



DRAFT FOR APPROVAL 6-15-21

Crystal Lake Township Newsletter Summer 2021

1651 Frankfort Hwy/ POB 2129 Frankfort, MI 49635
#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 C.O.V.I.D. transmittal continue. For township business this summer and until further notice, the best practice is to first communicate your concerns by phone or email. Check out whether the township official or staff member you need to contact has resumed regular office hours. If not, we are still at work. If issues can’t be resolved or questions answered, then it is possible to make an in-person appointment. We are still here to serve our constituents, and are continuing to be flexible on how business is conducted until this whole situation is well behind us. We thank you for your patience with the whole situation.

Broadband:

The township will be receiving funds from American Rescue Plan Act and we on the township board, at the time of this newsletter being composed, 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 that all activities in the cemetery, whether it be planning a burial or placing out a pot of flowers, please chat with the township supervisor first. Want to familiarize yourself 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 as well as in hard copies by request. PLEASE NOTE: As of June 1st, there are significant changes in burial fees in general, but especially for weekend burials and for those who do not currently own Crystal Lake Township property. And we will no longer have burials on holidays. There are also new costs related to the foundations (required to go all under monuments) that went into effect in April.

Elections: 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 Tuesday, November 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, Procedures & Policy. Contact the Supervisor.

Getting Rid of Your Big Trash Items: The first CleanUp Day was in May. The remaining township-sponsored cleanup event for 2021 will be Saturday, 8 to 11 a.m., Aug. 7. It will be located at the Frankfort Dow Memorial Airport, 650 Airport Rd., in Frankfort. Please go to our website for a list of acceptable and unacceptable items.



Committed to Recycling

Did you know that at the township hall there are buckets to recycle batteries and lightbulbs? Most folks know that further area recycling efforts are assisted by American Waste from the local drop-off containers (at the south end of 10th St. in Frankfort, for example). Did you know that there is a Construction & Demolition facility in Kalkaska? It recycles Wood, metal, cardboard, floor coverings, roofing, concrete, pallets, lumber, reclaimed lumber/plywood sheets, sticks (2x4's & 2x6's), wiring, reclaimed bricks cleaned of excess mortar, sheetrock/drywall, and miscellaneous items including mattresses, box springs, and couches.

So as not to contaminate the big red drop off containers, use these guidelines:

- 1) Throw away if items not accepted** (see list →) or if are larger than 2' x 2' and smaller than 2" x 2".
- 2) Keep everything separate, loose and unbagged** for "streaming"; items cannot be processed if bagged
- 3) Have all items clean, empty and dry;** make sure All food is removed but labels are OK; liquids can prevent them from being blown onto the correct conveyor belts
- 4) Keep caps and attached lids if the material is the same as the container;** they have a better chance of being recycled if together; DO remove lids from glass and remove plastic lining from cardboard boxes.
- 5) Keep containers in original shape, not flatten except DO flatten cardboard boxes.**

NO NO's:

- Anything wet including used paper towels, hand towels, tissues and wet paper cleaning materials
- Tanglers such as chains, hoses, rope, clothing, clothes hangers and tarps get caught in our machines and shut down the entire facility until someone crawls in and pulls them out, so even if a tangler is made of metal or another recyclable material, please keep it out
- Batteries—batteries of all types are not accepted; lithium batteries are extremely dangerous in recycling centers and recycling and garbage trucks
- Chip Bags—foil-lined plastic like chip bags and candy wrappers can't be recycled because the foil cannot be separated from the plastic
- CDs & DVDs, clothing, cork or diapers—all rejected!
- Fluids—fluids are not accepted, including automotive and cleaning
- Foam—foam wrap, polyurethane foam, memory foam, latex foam, foams used inside cushions and mattresses
- Glass—mirrors, tv/monitor glass, window glass
- Light Bulbs—fluorescent, tubes, CFLs, LEDs, any type
- Hazardous Waste & Solvents
- Medications or Marine Shrink Wrap
- Mixed Materials—paper mailing envelopes lined with plastic bubble wrap cannot be recycled because they different materials cannot be separated
- Packing Peanuts—because they make a terrible mess
- Paint—latex and oil-based paints and stains
- Propane Tanks — a dangerous hazard!
- Rubber—real or synthetic
- Sharp and Dangerous Items—since real people sort your recyclables, please, no needles, sharp sap metal, or other pointy or similar dangerous objects



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The Benzie County Recycling Dept. website lists resources about how and where many of the above materials can be recycled or at least safely stored: https://www.benzieco.net/departments/recycling_and_solid_waste/index.php.

Go to www.bsaonline.com for assessing and tax data, tax payments and tax payment receipts. This website is updated overnight during the tax season of July through Feb. and cannot be updated Mar. through June.

ALL Address Changes should be made with:

Jill Brown, Assessing Officer, at (231) 881-4000 or townshipassessing@gmail.com

Deed/Tax Process:

- Parcel has a change in name(s), ownership or transfers title
- Changes/transfers should be recorded with County Register of Deeds, (231) 882-0016
- Within 45 days, as required by law, Owner files Property Transfer Affidavit (form 2766/L-4260) with Assessor
- Register of Deeds forwards copy of recorded Deed to the Assessor
- Tax Rolls are created using ownership and address information on file with the Assessing Office as of the date the Tax Roll is created and shared with the Treasurer. (i.e. tax roll created June 3, sale/transfer occurs after June 3 – the information will not be on the tax roll for the July billing)

Transfer of Ownerships during:

June - Nov.

Dec. - June

Updated on bsaonline.com:

Dec.

July

- | Tax Roll for: | Created in: | Treasurer Mails by: | Taxes Due by: |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Summer Tax Bills | June | July | Sept. 14 |
| Winter Tax Bills | Nov. | Dec. | Feb. 14 |

***Mar. 1, all delinquent taxes are forwarded to Benzie County Treasurer, (231) 882-0011*

Assessor: Prepares Tax Roll including: name, ownership, and/or address changes, Principal Residence Exemptions (PRE) (previously referred to as Homestead Exemption, currently term is only for income tax purposes), property values and exemptions.

Treasurer: mails and process tax bills and payments. If a bill is not received, by State law, the tax is still owing. Township Treasurer can process payments by USPS postmark but the County Treasurer CANNOT.

Register of Deeds: parcel ownership changes, name changes (including corrections), if changes are due to death of owner, a death certificate will be requested.

Tax Formula: Taxable Value divided by 1000 and multiplied by millage rate equals tax amount. Taxes can be estimated online at: www.michigan.gov/taxes

