



Winter, 2020 Newsletter



### **Land Acquired For Long Lake Fire-Rescue Emergency Services Station**

In October, the Township completed the purchase of five acres of land on the north side of the intersection at North Long Lake Road and Brayton Lane. Station design and engineering work are currently in process to prepare project bid specifications. Project bids will be reviewed and the construction project awarded in early 2021. Site work is expected to begin in Spring 2021.

#### **441 Fire/EMS responses in 2020 (through November 15th)**

- EMS: 281
- Motor Vehicle Accidents: 12
- Building Fires: 5
- Vehicle Fires: 5
- Brush/Wildland Fires: 3
- Trash/Rubbish Fires: 8
- Good intent, Smoke Scare, Cancelled: 44
- Fire Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Alarm System Activations: 27
- Automatic/Mutual Aid to Fire Agencies: 18
- Power Lines Down, Electrical Shorts: 15
- Hazardous Materials, Gas Leak, Carbon Monoxide: 9
- Public Service, Assist Law Enforcement: 9
- Weather/Lighting Strike, Other: 5

### **In Memoriam**

The Long Lake community has recently lost two stand out citizens. Please join the Long Lake family of staff, elected officials, and volunteers in acknowledging the contributions and honoring the memories of Howard Geerlings and Pamela Cuthbert. We extend deep condolences to their loved ones.

Howard Geerlings was a resident on Long Lake since 1981. He served as the chairman of the Township's Zoning Board of Appeals for decades, stepping back only a short time before his passing in September. Howard's love of Long Lake, his amazing talents, and most especially, his warm kindness will not be soon forgotten by the many lucky enough to have known him.

Pam Cuthbert retired in 2019 from the Planning Commission, having served as it's chair since the early 2000's. She was formerly an elected official in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Pam's passion for her community, compassion for young people, and her abiding love for animals speaks volumes about who she was. Her smile and giggle were infectious. Pam's passing in September has left a hole in the hearts of the many who admired her.

## A Message From Your Treasurer Trish Mehney, MiCPT

Please take a few minutes to review our web site at [www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com) where you can:

**\*\*Find my e-mail and phone number if you have questions or concerns. \*\* View or pay your taxes on line (note: there is a 3% charge for on line credit card payments and a \$3.00-\$10.00 charge for e-checks depending on the amount owed. This fee goes directly to the bank not the Township). \*\* You can also print tax receipts for prior payments (just click on view/pay taxes online and follow the directions). This information is free to property owners after setting up an account. Remember that receipts are no longer sent automatically when taxes are paid unless requested by the taxpayer. \*\* Access dates for paying taxes.**

Winter tax bills will be mailed December 1, 2020 and are due by February 16, 2021. I will accept payments with postmarks on this due date without penalty. I will be collecting delinquent tax payments in my office through March 2, 2021 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Please make checks payable to Long Lake Township through this date. **I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT POST MARKS FOR THIS DATE!. ALL TAX PAYMENTS MUST BE IN MY OFFICE BY MARCH 2, 2021 BY 5:30 P.M. OR WILL BE CONSIDERED LATE AND RETURNED TO YOU. DUE TO COVID, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO UTILIZE OUR DROP BOX ON THE SIDEWALK BY THE OFFICE ENTRANCE OR MAIL TAX PAYMENTS OR USE OUR NEW ON-LINE PAYMENT OPTION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. WE WILL BE LIMITED ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING AT ONE TIME SO IF YOU COME IN PERSON YOU MAY EXPERIENCE LONGER THAN USUAL WAIT TIMES. WE ARE NOW USING "POINT & PAY" FOR TAX PAYMENTS ON LINE WHICH OFFERS MORE OPTIONS FOR PAYMENTS, INCLUDING PAYMENTS DIRECTLY FROM YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT.** All property taxes will be turned over to the Grand Traverse Treasurer on March 3rd, 2021 and will have to be paid at the Governmental Center in Traverse City. If your payment is not in my office by March 2nd, 2021, you will need to contact the Grand Traverse County Treasurer for the amount due and your check will need to be made out to Grand Traverse County rather than Long Lake Township. *Exceptions:* Property taxes starting with the numbers 28-08-898 and 28-08-900 will continue to be collected here at the Township Offices. Please call me if you have any questions (231-946-2249). Thank you , Trish Mehney.

### News From The Assessor's Desk

The re-inspection project of all residential properties in Long Lake Township is going well. We just completed the fifth summer and we will begin again in May 2021. Each site visit includes up-dating exterior photos and leaving a questionnaire post card about the interior of your home for the property owner to complete and send in. With your cooperation we can have accurate data of your property and avoid errors in your property assessment.

In February of each year "Notice of Assessment Changes" are sent to all property Owners. Please review the information on the notice and if you have any questions you may contact Angela Friske, Assessor at 231-946-2249 during regular office hours or e-mail her at:

[assessor@longlaketownship.com](mailto:assessor@longlaketownship.com)



### A Note From Your Senior Director Shelley Evans

Long Lake Township continues to coordinate the "Long Lakers" whose mission is to provide social and educational opportunities for our residents over 60. We want to keep everyone inspired, involved, and active together with luncheons, exercise, bocce ball, pickle ball, and monthly local events. Look for our activity calendar on the web at [www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com) or call the Long Lake Senior Director, Shelley Evans, at 231-631-4479. A special thank you to the Grand Traverse County Senior Network for help in funding the Long Lakers programs.

### A Message From Karen Rosa

A big shout out to Dave Garvin for his 12 years of service as Township Trustee. Dave was always our go to person and he will definitely be missed on the board. Congratulations on your retirement. Please welcome the new incoming Board Members. Ron Lemcool will be your new Supervisor along with two new Trustees Mike Rade-maker and Dan Wagner. The remaining makeup of the board will be current members Clerk, Carol Hoffman, Treasurer, Trish Mehney and two Trustees Linda Wheelock and Duane Schaub. I know this board will make good decisions with the best interest of Long Lake Township in mind. This Board is the grass roots government for your community. They are there for you.

## A Message From Your Parks & Recreation Chair, Trish Mehney

South Long Lake Natural Area: Eric Houghton-  
eshoughton@gmail.com



Cedar Run Creek Natural Area: Larry Vander-  
burg-lar4@earthlink.net

Bullhead Lake Natural Area: Rondi Fry-  
rondifry47@gmail.com or Annie Gurian-  
abgurian@gmail.com

Taylor Park: NEED VOLUNTEER

Gilbert Park: NEED VOLUNTEER

Fisher Run: Mark Cerny-mcerny7421@aol.com

Timbers Rec. Area: Jacob Bourney-jbourney@gtrlc.org

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS:** If you are interested in helping out at our parks please don't hesitate to contact Trish Mehney, 946-2249 or you can also contact the leaders of the Friends of the Parks listed in this article. If you have any general questions or comments regarding our parks, please don't hesitate to contact me .

A **"SPECIAL THANK YOU"** to all of you who have been diligently working to improve the quality of our Parks!!! We have had many volunteers helping with clearing trails, cutting up fallen trees, building or repairing bridges, placing posts for signs, placing boundary signs, cleaning and refurbishing existing signs along with many other projects that are underway for the coming summer. We have also had our Eagle Scouts working on projects in some of our Parks.

We are required to have all volunteers fill out a waiver form, which can be found on our website [www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com) or picked up here at our office. If you are currently volunteering or plan to volunteer in our Parks, please fill this form out and drop it off at the Township offices as soon as possible, thank you.

We offer many amenities at our Parks including: outdoor basketball and tennis courts, 2 official bocce ball courts, a 1/3 mile running/walking track, pickle ball courts, 2 picnic pavilions and 2 playgrounds (one for 2-5 years and one for 5-12 years) at Haywood Volleyball at Taylor Park & Gilbert Park. Fishing platforms at Cedar Run Creek Natural Area or pick up one of our park maps for more detailed information along with locations of all of our Township Parks. Residents and visitors are urged to call the Township regarding issues with dogs and the Sheriff's Dept. (231-922-4550) or Marine Patrol (231-922-2112) if you witness any other potential problems at any of our parks.



### Short Term Rentals

October 1st marked the first year of the short-Term Rental certificate program.. Thank you to the nearly 100 property owners who have registered their rentals. The common-sense restrictions for short term rentals have helped to make the waters safer and the community more livable for everyone. Please be reminded that certificates must be renewed each year. Applications are now being accepted for new certificates and renewals for 2021. To remain compliant, anyone renting or advertising as of January 1st must have a 2021 certificate. Visit the Short-Term Rental page on the Township's website, [www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com) to apply or find more information about the program. Contact Loyd Morris or Leslie Sickterman at the Township offices if you have additional questions.

### Meeting Day & Time

Zoning- 1st Tues. 6 pm Township Board-2nd Tues. 6 pm Planning-4th Tues. 6 pm Land Div.-1st Thurs. 10 am

Office Hours Tuesday-Friday 8:00 am—5:30 pm

Township e-mail: [welcome@longlaketownship.com](mailto:welcome@longlaketownship.com)

**THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE IS CURRENTLY FOLLOWING RESTRICTED  
COVID-19 PROTOCOL. SUGGESTED APPOINTMENTS AND LOCKED ENTRY**



## District Forester Provides Free Landowner Assistance

The Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) of the Grand Traverse Conservation District provides in-office and on-site technical assistance to landowners at no charge and may include:

- Identification of forest diseases and insects and their control options (including oak wilt which is 100% fatal to our red oaks)
- Advice on the selection and planting of trees and shrubs for reforestation, windbreaks, and wildlife habitat enhancement (District spring seedling sale),
- Information on state and federal forestry cost-share and property tax incentive programs, (landowners with 20 acres or more may qualify for property tax relief through the Qualified Forest Program – QFP. The purpose of QFP is to encourage private forestland owners to manage their land in an economically viable and environmentally sustainable manner. Property may then be eligible for a 16 mill reduction in annual property taxes and land is exempt from uncapping or “pop-up” of taxable value when transferred or sold, and

recommendations for improving woodlots for timber production, wildlife habitat or recreation. Referrals to qualified forestry consultants, industry foresters and other natural resource professionals help landowners take the next step in implementing sustainable forest management practices.

District Forester Kama Ross’s role is to encourage and enable landowners to more actively manage their woodlands. This position is funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. To find out more about these free services, contact Kama at the Grand Traverse Conservation District office at (231) 941-0960, or email her at [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org) or visit [www.natureiscalling.org](http://www.natureiscalling.org).



**2020 CENSUS:** You all deserve a pat on the back for your response for the 2020 Census count. Long Lake Township has been in the lead all the way through the census count in Grand Traverse County. Our response rate is at 79.2%. **GREAT JOB EVERYONE!** This is so important for our revenue sharing that comes back to the Township from the State to help operate our Township. Thank you so much for always being there when we ask for your support.

### SPANGLISH DELIVERS NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Lunch for 58 Long Lake Election Inspectors was furnished by Anna & Vincent Serrano of Spanglish Mexican Restaurant located at 1333 Yellow Dr., Traverse City, MI. The workers “loved” the burrito lunches! Thanks so much for your generosity.

**Long Lake Township**  
 8870 North Long Lake Road  
 Traverse City, Mi. 49685  
 231-946-2249  
 Fax-231-946-4573  
 Heidi Mello  
 Administrative  
 Assistant  
[www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com)  
 Call for office hours and  
 covid-19 protocol

## November 3, 2020 Election Results by Carol Hoffman, Township Clerk



# VOTER TURNOUT %



	registered voters	voted av	voted in person	total	% voted
PRECINCT 1	2745	1323	826	2149	78.29
PRECINCT 2	2585	1362	776	2138	82.71
PRECINCT 3	3062	1608	823	2431	79.39
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8392</b>	<b>4293</b>	<b>2425</b>	<b>6718</b>	<b>80.05</b>