



Crystal Lake Township Newsletter

Summer 2024

1651 Frankfort Hwy/ POB 2129 Frankfort, MI 49635
#231-352-9791 www.crystallaketwp.org

CLEAN UP DAYS: The first CleanUp Day in May went swimmingly in the wet weather. Another CleanUp Day is slated for August 3rd. Take note the location has changed; we are very grateful to Frankfort's Graceland Fruit at the corner of M-22 and M-115 for allowing us use their ample parking lot. Check our website for a traffic map/flyer or pick up a hard copy at the hall. Thank you to all the wonderful CLT volunteers assisting the paid GFL Environmental employees including Dave Spragens, Mark Walton, Brian Halliday, Jay Burt and (not pictured here) Sondra Halliday, Jill Marble, and Leroy Reed.



ELECTIONS UPDATE



Special thanks go to all of the election inspectors who made the February 27 Presidential Primary Election and the May 7 Special Election successes! A round of applause goes to Anne Burt, Jesse Burt, Harold Comer, Molly Comer, Sonya Dykehouse, Kathy Fishburn, Miranda Guzman-Shrake, Brian Halliday, Deputy Clerk Sondra Halliday, Melissa Hamp, Darlyne Leete, Ruth Paris, Maryellen Paull, Elizabeth Rodgers, Amy Schindler, Elizabeth Shrake, Sue Sullivan, Liam Jones Tabora, Sue Webber, Cathy Wilkinson, David Wynne, Janet Wynne, and Clerk Judy VanMeter. We're already gearing up for the last two elections of 2024—the August 6 State Primary Election and the November 5 General Election. These will be busy days for sure! You are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot or take advantage of the nine days of early voting prior to election day. The Crystal Lake Township Hall will be the early voting site for CLT residents, and it will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For the August 6 State Primary Election, the early voting days begin on Saturday, July 27, and for the November 5 General Election the early voting days begin on Saturday, October 26. If you have questions, please contact Clerk for further information at 231-352-9791 or clerk.clt@gmail.com. Watch the CLT website for further election updates.

FIREWORKS: Both the State of Michigan and Crystal Lake Township have policies that govern the use of fireworks. Rules, including dates/times permitted and acceptable types of fireworks are posted to the Crystal Lake Township website. State and local Fireworks rules specifically prohibit the use of *any* fireworks on public property and also prohibit non-licensed persons the ignition of *anything* above consumer grade. There are other factors to consider for lawful use of fireworks such as fire danger levels and the use of alcohol or drugs. Your township officials and the Crystal Lake Watershed Association warn of the water/land/air pollution caused by fireworks and the lack of cleanup by users. Property owners are expected to notify family/renters/guests, of fireworks rules including dates allowed and types of fireworks permissible. Violators will be cited.

IRONMAN 70.3 Triathlon & MICHIGAN RAGNAR: Frankfort officials have agreed to host the Ironman 70.3 for the fourth consecutive year, and Crystal Lake Township officials voted to support the event by allowing bikers to utilize our township roads. This year's event will be September 15, 2024. Next year, it is rumored to go back to a Traverse City venue. On September 20 and 21, the RAGNAR Michigan Relay Road Race from Traverse City to Muskegon will pass through the Township. More details for both events are found online.

STAFF UPDATE: Please give a hearty shout out of appreciation as there is a changing of the CLT guard. Jill Marble had been enjoying retirement following a long career in the State of Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources when she was coaxed into coming back for more government service. After helping in some of CLT’s hourly positions, she is now appointed treasurer as Brooke Popp (new airport manager) and her deputy Mary Goodman (treasurer at Lake Township) left in March. The new deputy treasurer is Elaine Walton, a recently retired college administrator. Mike Pasche resigned from the Planning Commission and became an alternate for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Our former Enforcement Officer, Grant Sowa, moved on to a much cooler job, that of serving up ice cream in Honor. Healthcare worker, Abby Ellsworth, volunteered to head up the new CLT Environmental Committee. Last but not least, retired attorney, David Spragens was appointed to both our Planning Commission and as our new CLT rep to the Airport Authority. Interested in joining the CLT team? We are urgently looking to hire/appoint –among other positions listed on the website-- a new Ordinance Enforcement Officer, a Cemetery Committee member with family in East Cemetery, and members of the Media Committee and Board of Review. Are you interested in serving? Call Supervisor Amy Ferris.



Photo: Rain or shine, your public servants are there for you. Here, Deputy Clerk Sondra Halliday (left) helps initiate the Treasurer Jill Marble (right) into all aspects of her new job: SURPRISE! You’ll be collecting garbage as well as taxes!

NEW FOR BOARD MEETINGS: A) Take note of our new monthly board meeting times and dates. **We now convene at 6 p.m. each third Wednesday of every month.**

B) We bought an “Owl” camera system a year ago and, with great success, have provided video-recorded Township Board meetings on a YouTube channel ever since. While we encourage you to attend in person, the monthly post-meeting videos are available as another useful option. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive. View the Crystal Lake Township YouTube channel here at <https://www.youtube.com/@CrystalLakeTownship-BenzieCoun>.



WEBSITE: CLT is always working to improve communications with our constituents. The CLT website is full of relevant information in an easy-to-access format. The most recent news, updates, meeting notices, and meeting minutes are posted on the homepage for quick access to “the latest.” From the menu banner across the top of the home page, the alphabetical drop-down boxes are loaded with information regarding zoning, assessing, property tax lookup, cemeteries, our planning commission, FOIA, roads, township history, fire & rescue and more. A Staff page is popular for quick lookup of contact information and picture ID of your elected, hired and appointed staff members.

BROADBAND: In 2023, the Township Board voted to financially support the “open access” fiber optic cable that has been installed along M-115 and elsewhere in our area by granting its \$100K+ in America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for connecting our under-served and the un-served constituents to broadband services. Cherry Capital Connections (CCC) has completed the first leg, from Benzonia to the fire station in Frankfort, including a fiber distribution center at the Crystal Lake Township Hall. Cherry Capital Connections has provided the township with a proposed service map for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025. Ultimately, the plan is to bring fiber service to every household and small business in our service region. Their efforts will be focused on delivering the best possible high speed internet access and telephone service at a reasonable price using this critical fiber optic infrastructure. It won’t happen overnight, but it’s started. Check out the proposed service map on our website.