



Crystal Lake Township 2021 Summer Newsletter

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(231) 352-9791 and www.crystallaketwp.org

Township Business. . . Back to “Normal”?

Life in the last 18 months has certainly changed the definition of “normal.” With the reoccurring spikes in state-wide reported cases and the uncertainty of many other factors, our concerns about COVID-19 transmittal continue. For township business this summer and until further notice, the best practice is to communicate your concerns by phone or email. Check out whether the township official or staff member you need has resumed regular office hours. If issues can’t be resolved or questions answered, then it is possible to make an in-person appointment. We are still at work and serving our constituents. We thank you in advance for your flexibility until the pandemic is behind us and thank you for your patience with the whole situation.

Broadband:

The township will be receiving funds from American Rescue Plan Act and the township board, at the time of composing this newsletter, anticipate committing the monies to expanding broadband in our township. Benzie County will be conducting a feasibility study to facilitate this project. We will keep everyone apprised of the progress.

Cemeteries:

This is a friendly reminder for all activities in the cemetery, whether it’s planning a burial or placing a pot of flowers, chat with the township supervisor first, please. Do you want to familiarize yourself with all the rules, such as no plastic or no visiting between dusk and dawn? Our Cemetery Ordinance has been updated and is available online, on our township website, or in hard copy, by request.



PLEASE NOTE: As of June 1, there are significant changes in burial fees especially for weekend burials. Also, we will no longer have burials on holidays and there are new costs related to monument foundations, effective in April.

Getting Rid of Your Big Trash Items:

The first Clean-Up Day was in May and the next will be 8 to 11 a.m., Sat., Aug. 7, at the Frankfort Dow Memorial Airport, 650 Airport Rd., in Frankfort. Metal recyclers will be present. See our website for additional details. Please go to Benzie County Recycling and Solid Waste Department at www.benzieco.net or call (231) 882-0554 for special household, hazardous waste and electronic recycling.

IS OUR ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS SAFE?

Yes, at Crystal Lake Township we have check-and-balance systems set up throughout the process.

- There is a 3-way check for signature conformity: the signatures on the Absentee Application and the Ballot Return Envelope must agree with each other, and with the signature on file from the voter's Driver's License.
- Once the signatures are checked and the ballot numbers on the envelopes are entered in the computer system the day returned, the Ballots remain in their sealed envelopes and are kept in a secure lock box.
- Every two weeks, staff members from different political parties cross-check the envelope information against the current computer list for possible errors.
- On Election Day, election inspectors from different political parties work as a team to compare the information on the envelopes against the final computer list, they open the envelopes and separate them from the ballots to ensure anonymity.
- The individual ballots are placed in an election tabulator specifically designated for absentee ballots.
- At the end of the night, the number of ballots recorded by this tabulator must agree with the number on the computer list and the number of empty envelopes.
- If not, all the ballots are once again run through the tabulator and, if necessary, counted by hand.
- At all times, there are representatives from each party present.

Last year was confusing to many people, because unsolicited Absent Voter Applications were sent by the state, political parties, and non-profit groups. Let us know if you would like to be on our list to regularly receive an Absent Voter Application, because we will only mail one to those who request one. There will be an election on Tue., Nov. 2, 2021.

PLEASE HELP: If you receive election mail addressed to someone who no longer lives at your address, please let us know as soon as possible. We frequently have no other way to know if someone moves out of our jurisdiction.

Volunteering at the Township:

We welcome participation! Want to get involved at the grassroots levels of governance? You can assist at all different levels of commitment. Consider the following positions or committees: Blight, Buildings & Grounds, Board of Review, Broadband, Cemeteries, Communications/Media Outreach, Environment, Fence Viewer, Financial Oversight, Personnel, and Procedures & Policy. Please contact the Supervisor for details.