

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP NEWS

Bringing our Community into the 22nd Century



Mike Ridley
Supervisor



Susan Fisher
Clerk



Bobbi Balazovic
Treasurer



Craig Waldron
Trustee



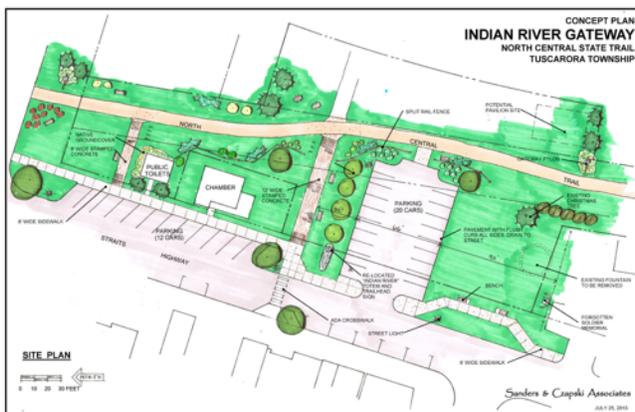
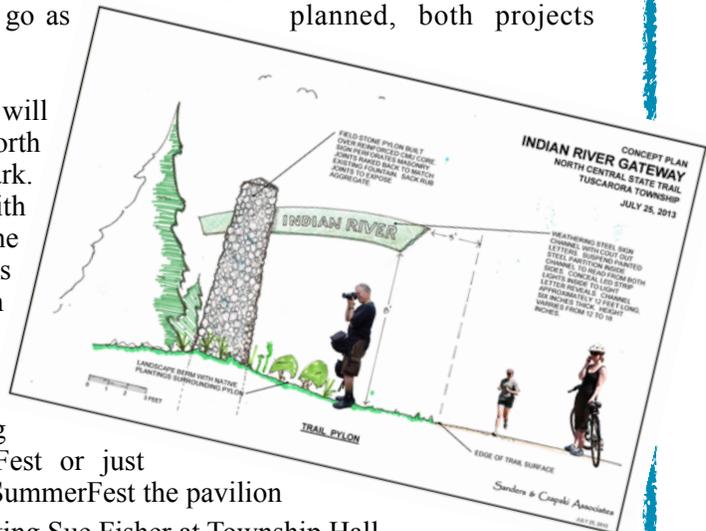
Jane McGinnis,
Trustee

New Look Coming for Downtown

The Marina Park Commission has received bids for a picnic pavilion and a trailhead park in downtown Indian River. If things go as planned, both projects could be completed by the 4th of July.

The new pavilion is 30 feet by 40 feet and will be located on the east side of the North Central Trail at the entrance to Marina Park. Three local builders bid on the project with Carl Drayton Builders, Inc. receiving the contract. The pavilion is funded by monies from the 2006 Parks and Recreation millage and a \$15,000 donation from the Indian River Women's Club. The pavilion can be used by visitors, residents and bikers for enjoying a picnic lunch, eating ice cream, special events like SummerFest or just enjoying quiet time in Marina Park. After SummerFest the pavilion may be reserved, for a small fee, by contacting Sue Fisher at Township Hall.

for a picnic pavilion and a trailhead planned, both projects



The North Central Trail Indian River Trailhead

project encompasses Township property between Straits Highway and the North Central Rail Trail from River St. to Lake St. Final details are being worked out before signing a contract. Improvements to the area include winterizing the public restrooms, repositioning and replacing the parking lot, creating additional green space south of the parking lot, incorporating the Indian totem into a new sign, two decorative pylons on the rail trail at either end of the trailhead and new sidewalks, lighting, benches and bike racks. The Trailhead is funded

by grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan DNR. Funding for additional on street parking in front of the Chamber is coming from the Downtown Development Authority. It is hoped that the Trailhead project will also be completed by July 4th.

The Veterans Pier at DeVoe Beach will be yet another treasured piece of the many recreational destinations here in Indian River.

Veterans Pier Update



We celebrated the completion of all major construction of the Veterans Pier Project on October 29, 2014 with a "Veterans Pier Walk". Many veterans, their families and local citizens attended this tribute to veterans event and put their boots on the surface of the new pier. All veterans were presented with a very attractive CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.

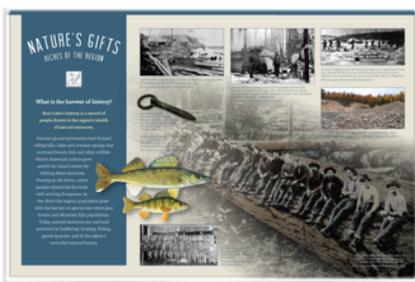
Completed construction included Veterans Pier, the riverside boardwalk attached to the Pier and all of the DeVoe Beach walkways leading to Veterans Pier. These fully ADA compliant surfaces will provide ease of access for all to the wonderful structure of Veterans Pier.

In addition, a large surface area near the pier will be covered with engraved paver bricks that are currently available for order. Commemorate a veteran, a family member, a loved one, your family or business by acquiring one or more of these bricks. (see below)

The Committee is pleased to report that all work completed and anticipated will be covered financially by the generous support of the Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, the Burt Lake Preservation Association grant and the many donations from families, foundations, businesses and individuals who helped make this happen

Dedication of Veterans Pier is planned for May 23, 2015 at 1300 hours (1 p.m.). All are invited and welcome to attend!

The Veterans Pier Committee was fortunate to obtain the services of Joseph Hines to create the informational kiosks that will be on permanent display at the foot of Veterans Pier. Joe made several trips north to research our area, talk with residents and gather photos and information. When you see the finished product I think you will agree he captured the essence of our community perfectly. The kiosks will be installed in the spring, meanwhile framed replicas will soon be on the walls of the Township Hall entry way. You can learn more about Joe and his company at www.projectartsandideas.com

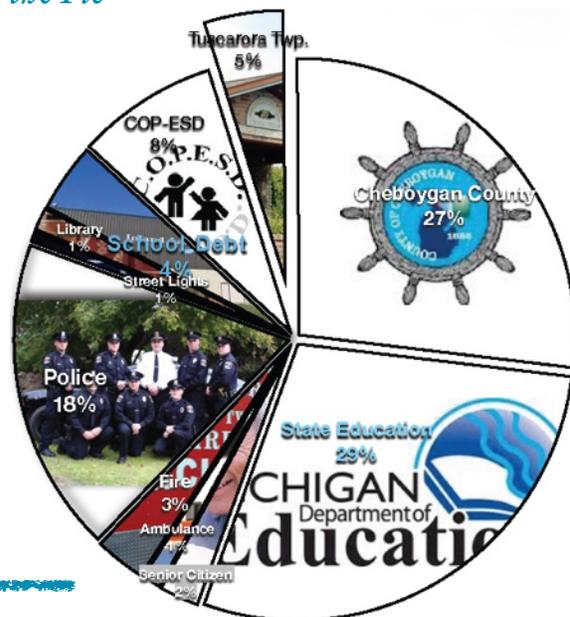


Watch for Update to Township Website

In the not too distant future you will see some major changes and updates to the Township Website. The board is in the process of reviewing proposals for a redesign of the official website. The new site will not only present a refreshed more modern look, but it will provide more content and functionality. You will experience the same look and feel whether you view the site from your desktop, laptop, tablet or smart phone. You will also have the ability to subscribe to an email newsletter or be notified when updates or changes are made to pages. Meeting schedules and agendas will be readily available as well as a dynamic calendar of events, citizen request tracker, facilities reservations, online forms and survey tools, and emergency alerts. Ultimately our goal is to create a website that will engage, inform and increase participation of the community.

Our Piece of the Pie

Tuscarora Township \$212,339,691 (TV)		1 Mill is 1/10 of a cent	
2014 Millage	Each Mill generates \$1 per \$1000 of Taxable Value		
20.9469 (PRE)	Tuscarora collects \$20.95 for each \$1000 of taxable value(TV)		
(Homestead Exempt)	* Dedicated Tax Dollars		
2014/2015	Millage	Revenue per 1,000. TV	
Cheboygan County *	5.6592	\$5.66	
State Education *	6	\$6.00	
Senior Citizen *	0.5	\$0.50	
Ambulance *	0.25	\$0.25	
Fire *	0.645	\$0.65	
Police *	3.854	\$3.85	
Street Lights *	0.1457	\$0.15	
Library *	0.2967	\$0.30	
School Debt *	0.86	\$0.86	
COP-ESD *	1.7473	\$1.75	
Tuscarora Twp.	0.989	\$0.99	
Total		\$20.95	



Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update

The Tuscarora Township Downtown Development Authority continues to work on the streetscape project and anticipates construction to begin in the spring of 2016. The improvements within the project are new sidewalks, storm sewer, increased on-street parking, new street lights, drastic reduction in the number of overhead wires crossing the street and complete re-paving of Straits Highway between east M-68 and River Street. The project cost is estimated at \$1,700,000. The project is funded by the DDA's Tax Increment Financing authority, USDA/Rural Development loan and tentative grants. There is no out of pocket expense to taxpayers in the DDA district or the township.

The DDA expects to hear from the Michigan Department of Transportation on the status of their application for a Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant in April.

There are still questions and concerns regarding the reverse angle parking. As stated before, the entire west side of Straits Hwy in the downtown business district is parallel parking and on the east side of the road there will be intermittent pockets of both parallel and reverse angle parking. MDOT has still not responded with a decision regarding the requirement of a traffic study in order to qualify for the TAP grant.

DDA meetings are held the third Monday of every month at the Tuscarora Township Hall.

Election Update

May 5, 2015 Statewide Election

- The last day to register to vote in the May special election is April 6, 2015.
- Absentee ballots will be available after March 21, 2015. For an absentee ballot application please contact the Clerk, Sue Fisher at 231-238-0970 or email at clerk@tuscaroratwp.com
- Residents may not be aware that if they are 60 years of age or older, or have a disability that makes it difficult to vote at the polls they can apply to be on a permanent absentee list. Residents on this list automatically receive an absentee ballot application approximately 6 weeks to 2 months before every election. If you are interested in being included on the permanent absentee list, you must request to do so. You may contact the Clerk, Sue Fisher at 231-238-0970 or email at clerk@tuscaroratwp.com
- Photo identification is required for obtaining an absentee ballot and for voting in the polls on May 5th.
- Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day

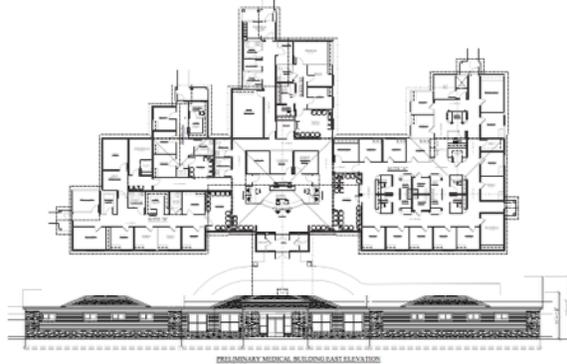


Sewer Update

The wastewater treatment plant is 99% complete. Dry start-up activities with AeroMod have been successfully completed leaving minor site work and restorations to be completed as the weather improves. The collection system is approximately 90% complete. Grinder station structures and all underground piping installed. Final equipment installation and electrical hook ups remain to be completed as weather improves. Once construction re-starts we are anticipating approximately 6 weeks of work remain. If weather cooperates all construction could be substantially complete by the end of May. We will schedule a Town Hall meeting once the weather breaks and we can finalize the schedule.

New Medical Center

A proposed new Medical Center for downtown Indian River (on the old laundromat site) is before the Cheboygan County Planning Commission. A request for a Site Plan Review has been submitted. The property is located at 3860 S. Straits Hwy., and is zoned Commercial Development. The center expects to employ approximately 24 personnel and will include x-ray and lab facilities as well as 27 exam and treatment rooms.



For more information about how your Township government is working for you, township committee and commission meeting times, minutes of Township Board meetings or how to contact various township groups go to our web site www.tuscaroratwp.com or stop by the Township Hall. Office hours are Monday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

You can also check out our Facebook Page at facebook.com/TuscaroraTownship