

Crystal Lake Township Newsletter

Summer 2023

1651 Frankfort Highway, POB 2129, Frankfort, MI 49635
231-352-9791
www.crystallaketwp.org



LOWER TAXES In April, the CLT Board voted to lower the allocated operating millage rate from .6795 to .5000 or from about 68 cents to 50 cents per every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value.

ZONING

Are you are planning a property improvement project such as a new shed, deck, or fence? Whether you are creating a beach, re-routing a driveway, or embarking on variety of other projects, it all starts with our zoning department. That's because a zoning permit may be required *before* a building permit.

Check with the township zoning office before making any changes to your property.



WE'RE READY FOR OUR CLOSEUPS

A healthy republic depends on an involved public and principled leaders. In an effort to make township business more visible, more transparent, more accessible, more convenient, and more accountable, a township video system was installed. You can now watch the board meetings in real time, or watch the videos on our new YouTube channel at a time of your choosing. The law still states that your interactive participation in a live meeting must be in person. But watching or listening to a meeting remotely is still a great benefit. Come join us from afar, if not in person. **Check the website for details** on how to tune in for live streaming or to view after the fact, or use <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=folrJXVwf-Q>

ELECTIONS

The passage of the 2022-2 *Promote the Vote Initiative* brought changes to the election process. The biggest change was the right to vote in person in all statewide and federal elections at an early voting site for nine consecutive days beginning the second Saturday before the election. The Bureau of Elections is working to get these new procedures in place for upcoming elections. The next scheduled election is November 7, 2023. Thus, plans include offering early, in-person for the required nine consecutive days—Saturday, October 28, through Sunday, November 5, 2023—prior to Election Day. If you are interested in working elections as an election inspector, please contact Clerk Judy VanMeter for more information and an application at clerk.clt@gmail.com. Check the Township website for ongoing election updates.

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES

It is required boats be washed prior to being launched into Crystal Lake if they have been operated in another watershed in the last 10 days. A hot water boat wash is located on the DNR Boat Ramp Rd., M-115 at Mollineaux Road. It is open May-October, and there is no charge for its use.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Did you know that Public Act 415 of 1994 requires you to notify our assessing officers (Jill or Dave Brown) of any transfer of CLT property within 45 days of that transfer? This includes putting your property into a trust, or adding/subtracting another name to the deed.

FIREWORKS



TOWNSHIP LAW provides legal fireworks are ALLOWED ONLY:

- 11:00 a.m. on December 31 to 1:00 a.m. on January 1
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on June 29 and 30, and July 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on July 5, only if that date is a Friday or Saturday
- 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day

STATE LAW regulates fireworks on ALL DAYS of the year in the following ways:

- NEVER on public property (beaches, streets/sidewalks) near hospitals, schools, playgrounds, parks;
- NEVER during a declared burn ban;
- NEVER if ignitor(s) are under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants;
- ONLY if consumer or low impact grade products and NEVER commercial grade or homemade;
- NEVER if they are deemed illegal or if not approved by the State of Michigan and/or the State Fire Marshall regardless of how it is labeled.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FIREWORKS PAGE for more details.

CRYSTAL LAKE asks you to be mindful of the pollution fireworks cause over or near the water.

HOMEOWNERS are asked to be responsible for informing their families, guests, and renters of the rules.

CLEANUP DAYS & RECYCLING

Recycling and disposal details may be found on our website's **RECYCLING** and **CLEANUP DAYS** pages.

- **Township level:** The next Cleanup Day is August 5, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (or until trucks are full), at the Frankfort Dow Memorial Airport. Although this day is primarily for getting rid of large and unwieldy items beyond ordinary waste pick up, metal is also collected at the site and recycled. Among other things, we do not collect construction, medical, or hazardous waste nor tires. We also reserve the right to limit amounts.
- **County level:** There are 24/7 recycling bins placed strategically throughout the county. Single Stream Recycling is in place so that clean tin, aluminum, and plastic containers may go in the same bin as paper and flat boxes. You may now recycle all numbers of plastics #1 through #7. Plastic bags with a # on them may go in the bin with the other recyclables.
- **County special collections yet left in this season** are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday mornings: July 15th in Thompsonville for scrap tires only and August 12th at the Benzie County Road Commission in Honor for hazardous household waste, electronics and scrap tires. Appointments must be made prior via email: BenzieRecycler@benzieco.net, or by calling #231-882-0554.
- **At the private business level**, companies such as Republic Services, or GFL (formerly American Waste) may arrange for private pickups and some recycling for a fee. We also recommend you check out Northern Michigan Waste in Thompsonville who specializes in both recycling and disposal. Call them at 231-342-6036, or look them up at www.northerndisposal.com.