

# Northfield Township

## MICHIGAN

# Township Talk

## Here's What's New!

You may have noticed some changes around the township in recent months. Construction projects have begun, township building upgrades and repairs are being implemented, road projects are underway (see Pg. 3 for details) and we continue working to move Northfield forward! Here is just some of what has been happening since our last newsletter.

**New Township Trustee:** Twp. Trustee Joshua Nelson submitted his resignation at the Dec. 13, 2022 board meeting due to purchasing a new home outside of the township. The Board of Trustees received 10 applications for the vacant board seat. At the Jan. 24, 2023 meeting, the Board interviewed the candidates in attendance and appointed Tim Saville as the new trustee. Mr. Saville will serve as trustee for the remainder of the current term which ends in November 2024. Congratulations Tim Saville!

**Northfield Community Park - Phase I:** Last fall, Northfield was awarded an MDNR Trust Fund grant for \$300,000 and a Connecting Communities Grant for \$225,000 to begin the development of the Northfield Twp. Community Park located just north of the Whitmore Lake Post Office (\$805,000 total funding with Twp. match). These grants will help support Phase I of the community park development including creation of the park entrance, paved parking and connected, paved pathways. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-July!

**Please join us on Friday, July, 14 at 1:00pm for our Ground Breaking Celebration as we celebrate the beginning of the long-awaited construction of our community park! Refreshments will be provided. Come join the fun!**

The Township and Parks & Recreation Board have submitted additional applications for the following grants:

- **Building Healthy Communities Grant.** If awarded, this grant would go toward the purchase of children's play and adult fitness equipment to be placed around the trail loop being built this summer, creating a fun and healthy destination for all members of the community.
- **Greater Metropolitan Assoc. of Realtors (GMAR) Placemaking Grant:** If awarded, this grant would be used for the purchase and installation of shade structures at the park.
- **SPARK Grant:** If awarded, this grant would be used for expansion of the paved parking area and construction of a pavilion, restroom facilities and other amenities including a water refill station, grilling areas, trash receptacles, benches and dog waste stations.

Exciting things are on the horizon for the Northfield Community Park!

**Sewer System Review:** The Board heard from our engineers at TetraTech at their June 13th meeting about needed updates to the sewer system, especially in the downtown area. This area is utilizing the original infrastructure, which was installed in 1965 and is at its capacity. In order to accommodate growth in the township (including development of the Community Park), it has been highly recommended that we begin improvements on our trunk lines at an estimated total cost of \$5.9 million. The board will be discussing our options for improving our sewer lines and being able to accommodate expected future growth at their upcoming meetings.

**Planning & Zoning News:** It is an exciting time in our Planning and Zoning Department with some BIG projects underway Here are just a few of the upcoming projects in Northfield:

**Chestnut Hills Development:** Construction began earlier this year, and a few buildings are close to completion. The plan includes 264 units - 56 single-family detached homes and 208 attached townhomes at the northwest corner of Whitmore Lake Rd & North Territorial.

**Stop 'N' Store:** The site plan for the Stop 'N' Store expansion at 8761 Main St. was approved by the Planning Commission in May.

**75 Barker:** Paperwork for the sale of 75 Barker was signed at the end of April. Mr. Jamil has taken ownership of the property and the parking spaces adjacent to the building. The remainder of the parking is still owned by the township and is open for public use.

### Other Potential Projects:

- ◆ Meijer Corp. continues to make inquiries about the possibility of developing the site at US-23 and N. Territorial.
- ◆ The Township recently met with a private developer regarding a plan for a mixed use development (residential and commercial) on 65-acres immediately adjacent and east of the Meijer property on N. Territorial. We anticipate this matter will be scheduled for Planning Commission consideration at an upcoming meeting.
- ◆ A pre-application meeting was held with a developer looking to build 12-units (two six-unit buildings) at the end of Jennings Rd. near the athletic complex. It appears to be a good fit in that area. The developer was advised that the township is in the process of reviewing the capacity of the sewer system in that area and that it would be prudent to wait for the completion of this review.

(Continued on Page 2)



## Treasurer's Office Tidbits



Summer tax bills are due without interest or penalty by **Thur., Sept. 14, 2023**. Please see your tax bill for more information. If you did not receive a tax bill, please contact Northfield Township at (734) 449-2880. Not receiving your tax bill does not exempt you from paying your taxes.

Taxes are payable by cash, check, or card. You may pay your taxes with credit/debit card or e-check on our website at [www.twp-northfield.org](http://www.twp-northfield.org) or by calling (833) 733-6290. Please note, our electronic payment service provider charges a 2.8% fee of the amount paid by credit/debit card. The fee for an electronic check (e-check) is \$0.85 for payments under \$10K and \$10.00 for payments over \$10K. For your convenience, there is a 24-hour payment drop box in the vestibule at the Township offices, and one located on the sidewalk leading to the Township front doors. We highly encourage you to utilize the 24-hour drop boxes as there have been delays in mail—we do **not accept post mark dates as your payment date**.

If you need a receipt, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope when using the drop box or mail. Online payments allow you to print a receipt for your records. If you have an escrow account with your mortgage company, it is your responsibility to confirm that they paid your taxes.

### Deferment Applications Qualifications (as provided by the County)

Deferring payment on taxes to a later date is available to some homeowners, but you must certify that you meet all the criteria to qualify for a deferment. There are two ways to qualify:

1) You must certify that your gross household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$40,000 and that you qualify for the deferment provided for in the General Property Tax Act under the classification marked below, and that the Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim must be filed on or before February 14th **AND one of the following**:

- 62 years of age or older, including unmarried surviving spouse
- Paraplegic or Quadriplegic
- Eligible Service person, veteran, widow or widower
- Blind
- Total & Permanently Disabled

2) Qualification for the Special Agricultural Summer Deferment. Your property **MUST** be zoned Agricultural and you must meet other criteria. Please call or visit our office for details.

**SUMMER deferment only application deadline is Sept. 14** (Summer payments due Feb. 14)

WINTER deferment only application deadline is Feb. 14 (Winter payments due Apr. 30)

SUMMER & WINTER deferment application deadline is Sept. 14 (Both payments are due Apr. 30)

If you are interested in a deferment or have any other questions, please call the Treasurer's office at (734) 449-2880 x114.

*Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!*

*Your Treasurer, Jacqueline Otto and Deputy Treasurer, Stacie MacDonald*

## Here's What's New! (cont'd from Pg. 1)



**Play Path Revitalization:** Volunteers were hard at work during the month of June to bring the Barker Road Play Path back to its bright & colorful glory! Games were repainted, repairs were made, and new features have been added! If you haven't gotten the chance, come downtown and see for yourself! The Play Path runs for ~1 mile along Barker Rd. from Main St. to the Elementary School with 16 games and activities to enjoy along the way.

**Public Safety Building HVAC System Repairs:** The township sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the much needed repairs to the boiler system at the Public Safety Building & Township Offices. Proposals were due to the township by June 29th. The construction bid will be awarded in July with final project completion anticipated by Oct. 1, 2023. The township is planning to go out to bid for other HVAC system repairs this fall.

**Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget:** The township budget for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year was finalized at the June 13, 2023 board meeting. The budget can be found on our on-line Document Center under Financial Reports.

## Board of Trustees

Honored to serve the residents of Northfield Township!

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

[boardmembers@northfieldmi.gov](mailto: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



**Tim Saville**  
savillet@  
(734) 255-4724



**Rachel Smith**  
smithr@  
(734) 623-9814



## Members Needed: DDA and Parks & Recreation Board

### Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

4 vacancies: The DDA is looking for residents or **business owners** in downtown Whitmore Lake or the US-23 and North Territorial area to join the DDA. The mission of the DDA is to undertake public improvements and activities that have the greatest impact in strengthening the business district and attracting new private investments. The DDA typically meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. DDA members serve 4 year terms.

Interested applicants should contact Sup. Ken Dignan at [dignank@northfieldmi.gov](mailto:dignank@northfieldmi.gov) or (734) 546-7803

### Parks & Recreation Board

1 vacancy: Members of the Parks & Recreation Board are members of the community interested in advancing recreational opportunities within our township. Parks & Recreation members serve 3-year terms. The Parks & Recreation Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.

Please complete our "[Boards and Commissions Application](#)" found on the township website and submit your application to the Township Office.

## 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

You can pay your sewer bill at our office by cash, check, or credit/debit card. You may also pay your sewer bill with credit/debit card or e-check on our website at [www.twp-northfield.org](http://www.twp-northfield.org) or by calling 1-833-733-6290. Please note, fees apply when paying by card or e-check - 2.8% for card payments, \$0.85 for e-check payments under \$10,000.

\*\*10% Late fee is added after the due date\*\*

\*\*Failure to receive your bill does not waive past due penalties\*\*

### Election Information

Northfield Township elections for 2023:

- August 8, 2023 - Special Election
- November election To Be Determined

Absentee Ballot Applications are now available. Keep an eye on our website for election updates. To register to vote, see election results, and more, visit [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote)

**Kathleen Manley - Clerk**

**April Laitinen - Deputy Clerk**

## Farmland Preservation Millage

You will find a new "Farmland Preservation" line item on the Winter 2023 tax bill that was approved at the ballot last November. Township-wide, it should raise approximately \$200,000 per year for the protection of farmland and to ensure the land permanently remains in agricultural use.

If you or someone you know has an interest in preserving their land, please email the Land Preservation Committee at [northfieldtownshipipc@gmail.com](mailto:northfieldtownshipipc@gmail.com). For more information about the program, visit the township website at [www.twp-northfield.org](http://www.twp-northfield.org); Click on "Our Township", and then on "Land Preservation Committee".

Thank you for your support and your interest.  
The Northfield Township Land Preservation Committee



## Police Department Millage

At the Apr. 25, 2023 Board Meeting, Police Chief Marty Smith presented his plan to reinstate full staffing levels in the Police Department which were reduced in 2007 due to the impact of the housing crisis on tax revenues. This would entail hiring 3 new full-time officers to eliminate "one man staffing" and allow for a full-time School Resource Officer. Financing 3 additional full-time officers will require an increase in police department funding.

On the Aug. 8th ballot you will see a proposal to replace and increase the current police millage from 4.5 mills to 5.425 mills for 5 yrs. beginning in Dec. of 2023, adjusted annually due to the Headlee Amendment. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out [smithm@northfieldmi.gov](mailto:smithm@northfieldmi.gov) or (734) 449-9911 x115.

## 2023 Road Work

On March 28, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the 2023 Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) Agreement allocating \$348,000 of township funds for road maintenance. With a county match of about \$76,110, this allows for repair work to portions of Joy Rd. (a shared project with Ann Arbor Twp.), Dixboro Rd. (a shared project with Salem Twp.), Jennings Rd., and 6 Mile Rd. Additionally, WCRC is taking on the full cost of brine applications in 2023.

Outside of the township's road work agreement, other improvements scheduled for 2023 include resurfacing work on Main St., Barker Rd. and Whitmore Lake Rd. Please visit the [Washtenaw County Road Commission website](#) for more details.

Construction on the US-23 Flex Route Phase 2 has begun and is expected to continue through January 2026. This work is part of MDOT's ongoing \$162 million investment to extend the US-23 Flex Route from north of 8 Mile Road to I-96. The project consists of just under 7.5 miles of hot mix asphalt reconstruction and rehabilitation, shoulder widening, interchange reconfigurations, bridge replacement, and rehabilitation at 9 structures. The US-23 Flex Route Phase 2 extension focuses on traffic safety, operations, infrastructure condition, and the directional peak period congestion along the US-23 corridor. Please visit MDOT's website for more information.

[www.michigan.gov/mdot/projects-studies/us-route-construction/us23-flex-route](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/projects-studies/us-route-construction/us23-flex-route)



# Calendar of Events

## Township Office CLOSED

- \* Tuesday, July 4—4th of July
- \* Monday, Sept. 4—Labor Day

## Summer Taxes Due:

Sept. 14, 2023  
 Our Office will be open until 5:00pm on **Thursday, September 14th** to accept Tax Payments

## 4th of July Festivities:

### ◆ 4th of July Fireworks:

on Whitmore Lake  
 July 2 at dusk  
 (rain date July 3)



### ◆ Lighted Boat Parade:

Mac's Marina  
 9876 Main St.  
 July 3 at 9:45pm

### ◆ 4th of July Parade:

Barker Rd. & Main St.  
 July 4 at 10am

### ◆ Root Beer Float Social:

Community Center, 9101 Main St.  
 July 4 after the parade until supplies run out

### ◆ Farmers Market:

8877 Main St. (temporary location)  
 July 4 from 10am-2pm

### ◆ Banana Split Eating Contest:

Dee's Place, 9876 Main St.  
 July 4 at 2:00pm

## NTAL Summer Reading Club

This summer we have fun activities for all ages, kids and adults! Visit the Library or our website [www.ntal.org](http://www.ntal.org) for more info, and fun weekly activities.

## Northfield Community Park Ground

### Breaking Celebration

Friday, July 14 at 1:00pm  
 Join us for our Ground Breaking Celebration at the Northfield Community Park (next to the Whitmore Lake Post Office) as we begin our first phase of construction! Refreshments provided.

**Election Day:** Tuesday, Aug. 8  
 Polls Open 7:00am-8:00pm

# Meeting Information

The Northfield Township Board of Trustees meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. 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](http://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.

Other meetings—all are open to the public:

**Planning Commission:** Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Meets the 3rd Monday of the month

**Park and Recreation Board:** Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month

**Downtown Development Authority:** Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month

**Board of Review:** Meets in March, July and December

**Land Preservation Committee:** Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00pm

## Whitmore Lake Farmers Market

Join us on the 1st\* and 3rd Sundays now through October from 10:00am-2:00pm for the freshest local fruits and veggies, meat, poultry, cheeses, eggs, baked goods, and crafts with 20+ vendors per week. Grab a meal from a food truck, listen to live music and watch the kids as they enjoy lawn games, treasure hunts and make-and-take activities.

### WHITMORE LAKE



### FARMERS MARKET

SPONSORED BY NORTHFIELD TWP

While there is construction at the Northfield Community Park, the Whitmore Lake Farmers Market will temporarily be held at the former Whitmore Lake Middle School (8877 Main St.). Mark your calendar for this year's market dates:

**\*Tuesday, July 4**  
**Sunday, July 16**  
**Sunday, August 6**  
**Sunday, August 20**

**Sunday, September 3**  
**Sunday, September 17**  
**Sunday, October 1**  
**Sunday, October 15**

Interested in being a vendor or having your food truck at the market? Would you like to offer an activity or play music for our market patrons?  
 Please contact [farmers\\_market@northfieldmi.gov](mailto:farmers_market@northfieldmi.gov)

# Office Information

Northfield Township Offices are open from 8:00am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, unless otherwise posted. We close daily for lunch from 1:00-1:30pm.

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](http://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

