

SPRING LEAF DROP-OFF

The Spring Yard Waste Drop-Off Program will begin on Monday, April 11th and continue through Monday, May 2nd at the drop-off site located behind the DPW Building at 13300 168th Avenue.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m.

The drop-off is only meant for leaves, grass and similar yard waste. There is no dumping of wood, limbs or brush allowed.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Grand Haven Charter Township's website can be found at:

www.gh.t.org

In addition, in order to improve communications with Township residents, the Township is now on Facebook at :

<https://www.facebook.com/GHTownship/>



HEALTH POINTE — NEW PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT



scans, MRI scans, and an outpatient surgical suite, which was recently granted a Certificate of Need by the State of Michigan.

The goal of the Health Pointe facility is to provide local access for Holland Hospital and Spectrum Health patients who now have to travel for services. About 80% of the Health Pointe patients' health care needs can be met at this single, local facility. Health Pointe also addresses an Ottawa County Community

Health Needs Assessment finding which indicates a need for greater access to primary and specialty care.

This is supported by recent statistics that show that there is a **poor provider-to-patient ratio** in Ottawa County.

Although the state average is 1 physician per 1,240 patients — Ottawa County has a ratio of 1 physician per 1,620 patients, which is about **31% worse** than the state average. And, because Ottawa County is the fastest growing county in the State, this ratio could continue to decline without additional health care options for residents.

Once completed, it is expected that Health Pointe will employ **250 individuals** and will create about **160 new jobs**.

However, the Health Pointe project was controversial and a number of objections were raised. Two of these objections will be highlighted on the following pages.

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We are on the web
www.gh.t.org • info@gh.t.org

DELAY SAVES \$\$\$

The Township received bids in 2015 for the resurfacing of the Mercury Drive pathway between the City border and Pottawattomie Bayou.

Unfortunately, because the bids occurred later in the construction season and because of a relatively high number of similar paving projects, the bids received were higher than expected — about \$225,000. As a result, the Township rejected the bids and the Board budgeted to “re-bid” the project during 2016.

This March, the Township received six bids to resurface the same segment of the Mercury Drive pathway with a low bid of about \$176,000. This is a **savings of about \$49,000** when compared the price that was bid nine months earlier.

In addition to the Mercury Drive pathway, the Township will also resurface a portion of the Lakeshore Drive pathway — from Robbins Road to Hayes Street. The same six bidders offered bids on this project – with a low bid of about \$89,000, which was about **\$21,000 below budget projections**.

Other maintenance projects are also completed on the pathways on a regular basis which include fixing “potholes” and cracks, repairs to boardwalks and retaining walls, and re-stripping walkways.



NEWSLETTER

Economic Impact on NOCH

Opponents focused heavily on the potential negative economic impact that Health Pointe would have on NOCH.

In brief, opponents to Health Pointe argue that health care is not truly a free market and that Health Pointe will be able to focus on the most profitable health services drawing monies away from NOCH, who is required as a hospital to provide many services that are not profitable.

The predicted outcome of this dynamic is that NOCH would eventually fail financially.

The Board felt that this is a tenuous argument for denying zoning approval. Further, the Board felt that **residents deserve a “Choice”** for health care services without having to leave the community.

The Board's vote espoused a governance philosophy that elected officials should not use zoning regulations to pick “winners” and “losers” in the health care market.

Two days after the Township Board approved the Health Pointe facility, NOCH announced it had entered into a strategic alliance with the Mercy Health group to ensure its patients had “improved access” to health care.

Elected officials should not use zoning regulations to pick “winners” and “losers” in the health care market.

Permitted Uses

Opponents argued that although “Permitted Uses” in Commercial districts allows for “office buildings”; “medical offices” are not specifically listed. Further, because medical offices are only listed in the Service/Professional District, Health Pointe should not be allowed in a Commercial PUD.

The elected officials acknowledged that there is ambiguity in the Zoning Ordinance with regard to the term “office buildings”. The Board noted that large and complex developments often will raise issues that were not anticipated when the ordinances were originally drafted.

But, after reviewing numerous legal opinions and case law, the Board sided with the Township attorney and determined that the term “**office buildings**” in the Commercial zoning district was broad enough to include “**medical offices**”.

In reaching this decision, the Board continued a governance philosophy that encourages ambiguities in any ordinance to be interpreted to the “benefit” of the property owner — not the Township.

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Long Process

The Township began work on the Health Pointe project in **March of 2015**.

The Township Board held one public hearing and reviewed the Health Pointe application at four additional public meetings. A total of **66** different people spoke at these five meetings. A breakdown of these 66 speakers indicates the following:

1. 44 (*or about 67%*) of the speakers were non-residents; 22 (*or about 33%*) of the speakers were residents of the Township.
2. 23 (*or about 35%*) of the speakers were affiliated with NOCH; 11 (*or about 17%*) of the speakers were affiliated with either Spectrum Health or Holland Hospital. Not surprisingly 100% of the speakers affiliated with NOCH opposed the Health Pointe project while 100% of the speakers affiliated with Spectrum Health or Holland Hospital supported the project.

At the end, **the Township Board voted 6 to 1** to support the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Health Pointe application and amend the Meijer Planned Unit Development.

For more detailed information on the Health Pointe approval process, residents are directed to a report on the Township’s web site:

<http://www.ght.org/wp-content/uploads/delightful-downloads/2016/04/Health-Pointe-Discussion.pdf>

MASTER PLAN

The draft of the proposed Township master plan and related documents are available on the Township’s website:

<http://www.ght.org/departments/community-development/>

The plan is the culmination of two years of study completed jointly with the City of Grand Haven through a grant program entitled “Resilient Grand Haven”.

Watch the Township’s Facebook page for meeting updates.



“PAPERLESS” BILLING

Grand Haven Charter Township will be implementing a **paperless billing option** allowing residents to receive their utility bills via email.

In order to sign up for the new paperless billing option, water and sewer users can go to the Township’s website at www.ght.org and click on Forms & Ordinances, go to Water/Sewer and select the “Electronic Billing Application” form.

Once completed, simply return the form to either kwalsh@ght.org or mail to:

Grand Haven Charter Township
Utility Billing
13300 168th Avenue
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Once the form has been processed by the Township, a confirmation email will be sent. A reply to the confirmation must be received by the Township to

ensure that registration is complete and that all future utility bills will be sent via email.

TEAM 911 ACADEMY

Grand Haven Township Fire/Rescue will be teaming up with Ottawa County Sheriffs Office for the ninth annual **Team 911 Academy**, which will begin on Monday, June 20th and continue through June 24th.

This one week program is designed for teens interested in a career in Fire/Rescue, Police, or EMS and it is impressive to note that many of the graduates have gone on to work for local police, fire or ambulance services – including two graduates that currently work the Township’s Fire/Rescue department.

For more information please contact:

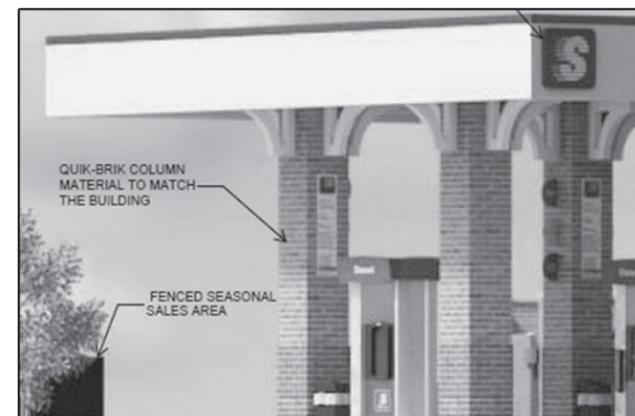
David Peterson at dpeterson@ght.org

SPEEDWAY APPROVAL

Speedway received zoning approval to construct a **4,600 square foot** Speedway Gas Station and Convenience Store.

The facility will include fourteen fueling stations for the public and three additional fueling stations for large commercial vehicles.

This facility will operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.



Construction will begin this Spring with an expected opening this December.

The Speedway PUD also includes another four acre lot that will be developed at some future date.