

Northfield Township

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Township Talk

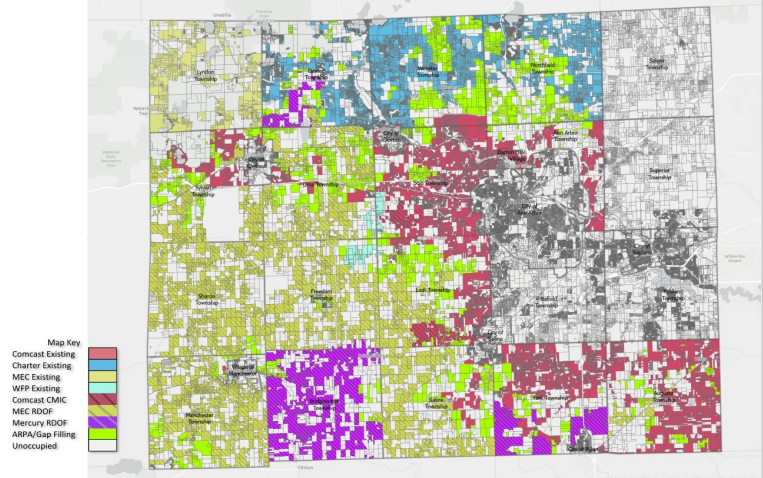
Here's What's New!

Broadband Coming To All of Northfield Township!

Universal broadband access is now completely funded across all of Washtenaw County, a significant achievement and the culmination of efforts that began nearly a decade ago. The county reached a major milestone when elected county leaders voted last year to dedicate \$14.6 million, much of its federal COVID relief dollars, toward extending broadband coverage to more than 3,000 homes that have been left underserved by other federal and state grant programs.

Thank you to the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force (www.washtenaw.org/2867/Broadband-Task-Force) for all of their hard-work and dedication in securing these services for our residents.

The vast majority of the new service, which comes through a handful of different providers, will be fiber-based internet. A map of expected service dates can be found on the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force's webpage listed above. Questions can be directed to washtenawbroadband@outlook.com or posted in the *Washtenaw Broadband Answers Facebook group*.



Washtenaw County Broadband
ARPA Broadband Gap Filling - 2022



New Police Chief And Fire Chief

On September 21, 2022, long-time Public Safety Director and Fire Chief, William Wagner, retired after 38 years in Public Service, with the last 15 years being here in Northfield Township. To fill his position, the Board of Trustees voted to appoint two individuals, separating the position back into Police Chief and Fire Chief. On September 13, 2022, the board swore-in our new Police Chief, Marty Smith, and our new Fire Chief, Chris Bishop. Both Chiefs have been with the township for many years, and we are grateful to have their experience and expertise as we move forward. Congratulations Chief Smith and Chief Bishop!



Chief Bishop, Chief Wagner & Chief Smith

Development News

- ◇ The construction of Chestnut Hills at the corner of Whitmore Lake Rd. and North Territorial is well underway. Once completed, the subdivision will provide 264 housing units - 56 single-family detached homes and 208 attached townhomes.
- ◇ A Request for Proposals (RFP) is being created for 11 acres of property to the rear of the Community Park property (next to the Whitmore Lake Post Office). The RFP would be asking for proposals for mixed use development in our downtown.
- ◇ Over the past several years, 75 Barker's fate has been up in the air. The Board discussed many options ranging from renovating the building to demolishing it altogether. The building was put up for sale multiple times, with the sales falling through in the end. One last push to sell occurred last spring. In April 2022, the Board approved the sale of 75 Barker to Soamer Jamil (owner of Lakeside Party Store and Driftwood Marina). The Development Agreement was approved at the Oct. 25 board meeting. Mr. Jamil is purchasing the building and a portion of the parking lot for \$100,000, leaving the remaining spaces for public use. Per the agreement, Mr. Jamil was given 2.5 years to complete construction. Congratulations to Mr. Jamil, and we look forward to another new business in our downtown!
- ◇ It has been a busy time in our planning & zoning office. The Twp. Mgr. has been getting quite a few phone calls and requests for meetings with property owners and developers for potential projects throughout the township. It will be exciting to see as these projects begin to develop.

Members and Alternates Needed:

Planning Commission, Board of Review, Parks & Recreation Board, DDA, LPC

Northfield Township currently has vacancies on the following Boards and Commissions:

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission advises Twp. officials on matters of planning and development of the community, approves site plans, and makes recommendations for land-use and the environment. The Planning Commission meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and members serve 3-year terms.

Board of Review: The Board of Review reviews the annual assessment roll for complete, accurate, uniform, and valid data, and hears resident appeals. The Board of Review meets in March, July, and Dec. each year and members serve 2-year terms.

Parks & Recreation Board: Members of the Parks & Recreation Board are members of the community interested in advancing recreational opportunities within our township. Parks & Rec. members serve 3-year terms and meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA): The DDA is looking for **business owners** in downtown Whitmore Lake or the US-23 and North Territorial area to join the DDA. The DDA undertakes public improvements and activities that strengthen the business district and attract new private investments. The DDA meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month and members serve 4-year terms.

Land Preservation Committee (LPC): Land Preservation Committee is a committee of residents put together by the Board of Trustees to look at ways to preserve agricultural and natural lands within the township. The LPC meets on the 1st Monday of the month.

If any of the above openings are of interest to you, please complete our "Boards and Commissions Application" found on the township website and submit your application to the Township Office.

DDA To Once Again Capture Funds

After an economic lull caused the Northfield Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to be unable to capture any funds toward future downtown improvements, a recently concluded analysis resulted in findings that there will be tax increment revenue captured in 2022. While details of the exact amount needs to be confirmed, it is anticipated that the DDA will capture around \$1 million over the remaining ten (10) years of their Tax Increment Finance (TIF) plan. The Township Supervisor, DDA Chair and Township Manager have been meeting to begin a new, cooperative relationship as we work together to improve Northfield Township.



Northfield Community Park Trailway Grants

The Township has been working diligently over the past year on the development of the Northfield Community Park (next to the Whitmore Lake Post Office). While it may not appear that much has been done toward the park’s development, a lot has been happening behind the scenes to set the stage for construction to begin. The focus for Phase I of the community park has been toward establishing parking areas and pathways.

In March of 2022, the Township was awarded a MDNR Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$300,000 to create a park entrance with a village green feel, along with paved parking and connected pathways (pictured to the right). Construction is slated to begin this spring!

In more recent months, the Township Manager has been meeting with the Director of Washtenaw Co. Parks & Recreation to discuss partnering on other projects for the Community Park. One idea was to connect the new park to the 8 Mile Road Park & Ride by developing a trail along the railroad track easement. It was determined, however, that this would not be feasible due to the narrow easement in that location. So, we looked at other possible trail connections and the County encouraged us to apply for the “Connecting Communities” grant program. Our grant application was submitted in August 2022. If approved, the grant funding of \$225,000 would allow us to determine the feasibility and construction of a non-motorized trail connection between the Community Park trailways and the Play Path along Barker Rd.



A nine-hole disc golf course was installed in the back area of the park and community events such as the Whitmore Lake Farmer’s Market and the DDA’s annual Trunk-or-Treat continue to be held at the Northfield Community Park. The Township is continuing to look and apply for other grants and funding opportunities with the focus being on the next stages of construction including the addition of some public amenities such as permanent restrooms and /or a pavilion or amphitheater for public use.

Retirement of WWTP Superintendent Dan Willis

After 44 years at the Northfield Township Wastewater Treatment Plant, Plant Superintendent Dan Willis has announced his retirement! Our current Lab Technician, Brian MacDonald, will be stepping up into the Superintendent position after Dan's departure. Brian has been with the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the past 12 years and has been working with Dan over the past few months to learn his new role.

Dan's last day with the township will be December 31, 2022. Join us in wishing Dan (and our unofficial office dog Wally!) a most relaxing retirement, and congratulations to Brian as our new WWTP Superintendent!

PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH:

- ✗ **wipes** (even if they say "flushable")
- ✗ **paper towels/napkins**
- ✗ **sanitary items**



✓ **ONLY FLUSH TOILET PAPER**

Equalization Basin Construction Complete



In 2020, after almost 40 years of discussion and debate, the Northfield Township Board of Trustees approved the construction of an equalization basin (retention basin) at the Northfield Township Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Construction of the basin began in the spring of 2021 and has now been completed! As part of the construction agreement, the WWTP will be planting 66 new trees around the basin area to replace trees that had to be removed for construction of the basin and to provide screening for the adjacent neighborhood.

Completion of the basin provides the plant with extra storage capacity for holding an additional 1.5 million gallons of material from our sewer systems in times of high-flow. This will allow our WWTP staff the time needed to properly treat all incoming sewage before being released.

Keep Our Waterways Clean - A Word Search!

(Find the 20 underlined words below in the word search on the Right)

Have you ever wondered what happens to stormwater after a storm? Stormwater, the runoff water after it rains or snows, flows from parking lots and streets into storm drains or directly into nearby water sources. Storm drains channel the stormwater directly to the nearest waterway, usually with little or no treatment. So whatever flows down a storm drain or is collected by natural runoff comes out in nearby waterways, such as our wetlands, streams, ponds, and lakes.

Please help keep our local waters clean:

- ~ Never dump anything down storm drains - this includes litter, sand, leaves, lawn clippings, pet waste, motor oil, or paint.
- ~ Clear sand, leaves, litter, debris, and snow away from storm drains.
- ~ Clean up after your pet! Pet-waste contains germs that can be harmful to human health and to our waterways.
- ~ Maintain your vehicle regularly to prevent fluid leaks, and wash your vehicle where the soapy water can soak into the ground instead of flowing into a storm drain or waterway. (Did you know that just one quart of motor-oil can produce a one-acre oil slick or contaminate 250,000 gallons of drinking water?)



Keep Our Waterways Clean!

M	L	A	K	E	S	T	P	O	N	D	S	R	S
S	T	O	R	M	W	A	T	E	R	M	A	T	W
S	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	H	C	N	W	W	O
I	D	N	U	O	R	G	N	A	O	S	A	I	L
R	A	N	I	N	E	O	P	R	N	T	T	L	F
B	P	S	M	A	O	U	S	M	T	R	E	I	R
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C	S	C	D	R	I	S	R	E	E	R	T	O	S
L	M	R	S	R	S	D	N	A	L	T	E	W	C

Spread the Word – Stormwater Matters!

Treasurer's Office Tidbits

Winter Tax Information

Winter Taxes are due by **Tuesday, February 14, 2023**, to avoid interest and penalty. The Northfield Township office will be open until **5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, for tax payments**. Please note that postmarks are not accepted as payment date. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt you from paying or being assessed late charges.

Past due taxes are payable at Northfield Township through February 28, 2023. Any unpaid taxes will be transferred to the Washtenaw County Treasurer for collection thereafter. The Township cannot legally accept tax payments after February 28, 2023.

Taxes are payable by cash, check, or credit/debit card. For payments by check, **please verify all information is correct on your check before mailing. Please include your phone number on your check. Post dated checks are not accepted and will be returned.** For your convenience, there are two 24-hour payment drop boxes at the Township offices. One is located along the sidewalk leading to the front doors (pictured here), and the other is in the vestibule just inside the first set of doors. We highly encourage you to utilize the 24-hour drop boxes as there have been delays in the mail; **postmarks are not accepted as payment date!**

You may pay your taxes with credit/debit card or e-check on our website at www.twp-northfield.org or by calling 1 (833) 733-6290. Please note, the credit card service provider charges a 3% fee of the amount paid by credit or debit card. The fee for an electronic check is \$3.00 for payments under \$10,000 and \$10.00 for payments over \$10,000.

If you have any questions, please call our office at (734) 449-2880 x114

Warm Regards -

Your Treasurer, Jacqueline Otto and Deputy Treasurer, Stacie MacDonald



Personal Property Tax for Businesses

Personal property used by businesses has been subject to taxation in Michigan. Business Personal Property generally consists of furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment, computers, etc. All tangible personal property in your possession as of **December 31st of the preceding year**, including fully appreciated and expensed assets, must be reported. The Personal Property Statement form is mailed each year in December. If you do not receive a form, you can print a copy from the state treasury website at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/taxes/632_2011_337716.6.pdf

Qualifying for Personal Property Tax Exemption

Effective in 2014, an exemption was created for the personal property owned by businesses if the true cash value of the personal property owned, leased, or possessed by a business or a related party is **less than \$80,000** within the assessment jurisdiction. This exemption has become known informally as the 'small taxpayers' exemption and the exemption is only for commercial and industrial personal property. **(Please note, in 2023 this limit will increase to \$180,000).**

To claim this exemption, the business must file **Form 5076 - Small Business Property Tax Exemption Claim Under MCL 211.9o**. This form must be filed (postmark is acceptable) with the Assessing Department by **February 20th each year**. Effective the **2019 tax year**, once the small taxpayer's exemption has been granted, it will remain in place unless denied by the assessor or unless the business exceeds the \$80,000 limit (in which case the business must file a Personal Property Statement with the assessor).

Property owners who timely file Form 5076 are not required to file a Personal Property Statement. Taxpayers are required to maintain books and records for four years after filing a form claiming the exemption; penalties apply for fraudulent exemption claims.

Sold, Closed, Or Moved Your Business?

December 31st is the Tax Day in the State of Michigan. Unlike real property where taxes are prorated at the time of sale, a **personal property tax is due for the entire year**. For example, if your business moves out of the Township on any day during the calendar year following Tax Day (December 31st), you, as a business owner, are still liable for the personal property tax for the remainder of the calendar year. Personal property taxes would be due to Northfield Township if your business re-locates to the following year. Your business cannot be taxed a personal property tax by two jurisdictions in the same year.

If you have further questions regarding Personal Property Tax, please visit our Northfield Township website at: www.twp-northfield.org/tax-assessingFAQ

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on Facebook:
Northfield Township
Government
Office

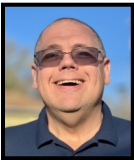
Board of Trustees

Honored to serve the residents of Northfield Township!

Please contact us with any comments, questions, or concerns.

boardmembers@northfieldmi.gov

(Board of Trustees email suffix:
@northfieldmi.gov)



Ken Dignan III
Twp. Supervisor
dignank@
(734) 546-7803



Jacqueline Otto
Twp. Treasurer
ottoj@
(734) 368-2251



Kathleen Manley
Twp. Clerk
manleyk@
(734) 231-1468

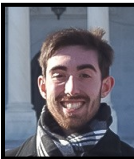
Township Trustees



Janet Chick
chickj@
(734) 788-4954



Nate Muchow
muchown@
(734) 637-7557



Joshua Nelson
nelsonj@
(734) 666-9449



Rachel Smith
smithr@
(734) 623-9814

Clerk's Corner

Sewer Billing

Northfield Twp. sewer billing is on a quarterly billing cycle billed in the arrears.

February 1st - covers service from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31

May 1st - covers service from Feb. 1 - Apr. 30

August 1st - covers service from May 1 - Jul. 31

November 1st - covers service from Aug. 1 - Oct. 31

10% Late fee added if payments are received after the due date

Failure to receive your bill does not waive past due penalties

Election Information

Below are some of the results from the Northfield Township November 8, 2022 General Election.

To view other Washtenaw County results, please visit
www.washtenaw.org/314/Election-Results

Board Seats:

Treasurer Jacqueline Otto, and Trustee Rachel Smith were appointed by the board in 2021 to fill vacancies after Treasurer Zelenock's resignation. Because these were mid-term appointments, it was required to put these two board positions on the 2022 ballot for a vote of the citizens. On November 8th, both Treasurer Otto and Trustee Smith were elected into their positions and will serve until their terms end in Nov. 2024.

Farmland Preservation Millage:

The *Farmland and Adjoining Natural Area Preservation Millage* passed with 56.48% of the vote. This millage will add 0.6 mills (\$0.60 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for 5 years (2023 through 2027), and the funds collected will be used toward the voluntary purchase of development rights for existing farms in Northfield Township. Visit our website under *Recent News* for more detailed information.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools Millage:

Whitmore Lake Public Schools' proposal to increase their operating millage to 21 mills did not pass, but by a very narrow margin. The school will be considering bringing this item back to the electors in 2023.

Kathleen Manley - Clerk
April Laitinen - Deputy Clerk



Farmer's Market Post-Season Survey



Thank you to everyone that stopped by the Whitmore Lake Farmer's Market this summer! We are so glad you came, and are already getting prepared for next year! To make our Farmer's Market better than ever, we could use your feedback. Please fill out our survey if you were able to visit the market this past summer, and let us know what was great and where we could improve. Your input is greatly appreciated and we can't wait to see you all again next summer!

Look under *Recent News* on our website's homepage www.twp-northfield.org to complete the *Whitmore Lake Farmer's Market Customer Survey*. This survey will be open until December 6, 2022.

Calendar of Events

Fiscal Year 2021/22 Audit

Presentation: 7:00PM Tues. Dec. 13
at the Board of Trustees Meeting

Township Office CLOSED

- * December 23 & 26 - Christmas holiday
- * December 30 & January 2 - New Year's
- * January 16 - MLK, Jr. Day
- * February 20 - Presidents Day

Township Office Open Late

Our Office will be open until 5:00pm on
Tuesday, Dec. 27 to accept Tax Payments

Winter Taxes Due: February 14, 2023

Mitten Tree

The Community Center Mitten Tree is ready to be decorated with your donations of newly purchased or hand-made winter hats, scarves, earmuffs, gloves, mittens, socks, etc. **The deadline for donations is Dec. 6.**

Call (734) 449-2295 for more information. All Mitten Tree donations go to Adopt-a-Family and other local charities.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:30-7:30PM

Come to the Northfield Twp. Area Library (125 Barker Rd.) to listen to the Whitmore Lake High School Band play some classic holiday songs. But keep your eyes to the north as Santa will be arriving to light our holiday tree. Dress warmly for this outdoor event. No registration required

Santa Visit & Pictures

Sat. Dec. 10, 11AM-1PM

Mon. Dec. 12, 3-5PM

Tues. Dec. 13, 5PM-7PM

Santa Claus is coming to NTAL (125 Barker Rd.) Dress warmly in your holiday best to see Santa for this outdoor, holiday photo opportunity. Don't forget to bring your wish list! No registration required.

Twinkle the Town - Wed., Dec. 14

Residents and businesses are encouraged to decorate for the holidays and share their address to

heuft.michelle@gmail.com. A map will be made available the day of the event so everyone can drive around and take in the holiday lights.

NEW THIS YEAR: PRIZE MONEY for best decorated houses thanks to our gracious sponsor, PLANTED.

Questions—DDA@northfieldmi.gov

www.facebook.com/WhitmoreLakeDDA

Meeting Information

The Northfield Township Board of Trustees meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend a meeting in person, you can view the recorded meetings on-line via Northfield Township's Livestream account: www.livestream.com/accounts/1160710.

Meeting agendas and packets are available to view in the township office and on-line the Friday prior to the meetings on our Documents-On-Demand Page northfieldtwpmi.documents-on-demand.com.

Other meetings—all are open to the public:

Planning Commission: Meets at 7p.m. the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month

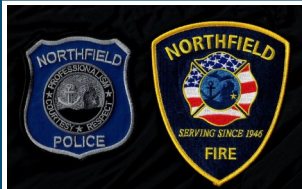
Zoning Board of Appeals: Meets at 7p.m. the 3rd Monday of the month

Park and Recreation Board: Meets at 7p.m. the 3rd Thursday of the month

Downtown Dev. Authority: Meets at 7p.m. the 4th Wednesday of the month

Board of Review: Meets in March, July and December

Land Preservation Committee: Meets at 6p.m. the 1st Monday of the month



Breast Cancer Awareness Donation Challenge

The Northfield Township Police and Fire Departments were able to raise over \$2700 that they donated toward Breast Cancer Awareness. To help them reach their goal, the new Police Chief, Fire Chief and Township Manager allowed us to paint their finger nails and hair **PINK** and then they entertained our residents out by Main St. in their **PINK** boas and tutus. Thank you to all who donated!

Sign Up For Everbridge

Sign up with Everbridge (formerly Nixle) to receive weather alerts, traffic alerts, safety notices and community notices by email and/or text message from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and Northfield Township Department of Public Safety. Everbridge is a secure and identity-certified communication service that allows local, county, and state law enforcement agencies to connect with local residents over cell phone, email, and internet. Visit www.washtenaw.org/alerts to sign up!

Office Information

Northfield Township Offices are open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted. Closed for lunch from 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Mailing Address: 8350 Main Street
PO Box 576
Whitmore Lake MI 48189

Phone: (734) 449-2880

Fax: (734) 449-0123

Website: www.twp-northfield.org

Building Department (734) 449-5000

Community Center (734) 449-2295

Northfield Twp. Area Library (734) 449-0066

Wastewater Treatment Plant (734) 449-4159

Police Dept. (non-emergency) (734) 449-9911

Fire Dept. (non-emergency) (734) 449-2385

Receive up to date
information by email.
Visit our website to
sign up for the
Township
E-Newsletter