
Milton Township, Antrim County

Newsletter- Summer 2024

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Kewadin, MI 49648

231-264-6612

Miltontownship.org

CHRIS WEINZAPFEL, SUPERVISOR

During my time here, I have pursued several initiatives. Some of them are establishing dedicated office hours to better serve the community, forming a Fire Advisory Committee to provide options for a long-term direction of the fire department, pursuing much needed cost-effective plans for building improvements of the township offices, and coordinating efforts with the township board to provide the best services possible through established policy and procedures. An important responsibility of the township board is to have long-range strategic planning of our facilities, and in my role as Supervisor, to always ask the question; how can we do better?

I have appreciated my past experiences of serving Milton Township as Zoning Administrator, Emergency Management Technician, Fire Fighter and FOIA Officer, giving me the insight and understanding of the wide variety of issues and requirements Milton Township faces daily. As we move towards negotiating the next 4-year contract for ambulance services, I'm confident that we will continue to provide the highest quality public safety services.

CLEANUP DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 - 7:00 am to noon

Milton Township provides two clean-up days, typically the last Saturday in April & August. This service is provided exclusively for the taxpayers of Milton Township at the corner of Cairn Hwy. and Cherry Avenue. All smaller, loose items MUST be secured (tied or rolled up for easy drop off). Loads that are left loose and unbundled will have to wait until end of day. We do not accept oil, flammable materials, batteries, any liquid paints or solvents, chemicals, pesticides or yard clippings, brush or branches. Refrigerators will be accepted only if decommissioned with the red tag for a disposal fee of \$30.00 and passenger tires only for \$8.00 each. Proof of residency is required.

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

A very important part of the government process is provided by residents who serve on the various commissions, committees and boards. They make decisions about how our community develops, consider variances to local ordinances, make determinations about local property values and advise the township board in planning, and creating parks & recreation facilities. Everyone benefits from the service of these dedicated residents. If you have an interest in serving, please submit your letter of interest to the Milton Township Supervisor. The various commissions & committees are:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Board of Review
- Park & Recreation Committee
- Elk Rapids District Library Board

TWO PUBLIC SAFETY RENEWALS PROPOSED TO REPLACE EXPIRING MILLAGES

There are two millages dedicated to Milton Township's Public Safety (Ambulance & Roads) due to expire.

Ambulance millage will be renewed at the original voted .76 mills and levied for five years, 2024 through 2028 inclusive, to provide for continued ambulance service to the Township

Roads millage will be renewed at the original voted .70 mills and levied for five (5) years, 2024 through 2028 inclusive, to provide funds for continued improvements, repair and maintenance of established roads within the township.

Both millage renewals are necessary to continue these public safety programs at current levels.

JANET BEEBE, CLERK

I'm Janet Beebe and I've been acting Clerk since December 1, 2023. I have lived in Milton Township for 24 years and my husband and I have raised our 4 children here, with 3 graduates from Elk Rapids High School. I have enjoyed working in this new position, meeting and representing my constituents and look forward to continuing to do so. I am happy to offer expanded business hours and notary services.

2024 ELECTION INFORMATION

August Primary 2024 - Early Voting begins Saturday, July 27 and ends Sunday, August 4
Milton Township Hall 9am-5pm

Election Day is Tuesday, August 6. Polls open at 8am and close at 8pm.

November Election 2024

Early Voting begins Saturday, October 26 and ends Sunday, November 3
Milton Township Hall 9am-5pm

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Polls open at 8am and close at 8pm.

Absentee Ballot Applications are online at: <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication>

Questions? Contact your Township Clerk at miltontownshipclerk@gmail.com or call 231-264-6612 x10

LIZ ATKINSON, TREASURER

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DATES

July 1, 2024	Summer Tax Statements Mailed
September 14, 2024	Summer Taxes Due – last day to pay without interest
December 1, 2024	Winter Tax Statements Mailed
February 14, 2025	Winter Taxes Due – last day to pay without interest/penalty
February 28, 2025	Last Day Summer & Winter Tax payments are accepted
March 1, 2025	All unpaid taxes are sent to Antrim County for collection

Payment can be made by placing in the secure side door drop box, by U.S Mail, online with echeck/credit card, or in-person during tax collection hours.

NOTARY SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE

Contact the Clerk, Janet Beebe, @ 231-264-6612 x10

ELK RAPIDS DISTRICT LIBRARY

Exciting news! The Elk Rapids District Library has officially acquired the property at 8980 Cairn Hwy, marking the first milestone in creating a new future home. The recent completion of a feasibility study provided insight into the viability of a capital campaign to fund the proposed renovation of the new building, along with gauging community support through surveys and interviews. Plans to move forward with a phased approach to the project are underway focusing on raising funds through private donations, foundation grants, and business support. New Library Building Updates and Information can be found on the library's website; elkrapidslibrary.org

SARAH KOPRIVA, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

JACKIE PETERSEN, ZONING ASSISTANT

Reminder....Any work within 50 feet of the water, requires a permit from the Township. In addition, there are limitations on what can occur in this 50' area. Before removing any trees or vegetation, please check with the zoning office to determine if a permit is required. Removal of the vegetation may require replanting for compliance with the ordinance. Milton Township's Master Plan, Zoning Ordinances, forms, applications, meeting dates can all be found on the township website.

The Watershed Center has a resource guide for waterfront property owners in the Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed is available online; <https://gtbay.org/waterfront-guide/>

BILL HEFFERAN, ANTRIM COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

If someone were to ask me to summarize your County Board of Commissioner's (BOC) activity over the past twelve months I would, without particular joy, say, "Building, Buildings, and more Building".

Although not particularly interesting or newsworthy, one of the main priorities of any BOC is to maintain buildings owned by the public. Most of these buildings are located in the County Seat of Bellaire. The largest are Meadow Brook Medical Care Facility, Meadow View Senior Apartments, Animal Control, Transportation Garage, Commission on Aging, Jail, Sheriff's Office, Courthouse, County Building, and Airport. Consider yourselves the homeowners of all these buildings, and the BOC your property managers. Through no one's fault, but by the simple passage of time, your buildings have aged and now are requiring critical attention.

Within the past 12 months, the County Building (built in the 1970's) has been refaced and remodeled, the Health Department converted to temporary Sheriff's Offices, and the dilapidated (and frankly embarrassing) "Annex Building", which housed your Road Deputies, demolished. Later this year, cleaning, restoration and repair work will begin on the 1905 Courthouse. Similar work is being scheduled to begin on Meadow View Apartments in 2025. Lastly, but of equal importance, discussions have begun on the possible expansion of the Commission on Aging building. All of this work has been completed, scheduled or proposed with current tax revenue. I encourage all residents to visit your buildings next time you're in the Bellaire area.

Finally, it would be neglectful of me to not mention our County Jail and provide you with a brief history and update. Originally built in the 1950s with additions added, the Jail was first considered for replacement in the early 1990s after the Courthouse Restoration was completed. In 2006 the County hired a company to evaluate the jail. The report stated, "Our conclusion is that Antrim County would be best served by building a new jail. The study suggests that it may have to be soon". This same report provided a cost estimate of eight (8) million dollars. Fast forward to 2024. Nothing has changed except the price, which is now estimated at thirty-two (32) million. Committees have been formed, discussions are occurring, but as of this writing no final decisions have been made on how best to proceed. I will continue to share information with Township leaders as it becomes available. Residents may also contact me anytime at 231-564-3332 or hefferanw1@antrimcountymi.gov. Best wishes to all and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

KEVIN HOCH, ANTRIM COUNTY SHERIFF

Since September 2023, Sheriff Kevin S. Hoch, Undersheriff George Lasater and the Antrim County Sheriff's Office Team has worked hard to keep our Community Safe. The Antrim County Sheriff Road Patrol checks the schools and covers the East and West areas of the County.

Our office has worked Felony Drug Cases that resulted in several Felony arrests. Our Team works with Traverse Narcotics Team (TNT) and other drug Enforcement Teams in the area.

The Road Patrol Division consist of 23 Certified Sworn Deputies, includes our Detective Division, School Resource Officer and Civil Process Division. Our corrections division has 15 Certified Deputies, 2 Court Security Deputies, 1 Nurse and 1 Food Service Manager. The 911 Dispatch Center has 11 Officers. We have a Marine Patrol Division that consist of 12 Seasonal Deputies and 2 Snowmobile Deputies and a Zero Tolerance Division that consist of 2 personnel.

The Antrim County Sheriff's Office top Priority is the safety and well-being of our community. We are committed to working tirelessly to ensure our neighborhoods remain a safe place to live, work and raise families.

MAPLEHURST NATURAL AREA

Maplehurst is owned and managed by Milton Township. This 389-acre park is one of the largest undeveloped parcels near Torch Lake, boasting a 60-acre Lake Maplehurst, a clean, clear spring-fed lake, along with roughly 150 acres of steep, hardwood-forested bluffs that help filter surface runoff that enters Torch Lake. Protected by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) in 2018 by helping Milton Township secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. 5.4 Miles of a diverse trail system opened to the public in 2019.

JEREMY BALL, FIRE CHIEF

The Milton Township Fire Department is staffed with 13 paid-on-call members. The Department operates out of two fire stations. Station 1 is located on Cairn Highway and houses four apparatus plus an ATV. Station 2 is located on Cherry Ave. and houses two apparatus.

The department has a variety of fire safety and preparedness programs available. 911 Reflective Address Signs, Smoke Alarm and Knox Box programs. To date we have provided 154 reflective address signs. We have provided 144 smoke alarms. We have 17 Knox Boxes in use; 4 commercial and 13 residential.

The Fire Protection Classification (ISO Rating) is a rating that is assigned for insurance companies to use when providing insurance rates to homeowners and businesses. There are three areas that are evaluated: Fire Department is valued at 50%, Water Supply 40% and Communications 10%. Our ISO rating is a split rating. The rating is a 6/10 meaning that all buildings within five road miles of our fire stations will have a rating of 6 and any buildings outside of the five road miles of our stations will have a rating of 10. The department continues to work hard at providing the best fire protection we can

to our community. The fire department is responsible for 90% of our score.

If you have a desire to serve your community, joining the fire department maybe for you. We are always looking for new members. We hold a staff meeting the first Tuesday of each month followed by training meetings the second, and third Tuesdays of each month. Please come check us out.

Open Burning: You may burn leaves, grass, limbs, brush, stumps and evergreen needles. You need to obtain a burn permit via the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr search for burn permit. You can also contact the DNR at 888-922-2876. Agricultural burns are exempt from the permit process if it is part of the cropping or approved disease/pest control system.

We want to make our community be as safe as possible and we are here to serve you. If you have questions, concerns, or general questions feel free to contact the department at miltontwpfd@gmail.com or contact the Chief at 231-264-6694 or 231-499-1720.

RESPECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Proactive efforts by Milton Township to preserve our natural resources and the quality of life in our community is a priority. Safeguarding water quality and residential neighborhoods are two areas that Milton Township has taken important steps to protect. Recognizing Milton Township's sensitive ecological region due to the vast water resources of Lake Michigan, Elk Lake, Lake Skegemog, Torch Lake and Torch River is extremely important. Our location alone is worthy of our protection. The loss of shoreline vegetation is an increasing problem. The recreational value of our lakes has led to intense shoreline development and an increase of turf lawns down to the water's edge. Storm water is the number one pollutant because it carries with it: sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, petrochemicals, and garbage because it runs off properties unchecked and does not soak into the ground to be filtered. We need to replicate Mother Nature's designs and get runoff to be filtered by maintaining vegetated and natural shorelines to help filter.

Milton Township's efforts include:

- **Shoreline Protection Strip Ordinance** requires all waterfront property owners to obtain a permit prior to undertaking any earth change or removal of vegetation. Dedication of a minimum of 25 feet in depth and extend to not less than 80% of the width of the shoreline property is required. For additional information contact the Milton Township Zoning Department, and visit the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership website @ www.mishorelinepartnership.org
- **Vacation Rental Ordinance** requires all short term rentals to obtain a permit from Milton Township and limits the number of weeks permitted to rent to six weeks per calendar year and not more than two (2) weeks during a four (4) week period.
- **Time of Transfer Ordinance** – Sellers in Milton Township are required to have septic and well systems inspected prior to sale. The sale can't close without it. Systems that were newly installed within the past 10 years, or that were inspected within the past five years are exempt. Septic tanks must be pumped before a property changes hands, unless the seller can produce record showing that the tank has been pumped by a licensed contractor within the past five years. More information can be obtained by contacting the Zoning Department or by calling the Northwest Michigan Health Department @ 231-533-8670

Milton Township's Ordinances can be found on our website; Miltontownship.org

IF YOU CHOOSE TO FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN, DO NOT FERTILIZE THE LAKE!

Excess fertilizer, particularly phosphorus, running into the lakes from improper lawn fertilization is a major source of phosphorous and nitrogen runoff pollution. Fertilize at the right time and only when the lawn is actively growing and able to take up nutrients. Never fertilize when the ground is frozen or grass is dormant as most of it will runoff straight into the lake. Add a natural buffer of native plants to low areas. Vegetated buffer zones prevent erosion and pollution by acting as natural sponges and filters. Please be mindful of these harmful activities to our lakes.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The following roads have been identified as high priority and are scheduled for crack sealing to prolong the life of the asphalt; Campbell, Waring/Powell, Winters & Bussa at a cost of \$207,500. Roads identified as needing repair and will be considered in 2025; O'Dell, Sutter, East Elk Lake, Powell, Ridge & Torch River Rd.

KNOW YOUR BOATING LAWS

The Antrim County Marine Unit focuses efforts on education in an attempt to gain voluntary compliance with marine laws and safety regulations. Enforcement continues to be a component of marine safety, but education and compliance with boating laws have the most impact on creating a safe and enjoyable boating environment. For more information, go to: https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/boating_law/

AMY JENEMA, ASSESSOR

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the Assessed Value, the State Equalized Value, and the Taxable Value?

Each year the Assessor's Office must calculate the Assessed Value of each property. The Assessed Value is required by the Michigan constitution and laws to be 50% of the true cash value of the property. In determining the Assessed Value, the Assessor reviews the characteristics of each property, identifies area neighborhoods and uses a two-year sales study to analyze market values within each neighborhood, comparing the sale price of a property to its assessed value. The sales study period for the 2024 assessments was from 04/01/2021 to 03/31/2023. A review of all arms-length sales within each neighborhood for the required study period is used to adjust individual Assessed Values to the current market conditions.

The State Equalized Value (SEV) is the Assessed Value as adjusted by an annual review by the counties and the state of assessments throughout Michigan to ensure that assessing practices are uniform. In the Township of Milton, the SEV is almost always equal to the Assessed Value.

The Taxable Value is a term resulting from Proposal A, adopted by the voters as an amendment to the Michigan constitution in 1994, and intended to limit tax increases so that taxpayers wouldn't be as affected by a strong economy and significant increases in valuation. The intention was to make changes to the Taxable Value more gradual by tying them to the rate of general inflation. Thus, the Taxable Value is the value to which the various tax millage rates are applied, thereby determining your tax bills. The Taxable Value on the property is said to be "Capped" if the property owner did not purchase it in the preceding year. On "Capped" properties, the Taxable Value is calculated by multiplying the annual Consumer Price Index factor by the prior year's Taxable Value. However, the Taxable Value will NEVER be more than the SEV. When a property is sold or otherwise transferred, the Taxable Value in the FOLLOWING year will be equal to the SEV and thus is said to be "Uncapped" for the year. The Taxable Value is also adjusted for any new construction (like adding a new addition) or for losses (like tearing down a garage).

What types of home improvement will increase my taxable value?

Normal maintenance and repair items such as: replacement siding, roof, furnace, windows, remodeling of kitchens or baths, and other maintenance items, will not cause an increase in the Taxable Value of a property. New items that had not been previously assessed, however, are added to the Taxable Value. Examples of new items are: deck or patio, addition, finished basement, air conditioning, or new bathroom. Likewise, property that is removed is subtracted from the Taxable Value. Examples are: demolition of a garage, a fire loss, or removal of a deck.

Additional Information regarding Ownership and Uncapping of Property

[-https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/change-ownership](https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/change-ownership)

Property Tax Estimator



You can now access estimates on property taxes by local unit and school district, using 2022 millage rates. Simply enter the SEV (for future owners) or the Taxable Value (for current owners), and select your county from the drop down list provided. You will then be prompted to select your county (**Antrim**), township (**Milton**) along with your school district (**Elk Rapids**). **Property Tax Estimator** - <https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/estimator>



Information regarding Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)

A Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) exempts a residence from the tax levied by a local school district for school operating purposes up to 18 mills. Section 211.7cc and 211.7dd of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, addresses PRE claims. To qualify for a principal residence exemption on a dwelling, MCL 211.7cc requires that the property be: (1) owned by a qualified owner as defined by MCL 211.7dd(a); (2) occupied as a principal residence by that owner of the property; (3) none of the disqualifying factors listed in MCL 211.7cc(3) apply; and (4) claimed by the owner of the property by filing an affidavit with the local tax collecting unit in which the property is located. The PRE is a separate program from the [Homestead Property Tax Credit](#), which is filed annually with your Michigan Individual Income Tax Return. [-https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/principal](https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/principal)

