

SPRING LEAF DROP-OFF

The Spring Yard Waste Drop-Off Program will begin on Monday, April 10th and continue through Monday, May 1st. The drop-off site is 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, the Township has a presence on Facebook at :

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



CREDIT RATING

As part of the Pathway Expansion bond sale, Standard and Poors provided a "AA stable" credit rating for Grand Haven Charter Township.

Because of the Township's small size (*i.e., population of only 16,500±*) and because such a large percentage of the area's jobs are in manufacturing (*i.e., about 35%*), it was not realistic to expect the highest "AAA" rating from Standard and Poors.

That said, this credit rating is an affirmation of the exceptional financial management of staff and the prudent fiscal decisions from the Board that allowed for this positive rating.

Some of the assessments that led to the "AA stable" credit rating from Standard and Poors included the following:

- a. Strong management, with "good" financial policies and practices under Standard and Poors' Financial Management Assessment methodology;
- b. Strong budgetary performance, with operating surpluses in the general fund and at the total governmental fund level;
- c. Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2015 of 50% of operating expenditures;
- d. Very strong liquidity, with total government

available cash at 98.5% of total governmental fund expenditures and 25.4x governmental debt service;

- e. Adequate debt and contingent liability position, with debt service carrying charges at 3.9% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 138.3% of total governmental fund revenue;
- f. Low overall net debt at less than 3% of market value;
- g. No pension debt and very limited OPEB (*i.e., retiree health care*) liability; and
- h. A strong institutional framework score.

Standard and Poors provided a "AA stable" credit rating for Grand Haven Charter Township.

Partly due to the "AA stable" credit rating, the Township received seven bids for the Pathway Bond sale. A financial investment firm provided a very favorable low bid with a true interest cost of about **3.09%** for the 20-year bond.

Construction on the three-year, ten mile expansion of the Township's pathway system will begin during the Summer of 2017.

GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
13300 168TH AVENUE
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
PHONE: 616-842-5988 • FAX: 616-842-9419

Supervisor Mark Reenders
Clerk Laurie Larsen
Treasurer William A. Kieft III
Trustee Howard Behm
Trustee Calvin Meeusen
Trustee Ron Redick
Trustee David Gignac



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

In response, Grand Haven Charter Township plans to offer a monthly electronic newsletter that will be emailed to residents that want to stay informed on what is occurring at the local government level.

The first electronic newsletter through Constant Contact will be emailed in May for residents that sign-up for this service. (*The Township will not share this email list and will immediately remove any email at the request of the resident.*)

There is a saying that "Good government is dull government." Delivering water to your tap; applying dust control to gravel roads in the summer; keeping park restrooms clean; inspecting

home construction; responding to emergencies in a timely manner, etc., etc. is not exciting if done properly.

That said, the Township still wants residents that are engaged and aware of what is occurring. If you want to receive a monthly newsletter through your email account, please sign-up at:

www.gh.t.org/signup

The monthly newsletter will probably never be as entertaining as sports, music, movies or even Washington, D.C. But, the newsletter will help you know what is happening in the Township.

NEWSLETTER

ON-LINE RESERVATIONS

Through a collaborative effort between Ottawa County, Grand Haven Charter Township and some of our neighboring communities, the Board is pleased to offer an online reservations system for our park facilities.

To reserve a shelter in one of the Township Parks, please go to www.miottawa.org/ottawaparks, the reservation system which is hosted on the Ottawa County website. There is also a link on the Township's website.

All questions or concerns regarding reservations or payments should continue to be directed to the Township at (616) 842-5988.

“PAPERLESS” BILLING

The Township is now offering paperless bills for water and sewer customers.

If you would like to sign up to receive your utility bill via email, please send a request to utilitybilling@ght.org or call (616) 842-5988 to request an application.

HOME REPAIRS

The Neighborhood Impact Program (NIP) can help income eligible homeowners in the Grand Haven Charter Township, Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, and Spring Lake Township with eligible home repairs up to \$7,500.

If you are a homeowner for more than 18 months, your name is on the deed and your mortgage is current, call 616-935-3270 to find out if you qualify.

Eligible repairs include: Furnace, septic or sewer line, water heater, windows, siding, roof, gutters, insulation, soffit and fascia, exterior doors and more.

SAVE THE DATE

Grand Haven Charter Township scheduled a Community Engagement Event for Wednesday, **June 14th**, regarding the formation of a preliminary concept for the design and use of two recently acquired parcels.

These parcels include a 40 acre parcel located on Ferris Street (*commonly referred to as the Wolfe property*) and a 138 acre parcel on Sleeper Street (*commonly referred to as the Witteveen farm*). Both parcels have been added to Hofma Park and Preserve, which now encompasses about 585 acres.

After public input has been gathered regarding how these newly acquired park properties should be developed, there will be a joint meeting of the Township Board, Planning Commission and Parks Committee on Thursday, **July 6th**,

to review the aerial and street level designs regarding any structures and/or uses on the proposed parcels. During this joint meeting, preliminary cost estimates will also be presented.

Ultimately, these designs and cost estimates will be used to seek grant monies to help offset the costs associated with the development of these properties.

Residents of the Township will be hearing more about both events during the coming weeks. If you have an interest in the development of this additional parks land, you are encouraged to save the **June 14th** date and attend the event with your ideas on how to best develop these properties.



ZONING RE-DRAFT

The Grand Haven Charter Township Zoning Ordinance guides almost all development within our community. However, the last major review and update of the ordinance occurred in 1999.

Because of the new Township Master Plan that was approved in 2016, because of some ambiguities within the Zoning Ordinance that created controversy with the so-called Health Pointe development, and because of changes to both the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, the Board instructed staff to complete a re-draft of the Zoning Ordinance.

In addition, because of the record growth that has occurred in the Township — with about \$72 million of new construction in 2016 alone — it will be beneficial to craft regulations that protect both the residents and environment while allowing builders to continue to develop the housing and business options within our boundaries.

The Board recently authorized a contract with McKenna Associates — a planning consulting

The Board authorized a re-draft of the Zoning Ordinance, expected to take 12 months to complete.

firm experienced in these types of projects — to assist the Township with completing a Zoning update. The project is expected to take about 12 months to complete at a cost of about \$39,000.

The new ordinance will use more “form based” regulations, and will include numerous pictures, illustrations, charts and tables that are designed to simplify the development process within the Township.

FAST FACTS

Grand Haven Charter Township:

- Has a population of about 16,665 residents;
- Has an area of about 28 square miles;
- Has 107 miles of public streets and roads;
- Has 1,189 acres of public park land;
- Has 3,162 acres of agricultural land;
- Has two public cemeteries;
- Has 28 miles of paved pathways;
- Has 91 miles of water main;
- Has two 500,000 gallon water tanks;
- Has 20 miles of sanitary sewer mains; and,
- Has an SEV tax base of about \$963 million.

For additional facts and trends impacting the Township, a .pdf slideshow can be found at:

www.ghc.org/about/

MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

To increase transparency, the Township continues to offer full access to the meeting packets for Township Board meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and Zoning Board of Appeal meetings.

These meeting packets that contain all of the memoranda and reports (*except for protected legal opinions and attorney reports*) are posted on the Township web site at:

www.ghc.org/township-board/meeting-packets/

However, even with this meeting packet material, newsletters, tax inserts, and other Township mailings, it is difficult for most residents to remain engaged and informed.

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