

2023 Summer Newsletter



**Rik Kowall
Supervisor**

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SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE



White Lake Township is humming with activity! The Civic Center and Public Safety building projects are moving along nicely. One of the 2 roundabouts along Elizabeth Lake Road has been completed. The second roundabout is scheduled to be finished mid September. These are just a few of the projects happening in White Lake.

With the recent passing of the Oakland County Transportation millage, I wanted

to take this opportunity and highlight White Lake's Transportation program, WOTA. Three years ago, neighboring Supervisors and myself saw the need for more transportation than SMART was providing and formed WOTA. Here is the newest information from Kim Viener, the director of WOTA:

Western Oakland Transportation Authority (WOTA) provides door-to-door transportation to seniors (55+) and adults with disabilities (18+) in White Lake. Over the last 3 years, we have provided over 90,000 rides to doctor's appointments, places of employment, grocery stores, and many other destinations. Riders utilize our service to maintain their physical and mental health, social interactions, and independence. We are proud to announce that WOTA is expanding! **Starting June 1st, our hours of service will increase to 6 am – 9 pm, Monday through Friday.** In our introductory phase, we are offering rides for employment and later doctor's appointments. As the evening hours grow, we will have opportunities for more leisure activities.

WOTA has recently acquired new vehicles that are more fuel efficient but still provide barrier-free transportation in our effort to serve you better. In addition, we are growing our workforce. If you are interested in a rewarding position as a WOTA driver, please contact us at info@ridewota.org or complete our online application at ridewota.org.

WOTA is helping you continue your journey! For more information, please visit our website at ridewota.org or contact our offices at (248) 887-4979.

Currently, WOTA's expanded hours and additional vehicles are the first benefits of the Oakland County Transportation millage for White Lake Township. We hope there will be more to come.

I hope that all of you enjoy the summer in our *White Lake 4 Seasons Playground!*

Rik Kowall, Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES



Once again, White Lake is participating in the Oakland County West Nile Virus Program. Please stop in to any Township Department and pick up some free bug repellent and help stop the spread of this dangerous disease.

Project Updates: Bogie Lake Rd watermain is complete all the way

south from M-59 to Lakeland High School and is now accepting connections. Aspen Meadows Iron Filtration Plant is moving forward

again after significant delays in material availability. The plant is now projected to be online for testing mid-fall.



Aaron Potter,
DPS Director

CLERK'S OFFICE

Elections—

There are no elections currently scheduled for the year 2023. The recent passage of Proposition 2 here in Michigan was an actual change to the Michigan Constitution and will require many processes to be changed and/or updated including the Presidential Primary. For the latest in election updates go to www.michigan.gov/sos/elections.



Township Offices Summer Hours —

The Township summer hours will be in effect from **Monday, June 5, 2023 through Friday, September 1, 2023.** During that time the offices will be open 8AM to 5PM Monday-Thursday and **8AM to 12PM on Friday.**

The Clerk's Office understands the value of maintaining a healthy work-life balance for our employees, while also prioritizing public service. In line with this, during the summer months, we will again be offering free weekend notary services to accommodate residents who may have difficulty visiting during regular weekday hours. To schedule an appointment, simply contact the Clerk's Office at (248) 698-3300 x7 and we will be happy to get you scheduled.

I want to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as your Clerk. Please feel free to reach out to the Clerk's Office at (248) 698-3300 x7 or contact me directly at (248) 459-3703 if there is anything we can do to be of assistance.

Anthony L. Noble, Clerk

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Property Tax Payments— Payments in the form of cash or check are accepted at the counter of the Treasurer's Department in the Township offices. Payment may also be made online at www.whitelaketwp.com. See the "Pay Local Taxes" link on the Treasurer's section of the website. Fees are charged for online payments.

Credit Cards— Now being accepted for all Water Bills, Building Permits and Dog Licenses. A convenience fee will be charged for all credit card transactions.

Summer 2023 Property Taxes— Summer taxes are payable through September 14, 2023 without late fees. Please include your phone number on your check or tax remittance slip in case there are questions. February 29, 2024 is the last day the Township can accept 2023 summer/winter tax payments.

Dog Licenses— Dog licenses expire on December 31st each year. A license is required once a dog reaches the age of four months. A current rabies certificate is required. Dog licenses may be purchased online through Oakland County at <https://oaklandgov.com/pet-adoption/pages/doglicense.aspx> or at the Township Office, Treasurer window.

Mike Roman, Treasurer



DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER

The Dublin Community Senior Center offers quality programs and services for adults fifty years of age and older. All social, educational, physical and supportive programs and services are designed to enhance the quality of life and maintain the independence and dignity of our participants. Please feel free to stop in to take a tour of our center or call (248) 698-2394 for more information. Go to www.whitelaketwp.com/senior-center to view our current newsletter of programs.

Kathy Gordinear, Director of Dublin Senior Center



POLICE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of all the members of the Police Department, please let us say "Goodbye Winter and Hello Summer!" Over the past year, we saw a few retirements as well as several new employees. Intern Natalie Uhaize and Cadet Marcus Hunt were both sponsored by the Department into the Police Academy, graduated, and were subsequently sworn in as Officers. Officer Frank Wright was hired from Northfield Township and Dispatcher Priscilla Gonzalez was hired to fill a vacancy in the Communications Center. All the new employees have completed their training and are serving the citizens of White Lake Township. The Police Department also made national news for its involvement with a good Samaritan citizen who found \$15,000 outside of a gas station and turned it in.

After turning in the money, one of the responding officers discovered that the woman found it because she was walking home from work, as she has for the past few years due to not having a car. A GoFundMe was set up to get her a car. When the GoFundMe was closed out, it had raised over \$85,000.00. This act alone showed the citizenship and community that the Police Department is proud to be a part of. The newly created Police Explorer program has brought about more interaction with area youth and teaching them the inner workings of the Police Department and law enforcement with the idea of someday becoming White Lake Police Officers. Officers are also looking forward to this summer's upcoming events, such as the Open House on June 11th from Noon-3 pm and the Youth Police Academy the week of July 24-28. If you have any questions regarding either of these upcoming events, please contact Amy Petru at (248) 698-1042. Have a great summer!

Dan Keller, Chief of Police



ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

In the calendar year following a transfer of ownership, the property taxes levied may be significantly different than the taxes paid the previous year due to uncapping of taxable value. Property owners are encouraged to stop by the Assessing Department to verify that the information in our records accurately reflects their property.

— A Disabled Veteran who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently disabled as a result of military service, rated as individually unemployable, or has specially adapted housing, is eligible for the **Disabled Veterans Exemption** which is an exemption of property taxes. Surviving spouses that have not remarried may also apply for the Disabled Veterans Exemption. This exemption MUST be applied for each year in order to receive the exemption.

— Homeowners, who both own and occupy their home as of June 1st of the year, are eligible for the **Principal Residence Exemption (PRE)** which reduces the tax rate of the property. This exemption can also be claimed on vacant adjacent parcels. ("Declared as P.R.E." is noted on your tax statement.)

— Homeowners who meet income guidelines based on the Federal Poverty Income level may be eligible for a **Poverty Exemption**. Please visit our website for further assessing information.

Special Assessment Districts: Property owners who are interested in neighborhood projects such as the extension of public water mains, storm water system repairs, sanitary sewers, or road repairs may request to establish a Special Assessment District (SAD) through White Lake Township. (A minimum of 51% of the property owners within a potential district must support the project.) If connection to an existing sewer main is required due to a failed septic system, an Emergency Sewer Connection SAD is available. Visit www.whitelaketwp.com/stormwater for further information.

David Hieber, Assessor

FYI: White Lake Township is not responsible for road maintenance. Residents who own property on Oakland County **public roads that need to be repaired or repaved** should contact The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) for information regarding the special assessment district (SAD) paving program at (877) 858-4804 or visit www.rcocweb.org. County road issues, such as potholes, can be reported online at www.rcocweb.org, via e-mail at dcsmail@rcoc.org, or by telephone at (877) 858-4808.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

As the summer months are quickly approaching, the Fire Department would like to offer some courtesy reminders:

Open Burning — As of March 1995, State Law prohibits the burning of grass or leaves. This affects any community having a population of 7,500 or more.

Visit <https://www.whitelaketwp.com/fire> to obtain a copy of our burn permit online. Please read the open burning regulations listed on the permit. You do not have to submit the burn permit to us. You need to read it, sign it and keep it on file at your residency. Remember that your fire is your responsibility.

Fireworks — Aerial shells larger than 1.75" (1.3G) are not consumer fireworks. These fall under "Display Fireworks". To legally possess and store Aerial shells larger than 1.75" **you must be licensed by the Department of Justice - Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF). A display fireworks permit is required within White Lake Township to shoot Display Grade Aerial Shells. The permit is not issued unless the applicant is licensed, insured, has ATF clearance, and can prove experience with fireworks display operations.**

Flame Throwing Devices — Due to reckless activity on White Lake during last year's Fireworks display, the use of Flame Throwing Devices within the boundaries of White Lake Township, is prohibited.

We all look forward to the warm weather, and the time we get to spend with family and friends. Stay safe, and well. Feel free to contact the fire administration office with questions or concerns (248) 698-3993.

John Holland, Fire Chief

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

The Planning Division is charged with processing and reviewing rezoning requests, site plan applications, special land use permits, variance requests, and private road applications. The Division also provides staff support to the Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Parks & Recreation Committee. There are various commercial and residential projects in review or have been approved and are under construction. In the southeast quadrant of the Township, construction is progressing on 500 residential units across multiple projects.

The Planning Division also oversees Parks and Recreation in the Township. Stanley Park is now open for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded a \$500,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for Stanley Park. Park pavilions and ball fields are now available for rental. We have a White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Facebook page (facebook.com/whitelakeparksandrec) you can follow for updates. Please visit our website or contact us at (248) 698-3300 x5 for more

Sean O'Neil, Community Development Director

BUILDING

As the warm weather is finally upon us, summer projects are beginning to take shape. As you or your contractor prepare to take on those projects, please be aware that permits are required for decks, pools and retaining walls over 4 ft in height. Deck resurfacing and rerailing do require permits, and are required to meet current code standards. Also, all pools over 150 sq ft in area and 2 feet in depth, even temporary in nature, require permits and must have code compliant barriers and safety features. See the [Quick Guide for Residential Swimming Pools](#) on the township website for further information.

Fences for residential properties, excluding those that serve as a pool barrier, do not require permits. However, it is imperative that you or your contractor know where your property lines are located, and understand all of the ordinance requirements pertaining to fences. If you have any questions related to fences, please reach out to Community Development.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACTOR. The State of Michigan requires that a contractor be licensed when performing work over \$600 on a residential property. Do your homework when choosing a contractor, ask for their license number, verify that they are a licensed contractor, and that they are licensed to perform the work for which they are being hired: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/LARA/>

Nick Spencer, Building Official