



FALL LEAF DROP-OFF

The Fall Yard Waste Drop-Off Program will begin on Friday, October 21st and continue through Monday, November 21st 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.org

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

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



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Trustee Howard Behm
Trustee Mike Hutchins
Trustee Calvin Meeusen
Trustee Ron Redick



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

choices are needed for empty-nesters and retirees as they settle into the Township to celebrate their golden years.

This information has led to two new proposed projects that cater to those “aging in place”—a senior living campus and a state-licensed nursing care facility.

The senior living campus proposes to locate on approximately 30 acres on Rosy Mound Drive and will consist of 30 senior cottages, 116 senior apartments, and 110 assisted living units. Amenities within this development would include a central dining room, theater room, laundry rooms, guest suites, library, game and billiard room, fitness center, art and crafts room, beauty salon, etc.

The state-licensed nursing care facility proposes to

locate on 15 acres at the northeast corner of Comstock Street and 172nd Avenue.

This 75,000 square foot nursing care facility would include 120 beds in 48 private rooms and 36 semi-private rooms. This nursing home includes a second phase that would allow for a future expansion that would add another 20 beds.

Both projects are currently in the pre-application phase where the developer meets with staff to work through some of the fundamentals of the Zoning Ordinance. It is anticipated that both will formally submit applications by the end of 2016 or beginning of 2017.

If approved by the Planning Commission and Township Board, construction on these needed amenities could begin in 2017.

PHASE III BIKE PATH EXPANSION — BALLOT PROPOSAL

Grand Haven Charter Township maintains about **28 miles of bike paths** that were paid through special voter approved millages.

The Phase I Bike Path millage was approved in 1990 for **0.90 mills**. The Phase II Bike Path millage was approved in 1998 for about **0.75 mills**.

A proposed Phase III ten mile extension of the Township’s pathway system has been placed on the November ballot for voters to consider. This millage will be **0.45 mills**, or half of the original 1990 millage.

Because of growth in the Township’s tax base, the amount of millage needed to complete these pathway projects continues to decline↓.

The tentative construction schedule would complete 1.6 miles of new pathway in 2017; 3.5 miles in 2018; and, 4.9 miles in 2019. *(The most time consuming part of a*

bike path project is receiving the necessary easements.)

If the Phase III Bike Path millage is approved in November, the Township will issue a \$4.5 million bond in 2017. Fortunately, the Township has very little debt, utilizing **about 1%** of the \$83,235,160 in debt that the Township is authorized to issue by the state.

Further, the Township’s Water Debt will be paid off in 2017. This means the net increase to residents after 2017 will be merely 0.25 mills for ten miles of new pathways.

Please take the time to vote at the November elections.



Item No.	Description	Cost Estimate	Length	Year
1	Bike Path along Buchanan Street (Lakeshore to 168 th)	\$ 491,750	0.8 miles	2017
2	Bike Path along Sleeper Street (168 th to Hofma Preserve)	\$ 151,180	0.8 miles	2017
3	Bike Path along Lincoln Street (Lakeshore to 168 th)	\$ 295,350	0.7 miles	2018
4	Bike Path along 152 nd Avenue (Ferris to Lincoln)	\$ 451,760	0.5 miles	2018
5	Bike Path along 168 th Avenue (Buchanan to Ferris)	\$ 608,150	1.5 miles	2018
6	Bike Path along Groesbeck Street (152 nd to west end)	\$ 210,130	0.8 miles	2018
7	Bike Path along Lincoln Street (East of US-31 to 144 th and connector to Ferris Street)	\$1,434,300	3.4 miles	2019
8	Bike Path along 144 th Avenue (Mercury to Lincoln)	\$ 773,730	1.5 miles	2019
Total Project Cost		\$4,416,350	10.0 miles	

NEWSLETTER

ZONING REFERENDUM

At the November 8th general election, Township voters will be asked to either approve or reject Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 541.

Unfortunately, there is some confusion about how this zoning referendum relates to the approval of the Health Pointe Planned Unit Development (PUD) project (*located on the north outlots of the Meijer property*).

To clarify this matter, the voters' approval or rejection of Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 541 will have no effect on the Health Pointe project.

Because both the Planning Commission and the Township Board approved the Health Pointe project based upon the existing zoning regulations, without Zoning Ordinance No. 541 being in effect, the Zoning Referendum has no effect on the Health Pointe project.

Moreover, an appeal to overturn the Township Board's approval of the Health Pointe PUD project was dismissed by the Circuit Court less than four months after it was filed.

The Zoning Referendum is not a vote on the Health Pointe project.

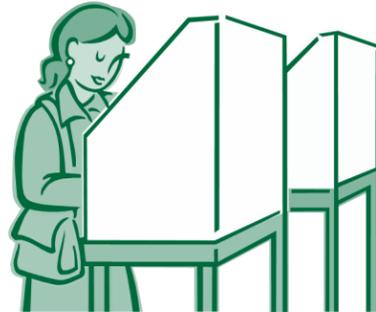
During consideration of the Health Pointe project, there were some regulations within the Zoning Ordinance that were questioned by those opposed to this new medical office building.

The Township Board and Planning Commission carefully listened to the arguments against Health Pointe and reviewed various legal opinions; but, determined that any regulatory ambiguities within the Zoning Ordinance were insufficient to warrant denying the Health Pointe project.

However, the Planning Commission and Board also adopted Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 541 to address these regulatory questions in order to avoid similar confusion in the future.

For example — without Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 541 — a developer could seek approval of a commercial planned unit development that consists of an “office building” used by accountants and sales representatives and anyone opposed could make the same type of “use” argument raised by opponents to the Health Pointe project — that accountants and sales representatives are an inappropriate “use” for a commercial PUD .

The referendum offers residents the choice of either maintaining the existing regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, without resolving the questions that have been raised, or clarifying any uncertainties and avoiding future confusion.



Bottom line — the question for voters is whether the Zoning Ordinance should **keep** or **correct** the regulatory ambiguities revealed during the Health Pointe PUD approval.

NOWS BOND REFUNDING

In 2009, the Northwest Ottawa Water System (NOWS) issued **\$15,420,000** in construction bonds through Ottawa County to expand the water treatment plant and Lake Michigan submerged intake. This bond issue took advantage of the Build America Bonds (BAB), a federal program that included a subsidy to reduce the interest cost to recipients.

At the time of the issuance, it was understood that refunding for BAB was not an option. However, there is now a mechanism to take advantage of both the BAB subsidy and the historically low interest rates.

The crossover refunding mechanism analysis indicated **total savings in the range of \$1.69 to \$1.98 million**, or 10.75% to 12.73% in net present value savings. As a result, Grand Haven Charter Township and the other member units of NOWS authorized Ottawa County to move forward with a bond refunding.

There is some uncertainty over the future actions from the federal government regarding the BAB program.

For example, the subsidy has already been reduced by the federal government by 6.9% with sequestration.

However, even with this uncertainty, savings from the refunding will still be substantial under the worst case scenario, which would be the elimination of the subsidy, resulting in about \$1.0 million in savings.

FIRE/RESCUE OPEN HOUSE

The Fire/Rescue department will hold the Annual Open House on October 11th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be food, drinks and safety demonstrations from various public safety organizations, and a opportunity to see the fire apparatus and equipment.

The newest equipment is a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) that includes both a slide-in fire suppression system and a patient transport unit. The UTV will be



mostly utilized for medical and rescue calls along the dunes and beach areas or assisting with the suppression of wild fires in areas of rugged terrain.

SMARTPOINT® PROJECT

Over the next five years, Grand Haven Township will be spending about **\$1.2 million** to complete a water meter radio transceiver replacement program.

The replacement device, called “SmartPoint®”, is a radio transceiver used to read your existing water meter. Currently, your water meter has a much older version of this device; but, is already read through a registered radio system.

As with the unit that is being replaced, the SmartPoint® device does not transmit any data until it receives a signal from a secure device owned by the Township.



This typically occurs four (4) times each year, just prior to your water bill being mailed.

Only Township staff will complete the installation. The installer will be wearing a Township uniform and carry a Township identification badge. These employees **WILL NOT** request or accept any money for payment. If you want to confirm that an installer is a Township employee, please call (616) 842-5988 and speak with a representative of the Public Works Department or Human Resources.

SmartPoint® devices will be installed Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. There are a limited number of evening and Saturday appointments, upon request.

Please ensure that the area around your water meter is clear and can be accessed by a worker. The replacement process normally takes 30 minutes or less.

If you have any questions regarding the SmartPoint® replacement program, please call Kristi Walsh at (616) 604-6325 or email kwalsh@ght.org.

Appointment requests can also be done at the Township's website:

www.ght.org/departments/public-services/smartpoint/

SENIOR HOUSING AND NURSING CARE

The Township adopted an updated Master Plan in April. A copy of the “2016 Resilient Grand Haven Master Plan” can be viewed on the Township's website at:

www.ght.org/departments/community-development/

One of the main take-a-way's from the plan was that residents are “aging in place,” and more housing