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Meet your Board of Trustees:

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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

Winter 2015

IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON CHURCH ROAD THANKS TO PRIVATE DONORS

Mike and Bobbie Tweddle, having recently moved to Bay Township, presented a gift of underwriting the cost to pave 0.5 mile of Church Road, located east of Camp Daggett Road. This section of Church Road serves as the main entrance to Camp Daggett as well as numerous residences. The Tweddles frequently use this road and they felt that paving the road would address many issues. In a most generous gesture, they offered to provide all of the funds necessary to pave this portion of Church Road as well as bring it up to county road standards. This gift amounted to \$138,134 which is just less than the total road funds generated in the township by its annual road millage. The project was completed this October without the use of any tax dollars.

Larry Moeschke, Township Supervisor, commented that "Bay Township very much appreciates Mr. and Mrs. Tweddle's generous offer to pave Church Road. This is an improvement that will be enjoyed by Bay Township residents that use the road as well as Camp Daggett itself. It is unusual for a township resident to pay for road upgrades and paving due to today's high costs in building roads, and Bay Township extends their heartfelt thanks."

In conjunction with the Church Road paving project, some of the residents on Fox Run (a



Observing the excavation and paving of Church Road are (from left): Bill Wehrenberg, Township Trustee, Gary Leist and James Schillinger of MDC Contracting, Jim Vanek, Township Clerk and the Engineer for the Charlevoix County Road Commission, and Ron Goff, MDC Contracting (sitting in the excavator).
(photo courtesy of Jane Wehrenberg)

private road) contracted with MDC Contracting to have their road upgraded and paved at the same time. Fox Run is located south of Church Road.

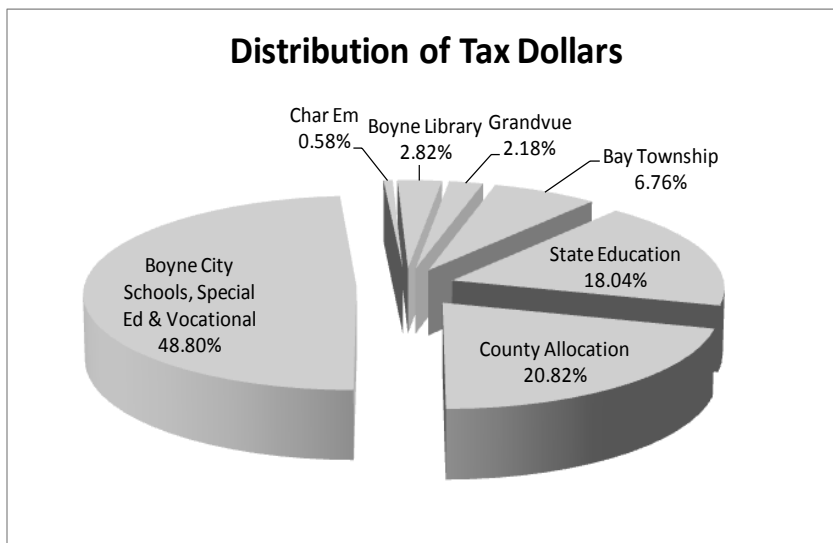
Readers may recall that in the summer of 2014 the Township Trustees held a road forum to solicit input from township residents. This year the trustees finalized a suggested five year Road Plan that is available on our web site (<http://www.charlevoixcounty.org/govern0283.asp>) and residents are encouraged to review this plan. It is worthy to mention that the Charlevoix County Road Commis-

sion owns and is responsible for the maintenance of all our roads, excluding private roads. The township road millage generates very limited funds (please reference the chart on page 3 of the SUMMER NEWSLETTER for specific amounts generated).

Church Road would not have been done without the wonderful gift from the Tweddles and Fox Run would not have been done without the financial support from some private residents. The Township Board of Trustees and residents all salute the Tweddles and Fox Run homeowners and say THANK YOU.

DISTRIBUTION OF TAX DOLLARS

Tax bills are confusing as you look at the columns of millages that make up your tax. The following chart is to show you how your tax dollars are distributed once the Bay Township Treasurer receives your payment. Each year Charlevoix County Equalization Department prepares the Township and City Clerk's Report. The following chart is based on Bay Township's portion of this report. It is rounded to the nearest whole number and has combined County Parks, Veterans, Transit, Recycling, Senior Citizens and County Roads under the County Allocation. Boyne City School Operational, Debt, Special Ed 64, Special Ed 08 and Vocational AL Ed are combined under the heading of Boyne City Schools, Special Ed & Vocational. State Education and Char Em are separated out as well as Grandvue and Boyne Library. The Bay Township portion includes Administrative Fee, Township Allocation and the Township Road millage collected.



ACTUAL SALE PRICE IS NOT TRUE CASH VALUE ON HOME SALES

The law defines True Cash Value as the **usual** selling price of a property. The Legislature and the Courts have very clearly stated that **the actual selling price of a property is not a controlling factor in the True Cash Value or State Equalized Value** as calculated by the Assessor. For this reason, when analyzing sales for the purpose of determining assessment changes, the Assessor will review all sales but exclude non-representative sales from the assessment analysis.

Transfers of Ownership and Uncapping of Taxable Value

According to Proposal A, when a property is transferred, the following year's SEV becomes that year's Taxable Value. In other words, if you purchased a property in 2015, the Taxable Value for 2016 will be the same as the 2016 SEV. The Taxable Value will then be "capped" again in the second year following the transfer of ownership. It is the responsibility of the buyer in a transfer to file a Property Transfer Affidavit with the Assessor within 45 days of the transfer.

March Board of Review will meet during the second week of March 2016. The specific dates and times will be in the Notice of Assessment mailed out in late February, 2016.

Visit the Bay Township web site at www.charlevoixcounty.org for updated information on:

- ◆ Treasurer's hours for winter tax collection
- ◆ Meeting dates and times
- ◆ Special Meetings

2016 ELECTIONS DATES Poles open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 "Presidential Primary" Last day to register* is February 8, 2016 Absentee ballots will be available by January 23, 2016.

Tuesday, August 2, 2016 "State Primary" Last day to register* is July 5, 2016. Absentee ballots will be available by June 18, 2016.

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 "State General Election" Last day to register is October 11, 2016 Absentee ballots will be available by September 24, 2016

To obtain an absentee ballot contact Jim Vanek at clerk@baytownship.org or by calling 231.582.3594. Leave a message with your name, address and phone number.

A special thank you to all contributors to the Bay Township Winter 2015 Newsletter including The Michigan Township Association, Anna Wasylewski, Assessor; Steve Ritter, Treasurer; Jim Vanek, Clerk; Bill Wehrenberg, Trustee; and Ron Van Zee, Zoning Administrator.

Wendy Simmons and Georganna Monk, Co-Editors

BOYNE CITY AND RESORT/BEAR CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The addition of Resort/Bear Creek Fire Department (RBCFD) to the township fire service coverage has gone smoothly. The Boyne City Fire Department (BCFD) continues to serve the southern portion of the township while RBCFD now covers the northern portion. Please refer to the township web site for details of the coverage areas. Dennis Amesbury, Fire Chief for Boyne City, and Al Welshiemer, Fire Chief for RBCFD, report the following activities for March through September, 2015:

Number and Type of Calls	Department	
	Boyne City	Resort/Bear Creek
Major Incidents ¹	1	4
False Alarms	0	4
Assist at Auto Accidents	1	0
Other ²	6	1
Response Time (major incidents)	12 min	12 min

¹ Major incidents include such things as house and brush fires, gas leaks and gas explosions.

² Other calls include situations such as down power lines, electrical smells, vehicle extraction.

Some residents in the northern area have contacted their insurance companies about their rates since they are now closer to a fire station. For the most part residents are receiving a discount. However, this appears to be insurance company specific. RBCFD is currently waiting for their ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule, which grades such features as water distribution, fire department equipment and manpower and fire alarm facilities. Per Al Welshiemer, this is a six month process so they are expecting this rating to come through in the near future.

HORTON BAY PARADE LIVES AGAIN



It is official, the Horton Bay Parade lives again. Resurrection will be July 4, 2016. A well attended fundraiser was held at the Horton Bay General Store on Sunday, September 6th to kick off bringing the parade back to Horton Bay.

For more information on the parade email hortonbayparade@gmail.com or call **231.582.7827**. You can keep up with all of the parade happenings on Facebook by going to www.facebook.com/hortonbayparade2016/?fref=ts.



BAY TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA IN 2015

In 2014, the Bay Township Cemetery Committee teamed up with the Horton Bay United Methodist Church to form the Bay Township Area Cemeteries (BTAC) group - the very first in Charlevoix County. The group successfully laid a wreath on the grave of all 41 confirmed veterans buried in the three Bay Township cemeteries: Oaklawn Cemetery on Horton Bay Road North; Dyer Cemetery on Camp Daggett Road; and North Bay Cemetery on Church Road. The BTAC group is proud to be an official, local sponsor for the Wreaths Across America program again in 2015. Sadly, this year we have added 4 more U.S. Veterans to the list, bringing our goal to 45 wreaths.

Each wreath is only \$15.00. For every 2 wreaths that are ordered, the group will receive an additional one to be placed on a veteran's grave. You can donate online or by mail. For this information as well as a complete list of our known 45 veterans buried in our cemeteries, go to our Bay Township website (www.charlevoixcounty.org/govern0283.asp). Mail in forms are also in the red box at the kiosk in front of the Bay Township hall.

The BTAC group has already been making preparations for this special event, and



*Veteran Woody Austin playing taps at the 2015 ceremony
(photo courtesy of Jock Rader of RaderFoto)*

will be placing four foot stakes at the gravesites which will serve to anchor the wreaths and allow them to be visible in the snow until spring.

December 12, 2015 has been declared **National Wreaths Across America Day!** Everyone is invited to attend the special wreath laying ceremony at Dyer Cemetery on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 11:45 AM (Sharp). You do not have to sponsor a wreath to attend this ceremony. At noon, a moment of silence will be held across the entire nation. At this time the 7 ceremonial wreaths will be placed and then the wreaths will be placed at the graves of the veterans throughout the three cemeteries.

The Boyne City American Legion Ernest Peterson Post 228 will again be participating at this ceremony. This will be a very special opportunity to honor all veterans and especially these Bay Township veterans by placing a wreath that will mark their grave until the following spring. Bay Township is proud to have been the first and so far only township in Charlevoix County to participate in Wreaths Across America! Please plan on joining us!

Concurrent with Bay Township Area Cemeteries participation in the Wreaths Across America program, local historians Patrick McCleary and Georganna Monk of the Charlevoix County History Preservation Society, have embarked on a project to locate photographs of each of the interred Bay Township veterans. Biographical and military information is also being sought out, but photographs (both military and civilian) are needed if the goal of a future publication is to be a success. As McCleary explained, "About half of our Bay Township veteran biographies now include photographs. This includes several of the Bay Township veterans who served in the Civil War." "While biographical and military service details are important to a project of this nature, it is the photographs that really bring these military heroes to life," Patrick added. This is a wonderful opportunity to assist in seeing that the family member, ancestor or friend is memorialized and recognized for their contributions to freedom, the results of which will eventually be contained within a tribute booklet.

If you have questions about sponsoring wreaths, how to obtain a sponsorship form, or wish to volunteer, please call Georganna Monk (Local Location Leader) at 231-883-9867.



*Christine Redman and Marilyn Rader of the Bay Township Cemetery Committee placing wreaths.
(photo courtesy of Jock Rader of RaderFoto)*

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*Doris Robinson and family place a wreath on her husband Dorman J. Robinson, USN, gravesite at the North Bay Cemetery.
(photo courtesy of Jock Rader of RaderFoto)*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The annual **Memorial Day Flag Celebration** will again be at Dyer Cemetery on Monday, May 30, 2016 at 8:45 AM. This has been an annual event sponsored by Bay Township in conjunction with the Boyne City American Legion Ernest Peterson Post 228. Contact Trustee Georganna Monk at **231.883.9867** for additional information.