

CLT Newsletter

Summer 2018

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Clean Up Day & Recycling: Much is new this year regarding various “junk” days. On the township level, the board voted to host *two* Saturday Clean Up Days, one on May 5 (history, obviously, by the time you are reading this) and a second one on August 4. Also note the shorter hours, 8-11 (not Noon). As always, it will be first come first served so when trucks are full, collection will end. We will continue to have a recycling team present to pick over any reusable junk that could be averted from landfill. Lastly, there will be a new location –NOT at the former collection site– but the new site is undetermined as of this newsletter printing. Look for updated information, including what is allowed and what is prohibited, by doing any of the following: drive by our outdoor bulletin board, check out the township website, look for our newspaper ad, or get a handout at the township hall offices. Don’t forget to bring proof of your CLT residency; one can be procured at the township hall if you don’t already possess the little red ID card.

On the county level, by the time you are reading this letter, there will be only one Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collections left in 2018, also on that Saturday, August 4th, but in Honor, 9 AM – 1 PM. All county-sponsored clean up days require an appointment, so call #882-0554 in advance. For details on what can be brought for the Collection, go to www.benzierecycler@benzienco.net. (CLT has a link on its website, too.) Here are some highlights: There will be no charge to recycle computer equipment and small miscellaneous electronic items this year. There will be a charge of \$.30/lb for TV’s and CRT monitors. Mattress & box springs? You can have them recycled for a fee of \$10/unit; there is a limit, so get on the list early. And did you know that latex paint can be recycled at anytime at Ace Hardware (Benzonia) and Honor Building Supply for a small fee? They deliver it over to Epaint of Battle Creek who then turns your leftover water-based paints into a new product to be sold at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Last but not least, returning summer residents and snowbirds will see that Frankfort’s recycling bins are now relocated to the southern end of 10th street, just south of Port City Fish, nearer to the bay. This is a temporary location while the county seeks a better, permanent location. Be careful since the road to reach them crosses the bike path, which is always well populated. Also, remember that there is a dedicated dumpster there to collect your pulled invasive species plants.

Elections: Vote on August 7th. This year all Michigan voters will get to use new voting machines, expected to be quicker and more efficient than the previous ones. Give us your comments and suggestions after you try them out. If you can’t be present to vote in person on August 7, don’t forget to request an Absentee Ballot as soon as possible. We need enough time for the U.S. Post Office to deliver the ballot to you and then for you to return it before election day. There are several (millage) proposals plus primaries for governor, US Senate, Congressional 1st District, Michigan State Senate 35th District, Michigan State Representative for the 101st District, County Road Commission, County Commission representing the 3rd District (Frankfort and CLT), county Convention party delegates. For the official candidate list and the official proposal list, check out Benzie County’s website, or our CLT website under “Elections.”

Environment: Crystal Lake Township, as our logo celebrates, is the Land of Three Waters. We are fortunate to have three notable bodies of waters within our borders: Lake Michigan, Crystal Lake and the Betsie River. Maintaining their water quality is a high priority for our community. And no wonder! It makes sense for a variety of reasons, including personal health, aesthetic beauty, wildlife retention and general ecologic viability, not to mention all the business advantages into which those reasons translate. It would not be a stretch to say that water quality is the fuel for our northern Michigan economic engine. Towards preservation of Crystal Lake’s beautiful water and specifically towards the eradication of the dreaded swimmer’s itch, there will be continuing joint efforts between Crystal Lake & Watershed Association and Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources. Just as they did last summer, the CLWA is contracting with Swimmer’s Itch Solutions LLC, headed by Dr. Curtis Blankespoor, to trap and relocate merganser broods. SIS is also seeking to locate and eliminate nesting sites, to discourage future breeding around the lake. You can assist the CLWA’s efforts to control swimmer’s itch by reporting sightings of merganser nesting behavior and broods on the lake. To report,

go to <http://swimmersitchsolutions.com/crystallake>. Last year's program successfully removed all known broods from the lake and, as a result, the SI infection rate is expected to decrease in 2018.

Speaking of water quality, medicines should never be put in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Instead, put your pills in the "POD." Dispose of your outdated or unwanted meds at the Benzie County Sheriff's Department's Prescription & Over the Counter Drug Drop-Off box --or "POD" ---in their lobby at 505 S. Michigan Ave. Beulah. Although there once was a collection system using yellow jugs placed at pharmacies around the area dedicated to do the same thing, that program funding has dried up. Now the sheriff's office is the only place one can safely and properly bring unwanted & expired medicines, prescription drugs, and controlled substances. No sharps are allowed, however. Consider not storing medicines in the home and using this service for another reason, as well, since it can reduce possible prescription drug abuse and accidental poisoning. Questions? Call #882-0554.

Fireworks: Every year there are more and more complaints about citizens setting off their own fireworks. There is only a narrow scope of conditions in which fireworks are legal. Although the State of Michigan allows the discharge of certain consumer-grade fireworks on the day preceding, the day of, or the day after any of the 10 listed federal holidays, CLT has passed an ordinance that restricts that usage, as is its statutory prerogative to do. CLT's full policy on fireworks is available in hardcopy at the township hall or is readily available online at the township website. Check the ordinance for details, but here is a summary. Landladies? Landlords? Parties who rent their properties are urged not only to become acquainted with these restrictions themselves but to make sure their renters are aware/adhere to them, as well. We even highly recommend renters be informed *before* they rent, and rules be posted on premises, too. Violations of this (or any other) CLT ordinance may result in citations being issued and responsible parties found subject to the penalties as provided in Civil Infraction Ordinance #2013-01-01.

No matter what day of the year, even on days surrounding holidays, discharge of fireworks is not allowed if:

- between the hours of 11 PM and 8 AM;
- they result in the inordinate disruption of residents as indicated by the injured party's specific request to desist;
- ignited by person(s) under the influence of alcoholic liquor or a controlled substance, and/or acting in a manner that such behavior would reasonably be judged to jeopardize the health, safety and general welfare of people or property;
- ignited by minor or, if a minor, not directly supervised by a parent or guardian;
- within 200 feet of a residential building or a vehicle;
- they result in damage or pollution (littering or contamination) to public or private property *including bodies of water*;
- a burn ban is in effect;
- deemed illegal for consumer use;
- on public property;
- within 20 feet of open flame, or something capable of combustion (e.g. gasoline, ignited cooking grill); or
- otherwise deemed an imminent danger or threat to public health, safety or welfare.

Planning & Zoning: Do you vote here? Do you pay taxes here? Interested in your township's long range planning? Here is a chance to give public input on the township's capital improvement strategies going forward. Come and express your views at a public hearing on July 25th at 7 PM. Discussions will review the existing Capital Improvements Plan, including such long-term capital improvement projects as improvements and/or expansion of the cemeteries, the continuing improvement to roads, and improvements and/or additions to the township hall.

Roads: Brining. It involves the spraying of salt water solutions onto any one of our five unpaved township roads (Cox, Esplanade, Graves, Marquette Ct and/or Onkeonwe) up to twice per summer in an attempt to keep seasonal dust controlled. We previously ordered this accomplished every summer just as a matter of course. However, a couple of years ago, we started to opt out of the Benzie Road Commission program *unless* residents living on those roads asked for it. If you are such a resident, please express your opinions to the township board as soon as possible. As of the date of this printing, residents on Cox Road, Marquette Ct/Maple Arch have already requested their roads be brined.