

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP OFFICE*

## Fire Department Update: Long Lake Township Fire Rescue



The formation of the Long Lake Township Fire Rescue Department is well underway. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Township Board approved Ordinance No. 145 forming **Long Lake Township Fire Rescue Department**.

Ordinance No. 145 provides authorization for our current Firefighters and EMS personnel to respond to Fires, Medical Emergencies, Rescues (land and water) and other hazards within Long Lake Township while also providing mutual aid to surrounding communities. Firefighters will continue to respond to all Medical Emergencies under the current level of Medical First Responder licensure.

The process to form our Fire Department is being thoughtfully planned and organized. Considerations for vehicles, equipment, training, policies, procedures and budgets are being vetted by a variety of staff, community members and professional consultants. To meet the growing needs of the community for medical emergency responses, we are outfitting a new Ford F350 Crew Cab 4x4 truck for Medical First Responders and EMS equipment. This vehicle will be placed in service on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, we have some of our Firefighters currently in school to change their EMS licensure from Medical First Responder to become Emergency Medical Technicians. We appreciate all of their hard work and dedication!

The Township has retained professional consultants to begin assessing the new Insurance Services Office (ISO) standards for the Property Protection Classification (PPC). This rating system provides property insurance companies a relative risk assessment of the community and its ability to extinguish fires. Some insurance companies utilize the ISO Property Protection Classification to establish property insurance premiums, while other insurers utilize their own data to determine property insurance rates and do not use the ISO Property Protection Classification. Our rating potential will be reviewed by professional consultants that will advise us how to best equip Long Lake Township Fire Rescue now and in the future to achieve the desired rating.

Leadership and management of Long Lake Township Fire Rescue will be under the guidance of a new Fire Chief. Training, education and experience requirements have been developed for the Fire Chief position which has been posted with State and National Fire Chief's organizations. We recently received resumes from a number of highly experienced candidates for this position.

Long Lake Township Fire Rescue will continue to operate under the current 5-year Emergency Services millage which was passed in 2014. For the current year \$440,145 in revenues from the millage will now all be utilized within Long Lake Township for emergency services.

If you are interested in becoming a Long Lake Firefighter/First Responder, please contact us at (231) 946-2249 for an application. We will be holding an informational open house in the New Year to meet the new Fire Chief, meet our existing staff of Firefighters and to review our new equipment and emergency service capabilities. A date for the open house will be forthcoming and posted on the township website. Long Lake Township Fire Rescue will begin operation on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We would like to thank all of our Firefighters and First Responders for their dedication and continued commitment to our community.



There is a saying that one man's junk is another man's treasure. Well that can also be looked at in reverse. One man's treasure is another man's junk. The township has been receiving more and more junk complaints and not everyone agrees on what constitutes junk. Junk is defined by the ordinance as: "any motor vehicle, machinery, appliance, product or merchandise, scrap metal, other scrap materials which are damaged, deteriorated, or that are in a condition which prevents their use for the purpose for which they were intended, and household trash." You may think those pallets are valuable. Someone else may consider it blight. We use the rule of thumb, "is it being used for the purpose that it was designed for", to determine if the items are junk. Couches and mattresses out in someone's yard exposed to the weather is not the use for which these items were designed. Therefore they are junk.

The Ordinance states: "No person shall place, discard, or abandon junk in a place where it is visible from a highway, street, or other public way, or where it is visible to an abutting landowner from that portion of the land used on a regular basis. No person shall place, discard, or abandon junk on public property or the private property of another, regardless if visible from a highway, street, or other public way, or from adjoining land."

The Township and its citizens take pride in how our township looks. We try very hard through education and enforcement to keep our area clean. One ill-kempt property can cause property values to go down. It can also be the source of frustration for your neighbors. Please think about what items you are accumulating and how they are seen by others. If you have a neighbor that needs help with up keep of their property volunteer to help them. That is what neighbors do. If your neighbor will not listen to you or is unwilling to compromise, then you may file a complaint with the Township Ordinance Enforcement office at 231-946-2249 or email me at [oeo@longlaketownship.com](mailto:oeo@longlaketownship.com) I will investigate and see what I can do.



◆ Parks Update

It has been a very busy year for the parks department. We added a new parking lot at the corner of Manhattan and N. Long Lake Rd. next to our newest picnic area under the maple trees. We also added a pedestrian path and paved the dirt parking lot at the North end of Haywood Park. This fall we contracted to have a parking lot built at the west end of Cedar Run Creek Natural Area off of Tucker Road, which should be completed this fall.

We are continuing to make improvements to our park bathrooms. Taylor Park was completed this spring and the second bathroom by the big playground at Haywood Park was completed this fall along with a cement path making it fully handicap accessible. We are hoping to have the bathroom at Gilbert Park done as well by next summer. We are also working on new signage for our parks to replace the old with our new logo.

Please stop by to pick up a parks map and get out and enjoy your parks and let us know how we are doing.

Jim Saunby, Park Superintendent



◆ From the Assessor's Desk

We are doing a re-inspection project to begin in May 2016 of all residential property in Long Lake Township. This will involve a site visit to each property, taking updated exterior photos, and leaving a questionnaire for the property owner to fill out and return concerning the interior of their homes. With your cooperation we can have accurate data of your property and avoid errors in your property assessment. The project is scheduled to take five summers to complete. We will begin in the southeast corner of the Township. You may contact Angela Friske, Assessor by telephone during regular business hours or at [assessor@longlaketownship.com](mailto:assessor@longlaketownship.com) if you have questions or concerns.

## From your Treasurer

Please visit our web site at [www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com) for information regarding tax bill mail dates and due dates, credit card payments and days & times that our Township offices are open for business. This information is also available on the back of your tax bills. If you still have questions please don't hesitate to contact me at (231) 946-2249 ext.: 206.

All property taxes (**exceptions following**) will be turned over to the Grand Traverse County Treasurer after March 1<sup>st</sup> and will have to be paid at the Governmental Center in Traverse City. **Exceptions: Property taxes starting with the number 28-08-898 and 28-08-900 will continue to be collected here at the Township Offices.**

Please remember that we are closed on Mondays but do accept payments through the mail (postmark dates accepted), by drop box located next to the parking area near the entrance to the Township Hall, by credit card using the website above.



Thank you; Have a safe and enjoyable winter season!

## A message from your Parks & Recreation Chair

Thank you to all who are giving your time and energy to help oversee our Parks and help with improvements and maintenance. If you are interested in participating with the friends of the parks groups please contact me and I will pass on the info for the "head" of the park you are interested in helping with.

**IF everyone picks up sticks or limbs on the trails while they are at the Parks and Natural Areas, the trails will maintain themselves! Thank You!**

The Parks maps will continue to be available at the Township Hall and at many of our parks & local businesses. Hiking, biking, family adventure, picnic areas, snow shoeing/cross country skiing, fishing, hunting, swimming, playgrounds and sports facilities are all available close to home. We are not only hoping to promote the use of our parks but to encourage a sense of community ownership. We are currently in discussions with The Conservancy to have two of our Parks, Timbers (Two times a week) & South Long Lake Natural Area (One time a week), groomed for cross country skiing this winter along with plowing the walking path here at Haywood Park. This winter will be a "trial period" and the ability to continue this will depend on the amount of snow that falls.

I am looking for a leader for Gilbert Park. If you are interested, please contact me at 231-946-2249 ext. 206.

### Current Park Leaders:

South Long Lake Natural Area—Peter Zirnhelt—590-1800—email—[pdzirnhelt@aol.com](mailto:pdzirnhelt@aol.com)  
Cedar Run Creek Natural Area—Shirley Mesch—499-1318—email—[smesch5@hotmail.com](mailto:smesch5@hotmail.com)  
Bullhead Lake Natural Area—Rondi Fry—517-927-6725—email—[rondifry47@gmail.com](mailto:rondifry47@gmail.com) and  
Annie Gurian—410-978-8830—email—[abgurian@gmail.com](mailto:abgurian@gmail.com)  
Taylor Park—Glen Gravette—946-7256—email—[glenster63@yahoo.com](mailto:glenster63@yahoo.com)  
Gilbert park—VACANT  
Fisher Run—Mark Cerny—709-6620—email—[mcerny7421@aol.com](mailto:mcerny7421@aol.com)

If you have any questions or comments regarding our parks, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number below.

Thank you,  
Trish Mehney (Township Treasurer and Parks & Recreation Chair)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWARD GEERLINGS

Howard has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals continuously for 26 years. He has served as Chairman for most of that time. A big "Thank You" goes out to Howard for his continued support and commitment to the Township.



## To register to vote in Michigan you must be:

- 1) A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote.
- 2) A citizen of the United States of America
- 3) At least 18 years of age (by election date)
- 4) Not serving a sentence in jail or prison

You may stop by the Clerk's Office at the Township  
Tues-Fri from 8:00 am—5:30 pm to register to vote



8870 North Long Lake Road  
Traverse City, Mi. 49685  
231-946-2249 fax- 231-946-4573  
Office Hours: Tues-Friday  
8:00-5:30

### Long Lakers Senior Group

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 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 Commission on Aging for help to fund the Long Lakers Activity Programs.



### Election Dates:

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|------------------|---|
| March 8, 2016    | Presidential Primary<br>(Last day to register-Feb. 8, 2016) |
| August 2, 2016   | Primary Election<br>(Last day to register-July 5, 2016)     |
| November 8, 2016 | General Election<br>(Last day to register-October 11, 2016) |

For further information, go to  
[www.longlaketownship.com](http://www.longlaketownship.com)

More than 600 of you completed the Township's Recreation Survey. Because of your help, we have important information that will help us set priorities for an upcoming update to the Township's Recreation Plan. Public input helps the Recreation Committee to develop priorities for recreation improvements in the Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires us to keep a current recreation plan on file with them in order to apply for any MDNR grant assistance.

You told us a lot, here are a few highlights:

- Development of roadside bike lanes was the highest priority for recreation improvements – 61% of the respondents thought this was a needed improvement. In fact, along with roadside bike lanes, regional trail connections and separated bike trails were the 3 highest priorities for those completing the survey. Multi-use and bike trails are very important to you!
- The top three recreational activities that you participate in are walking, swimming, or hiking (more than 80% of you reported doing these routinely). More than 70% of you routinely engage in biking, boating, fishing, kayaking/canoeing, or picnicking.
- The highest priority improvements for existing parks were parking improvements, restroom improvements, and accommodations for the disabled all at Crescent Shores boat launch.
- Of those hoping for winter trail grooming, most respondents would like to see this at the Timbers Recreational Area, followed by Cedar Run Creek, Haywood Park, and South Long Lake Forest.
- Although many of you felt that there is enough parkland in the Township, a majority still supports saving more natural areas from development.

A more complete snapshot of the survey results can be found on the Township's website.

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The Township is seeking applicants to fill slots on both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission. If you are interested, please contact our office for more information.



Linwood Cemetery closes for the winter on November 1st and will re-open in the spring.