

PAPERLESS BILLING

The Township offers 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

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Grand Haven Charter Township emails monthly newsletters to about 850 residents each month. If you would like to sign-up for this service, please visit:

www.gh.t.org

In addition, the Township is on Facebook at:

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



RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA

Proposal 1 – or what is now known as the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA) – was approved by voters within the State of Michigan with about 57% of the vote. However, it is noted that the ballot measure failed in both Ottawa County and in Grand Haven Charter Township.

The elected officials from the Township (*and all other communities in Ottawa County*) determined that the Township would adopt an police powers ordinance to “opt out” of the commercialization of marihuana by prohibiting marihuana establishments as defined under the MRTMA. (*A second zoning ordinance amendment that repeats the prohibition of marihuana facilities will also become part of the Township’s Zoning Ordinance.*)

It is important to understand both what the “Opt-Out” ordinance prohibits and, also, what it does not prohibit. Specifically, the “Opt-Out” ordinance **DOES NOT**:

2. **Prohibit Sale of Marihuana Accessories.**
3. **Prohibit Individual Use on Private Property.** The Township cannot prohibit use by a person 21 years of age and older within that person’s property and cannot prohibit use of marihuana on private property where the owner, occupier or manager has not prohibited its use – and that is not accessible to people under 21 years of age. For example, a hookah lounge that sells marihuana accessories, as noted above in 2, but is not licensed to sell marihuana, would, as long as the business is restricted to people 21 years of age and older, be able to allow people to bring and use personal supplies of marihuana.
4. **Prevent the Transfer of Marihuana.** Residents may transfer marihuana – without remuneration – up to 2.5 ounces of marihuana and not more than 15 grams of marihuana concentrate to a person 21 years of age or older as long as the transfer is not advertised or promoted to the public (*e.g., friend to friend*).



1. **Prohibit Individual Cultivation or Possession of Marihuana.** The ordinance does not prohibit individual cultivation (*up to 12 plants within their home*) or possession (*up to 2.5 ounces outside of home and 10 ounces within their home*) of marihuana by people 21 years of age and older.

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We are on the web
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In brief, this treatment entails covering a properly prepared gravel road with a layer of special liquid asphalt called prime, then a layer of small rocks is rolled and embedded in the liquid asphalt and the process is repeated. This process can extend the useful life of low-volume gravel roads by preventing water from penetrating the road surface, improving skid resistance, and suppressing road dust. Typically, an additional layer of a single chip seal should be considered every 5 to 7 years.

The Road Commission notes positive experiences where the treatment is placed on “*well prepared lower volume in particular, dead end gravel roads*”.

On the negative side, it is important to realize that the thickness of the prime and double chip is only

about ½ inch thick (*as compared to 3 inches for bituminous asphalt*) and must be re-done every five to seven years.

The cost is about \$110,000 per mile for prime and double chip, plus any costs needed to prepare the gravel road (*such as ditch work*).

Residents would be responsible for 50% of this cost through a special assessment process.

If are interested in learning more about Prime & Double Chip, please contact the Township by either calling (616) 842-5988 and speaking with Manager Bill Cargo or sending an email to:

info@gh.t.org

NEWSLETTER

5. **Prohibit Transportation of Marihuana.** The Township cannot prohibit the transport of marihuana through the Township – regardless of whether the Township completely prohibits recreational marihuana establishments from locating in the Township.

The “Opt-Out” Ordinance **DOES**:

1. **Completely Prohibit the Commercialization of Marihuana within the Township.** By adopting the “Opt-Out” ordinance, the Board is prohibiting commercial establishments that produce or transport or sell marihuana within the Township’s municipal boundaries.
2. **Disqualify the Township from any Marihuana Revenues Distributed by the State of Michigan.** Approximately 15% of the 10% excise tax on marihuana sales will be distributed to local units that allow commercial marihuana establishments. For example, if a retail marihuana store located in the Township had \$10,000 of retail sales every day, the Township would qualify for about \$54,750 of revenues and a licensing fee of not more than \$5,000. The \$59,750 maximum revenues in this example represents about 4/10ths of 1% of gross Township revenues.

Because the MRTMA allows for local units to decide whether marihuana businesses can be located in their communities and because the Township voters rejected “Proposal 1”, the Township has taken a position that the negative consequences and costs associated with the commercialization of marihuana will likely outweigh the benefits — especially since the majority of the monies collected (*i.e., about 90%*) will be directed toward schools and transportation regardless of whether the Township “opts-out”.

OTTAWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Ottawa Conservation District was founded in 1938 by several landowners concerned with soil degradation that resulted from years of negligent land management.

Today, the District provides information, technical

assistance, and funding to serve the local community and help promote natural resources conservation.



Some of the district services include:

1. **Identification and Treatment of Invasive Species.** West Michigan landowners can get assistance on invasive species identification, management assistance, and restoration options.
2. **Forestry Assistance Program.** The District Forester provides assessments related to timber stand improvement, habitat management, disease treatment, etc.
3. **Tree Seedling and Native Plant Fundraisers.** The Spring Tree Seedling Sale will be held in April of 2019 and the Spring Native Plant Sale will be held in May of 2019. Keep watch of the District’s website for catalogs and order forms.

Many of the services offered by the Ottawa Conservation District are free or have cost-share funds to reduce the financial burden.

To learn more about the Ottawa Conservation District please call (616) 842-5852 ext. 5, or visit:

www.ottawacd.org

PFAS TESTING

The North Ottawa Water System (NOWS) was tested two times in 2018 for PFAS (*sometimes known as perflourinated chemicals or PFCs*) – a large group of manmade chemicals that are fire resistant, and repel oil, stains, grease, and water.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) analysis reported a “not-detected” finding. However, NOWS also did preliminary sampling early in August that indicated a combined total (PFOA + PFOS) of 8.0 parts per trillion or ppt (*i.e., a level comparable to 8 seconds in 31,500 years*).

What do these two different test results mean? In brief, NOWS had two different times of sampling and two different laboratories providing the analysis. Therefore, it would be expected that results are very close to each other, but not a perfect match. With this type of “infinitesimal analysis”, the outcome would have only created concern if one lab was extremely high and the other very low. However, both of the test results are well below the current standard of 70 ppt.



As with any testing parameter, it will require more assessments. And with additional testing, NOWS can further affirm the low levels of PFAS contaminants in our water.

NOWS will continue to test for PFAS on an annual basis.

That said, if residents are concerned PFAS in their drinking water, some reverse osmosis filters or point-of-use (POU) granular activated carbon systems are certified to reduce PFAS. These systems will have the NSF P473 certification.

There may be other filters that lower PFAS. However, without the NSF P473 certification, it can be difficult to know which filters effectively reduce PFAS and which do not.

SEWER AUTHORITY

The Grand Haven\Spring Lake Sewer Authority approved bids for about \$14 million of improvements to the sewage collection system and treatment plant.

The contracts were about \$1 million above construction estimates; but there were sufficient contingencies to cover the overage and still leave about \$920k for other issues that might arise.

The project has five components – two of which will benefit Grand Haven Township and will be paid, in part, by sewer users from the Township.

The two components that will impact Township users include:

1. The so-called “*Headwork and Pumping Improvements*” to the treatment plant at a cost of about \$5.2 million that will be shared by all of the Sewer Authority users; and,
2. The “*Local Pump Station*” improvements at a cost of about \$924k that will be funded by the sewer users in Grand Haven City and Grand Haven Township.

The remaining \$7.85 million of improvements (*e.g., Grand River force main and local pump station improvements*) will benefit the other municipal units and will be funded by their sewer customers.

Bottom line – the cost increase for sewer users in Grand Haven Charter Township will be about 60 cents per 1,000 gallons.

PRIME & DOUBLE CHIP

The Township Board included monies within the FY 2019 budget for use of the so-called “Prime and Double Chip” method of constructing a surface on gravel roads.