts for **\$3,449,934** of the total taxes collected. Bay Township receives a 1% administration fee for the collection of taxes which amounts to **\$50,257** along with the Township Allocation and Roads, amounting to a total of **\$298,932**. All monies collected for the road millage go into a Road Millage Fund that is designated to be used only for Township roads.

The Horton Bay Parade Committee announces that the parade is on again this year! This must-see Northern Michigan Historical Event (almost since the beginning of Horton's Bay) will begin at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, July 4th. The theme of this years parade is **"The 28th Amendment"** and shirts will be available for purchase. The rules: Nothing Mean, Nothing Serious and Nothing Dangerous.

Entry forms can be picked up at the Horton Bay General Store, by emailing hortonbayparade@gmail.com, or call 231.675.2245 for questions.



WALLOON LAKE ASSOC. ADDRESSES SWIMMERS ITCH (SI)

On Wednesday, May 16th, the Walloon Lake Association Government Affairs Committee (GAC) held their annual breakfast, inviting township officials and representatives to their new office located in the Village of Walloon.

The focus of the GAC Annual Breakfast was a topic that hits home for many Wallooners - Swimmers Itch (SI). More importantly, the road to eradication of this pesky parasite. Ron Reimink, Principal of Freshwater Solutions, gave an in depth presentation on the life cycle of Swimmer's Itch, presented various case studies and innovative solutions he and his team are currently working on and gave an overview of the work that will be done on Walloon Lake this summer through the lake-wide SI assessment.

For more information about the Walloon Lake Association visit their website www.walloon.org or call 231.535.6112

BAY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY COMMITTEE & HONORING OUR VETERANS

Your BTCC members, Chair Christine Redman, Bill Nason, Stephen Ritter, and Georganna Monk continue to work on a multitude of goals and projects, all aimed at improving our township cemeteries and honoring the people buried there. Some, but not all, are the need for grave identification - extremely important in order to plan for expansion, updating the original ordinance and developing a Cemetery Guide book, as well as researching and updating record data on the history of our cemeteries and the people buried there. In order to strengthen and direct our attention to state laws and record retention, Christine and Bill attended Michigan Township Association cemetery classes at the state conference this spring in Traverse City.

The BTCC sponsors two annual events specifically to honor all veterans: those who have passed on, those who have retired from service, and those who continue to serve both locally and abroad.

The Flag Ceremony, a long standing Bay Township tradition, is held each Memorial Day, a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the women and men who died while serving in the country's armed forces. This well-attended ceremony (usually over one hundred attendees) is held at Dyer Cemetery on Camp Daggett Road. Look for our signs around Horton Bay each year reminding everyone of the event and the time.

As of this year, 48 U. S. Veterans are known to be buried in Bay Township's three cemeteries. Two are township owned: Dyer and Oaklawn. The Horton Bay United Methodist Church owns North Bay Cemetery and their new Scattering Garden on the church grounds. For a complete list of veterans please see our township website.

On December 15, 2018 at 11:45, the BTCC, who in 2014 teamed up with the Horton Bay United Methodist Church to form the Bay Township Area Cemeteries group, will be participating as an official location in National Wreaths Across America Day. Local Location Coordinator Georganna Monk states: "Wreaths Across America is an amazing tribute to our heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice, to our heroic veterans still with us today, and to their families who stand by their side through it all. Bay Township is proud to be an official location for Wreaths Across America whose mission is to: Remember. Honor. Teach." A wreath sponsorship places a wreath on a Veteran's grave and helps to fund Veteran and educational outreach. Each wreath is only \$15.00. For more information please contact Georganna at 231.883.9867. Additional information and forms can be downloaded from our township website or found in the kiosk in front of the hall.

Please contact Chair Christine Redman at 231.582.3458 if you are interested in joining our all volunteer Bay Township Cemetery Committee or have questions or suggestions or just want to volunteer to help with our projects.

A special thank you to all contributors to the Bay Township Summer 2018 Newsletter including, Claire Karner, Beckett & Raeder; Dennis Amesbury, Boyne City Fire Chief; Al Welsheimer, RBCFD Chief; Dr. Michael Harmeling, Horton Bay Parade Committee Chair; Josephine Roberts, Executive Director/Walloon Lake Assoc.+ Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy; Christine Redman, Cemetery Committee Chair; Dave Skornia, Planning Commission Chair.; Larry Moeschke, Supervisor; Wendy Simmons, Clerk; Georganna Monk, Trustee; Bill Wehrenberg, Trustee.
Georganna Monk and Wendy Simmons, Co-Editors