

Watertown Charter Township

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Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 am-5:00 pm

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Supervisor's Department
Deb Adams, Township Supervisor Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
Donna Case, Administrative Assistant

Conservative Management leads to an Increased Bond Rating from Standard & Poors!

As further evidence of Watertown Townships conservative fiscal management Standard & Poors has increased the township bond rating from A+ to AA+! While communities across the nation are experiencing a drop in their bond ratings, Watertown Township's "conservative management" and "strong financial position" has led Standard & Poors to increase the township bond rating. The Standard & Poors August 7, 2009 Ratings Direct issue views Watertown Township's financial management as "good". Standard & Poors AA ratings are considered very strong on the ratings scale with only one higher category.

State of the Township

We are once again proud to announce that Watertown Township is in sound financial condition. The Township Board has provided its residents with a 2010 balanced budget that is fiscally responsible to the community's needs and despite declining revenues, required no millage increase.

As revenues continue to decline, Watertown Township continues to make the necessary but difficult budget cuts to ensure services continue without interruption. We have fared better than our neighbors who are cutting programs and services to make ends meet. Our continued fiscal restraint, strategic planning and maintaining limited cash reserves to meet critical emergencies has kept Watertown Township in sound fiscal condition despite continually declining revenues.

In light of the current financial crisis facing our economy, we feel that it is important that our residents have a clear understanding of the 2010 township budget. This comparison illustrates how we have cut expenses in light of falling revenues:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Revenues:	\$2,001,170	\$1,919,211
Expenses	\$1,984,569	\$1,903,136

With an estimated decrease of more than 4% in revenues it was necessary to decrease expenses to maintain a balanced budget. *continued on page 2*

The current Township Board continues to make operating on a balanced budget a top priority. The Township Board has made tough decisions to cut the operating budget, instead of using fund reserves or requesting a millage increase from the voters to cover the difference for general operation of the township. The fund balance/reserves are where the Township saves money for specific purposes, like a new fire truck and unexpected emergencies. In other words, it's the Township's savings account. In the past, this account has been confused as having a large excess of funds instead of what it actually is, a savings account for future expenses. The Township Boards fiscal responsibility in making cuts to bring the expenses in line with revenues has left Watertown as one of the very few fiscally sound municipalities in the area.

Take a look at local governments in the area and you will find increasing sewer rates, millage requests for fire and police operation, decreased services and postponement of scheduled capital improvements. Watertown Township has responded to the current economic crisis by continuing to do more with less. In addition to staff reductions, a salary comparison between Watertown Township and Dewitt Township showed Watertown Township employees as a whole make approximately 31.5% less than the equivalent positions in Dewitt. In addition, there are no cost of living increases for any staff in the 2010 budget. The Township Board's further reductions in health care benefit eligibility, has capped the potential liability for costs in the future. In an effort to remain fiscally sound, Watertown Township has continually reorganized and taken the necessary action to continue township services at current levels without interruption.

I hope that this article gives assurance that the Township Board along with the Township staff are operating as efficiently and fiscally responsible as possible in service to the Watertown Township residents. For an independent accounting of Township funds, I encourage you to look at the 2009 audit when it becomes available in May as evidence of Watertown Township's fiscal responsibility. If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please feel free to contact Jennifer Tubbs at 517-626-6593.

Clerk's Department
Melissa Freeman, Clerk Christy Sochay, Assistant Clerk
Mary Jo Kelley, Bookkeeper

New Assistant Township Clerk: I would like to welcome Christy Sochay, the new Assistant Township Clerk. Christy and I are excited to be working together on various projects and continuing to update the township's record keeping systems.

Parks & Recreation Committee Vacancy: The township is currently seeking an individual to fill a vacancy on its Parks & Recreation Committee. This committee meets several times a year, and plans and organizes various community events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Parade, Halloween party, and Christmas party. The Parks & Recreation Committee also advises on the operation, use, care, and maintenance of the township's parks. If you are interested in serving on this committee, you can obtain an application for appointment on the home page of the township's website (www.twp.watertown.mi.us) or you can contact the clerk's office for an application.

2010 Elections: 2010 will be a busy election year which includes the State Primary and General Elections. If you are interested in working as an election inspector, please contact the clerk's office for an application. All current and newly appointed election inspectors will attend the county's election inspector accreditation class in late spring or early summer of 2010.

Township Schedule of Fees: In September, the Board of Trustees adopted a comprehensive fee schedule which outlines the fees charged for various township departments including FOIA, emergency services, permits, and cemetery fees. A copy of the fee schedule is posted on the home page of the township's website for your convenience.

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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy: The township recently adopted a policy regarding FOIA requests, as the state law requires. This policy, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees in September, addresses the procedures the township must follow in processing FOIA requests. Nearly all township files and records are public information, and available under the FOIA. To obtain files and records, you must complete an application, which is available on the home page of the township's website (www.twp.watertown.mi.us). For more information about obtaining information through the Freedom of Information Act, contact the clerk's office.

Minutes Available on Website: The meeting minutes of several boards and committees of the township are available for review on the township's website, including Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority, and the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Website Committee: A committee was formed this year and will be working towards revising and updating the township's website in 2010. The committee would appreciate suggestions from the community with regard to the content included on the website. If you have suggestions or comments for the Website Committee with regard to changes you would like to see on our website, we would like to hear from you! Please call or email me with your comments: (517) 626-6593 x211, MFreeman@WatertownTownship.com

Winter Cemetery Regulations: From November 1 to April 1, the cemetery is open between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. until dusk on the weekends. Artificial flowers, grave blankets, and artificial wreaths are permitted at ground level on gravesites during the winter months, between November 1 and April 1.

Planning and Zoning Department
Andrea Polverento, Planning Director Amy Kinney, Planning Assistant

This fall has been busy in the Planning and Zoning office. In October both the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees approved resolutions to adopt the newly updated Master Plan. This document will be an excellent resource for the Township as we move forward in these difficult economic times.

Some highlights from the 2009 Master Plan:

- New objective that encourages the use of low impact development techniques, native plant species, energy conservation and renewable energy sources
- Revisions to the Future Land Use map that considered the substantial decrease in development pressure
- The inclusion of "Smart Growth Principles" within the plan
- New "Focus Area Overlays" to give particular consideration to the Wacousta Village area, the Grand River Avenue corridor, and the Looking Glass River
- A table of action items to aid implementation of the plan
- A matrix of Zoning Districts and Future Land Use Districts to better describe the relationship between the Zoning Ordinance and the Master Plan
- Dozens of beautiful photos from around the Township

The 2009 Master Plan is available to download on the Township Web site at www.twp.watertown.mi.us.

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The Planning Commission is also currently drafting new Zoning Ordinance regulations that will govern wind turbines, solar energy developments, and outdoor woodstoves. The Ordinance Review Committee is working hard to ensure that the regulations are both easy to understand and affordable. The Planning Commission is also establishing a committee that will review the permitted and special land uses for each zoning district in the Zoning Ordinance, and make recommendations for any changes.

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Development in 2009 in the Township improved over 2008, but is still not near the levels experienced during the housing boom from 2003-2005. Smaller projects, such as new decks, pools and pole barns increased in 2009, and new residential builds were up slightly, mostly due to new development in the Nottingham Fields subdivision near Airport and Stoll Roads.

The Planning and Zoning office has been working closely with the Safe Routes to School Program at Wacousta Elementary School, to look for ways to improve safety for students who wish to walk or bike to school. With a significant number of students living in close proximity to the school, particularly on Wacousta Road, Looking Glass Brook and Riverside Drive, there are a number of opportunities for improvement. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, a planned "Walk to School Day" was cancelled, but the group hopes it will be rescheduled in the spring.

Last, the Planning and Zoning office has also been working with the Parks and Recreation Committee to make final revisions to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which you may recall was developed with help from a group of MSU students. The plan requires a few minor changes to make it eligible for applications to state grant programs. The committee expects to complete its work early in 2010, and will forward the plan to the Board of Trustees, who will hold a public hearing. If you have questions or comments regarding parks and recreation planning in the Township, please contact the Planning and Zoning office.

<p style="text-align: center;">Treasurer's Department Janice Thelen, Treasurer Amy Kinney, Assistant Treasurer</p>
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Did you know that Watertown Charter Township is the home to three public library districts? Grand Ledge Library District collects a millage from properties located in the Grand Ledge Public school district. DeWitt Library District collects a millage from properties located in the DeWitt, St. Johns and Lansing school districts. Delta Library District collects a millage from properties located in the Waverly school district. While our area libraries are supported through a millage, thanks to the founder of libraries, Benjamin Franklin, the use of public libraries are free to all.

The majority of Watertown Charter Township residents and businesses, excluding those in the St. Johns school district pay a millage to Lansing Community College. Records of the vote to support a millage for LLC may be traced back to 1964! For those of you who live in Grand Ledge, DeWitt, Lansing and Waverly school districts, you are able to take classes at Lansing Community College at a reduced "in-district" cost. The LCC millage is collected on the winter tax statement. If proof of "in-district" is required, a copy of your winter tax statement should suffice.

The 2009 winter tax statements were mailed on November 25, 2009. If you have not received yours, please contact the Treasurer's Department to request a copy. Failure to receive a tax statement does not relieve the obligation to pay.

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Once you receive your tax statement, please review that your Principal Resident Exemption is correct, if it is less than 100%, please contact the Treasurer's Department (517-626-6593, ext 206 or ext 205) or the Assessor's Department (517-626-6593, ext 210).

A common question at this time of year is, "do you accept partial payments". The short answer is, **absolutely!** I have always accepted partial payments and find that in this difficult economy, this practice is being used more often. For many, it is easier to breakdown the payment process into manageable portions in place of one large payment. With the tax program currently being used, it is a simple process to record and correctly process multiple tax payments per parcel.

If you are finding it near impossible to pay your property taxes without sacrificing basic necessities. The State of Michigan offers help to everyone who qualifies through the following programs: the Home Heating Credit 1040CR-7 and the Homestead Property Tax Credit 1040CR. Make sure that your tax preparer reviews these programs when filing your income tax. In addition, effective February 2008, Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees adopted a Hardship Exemption Guidelines and Application. For information regarding this exemption of ad valorem property taxes, please contact either the Treasurer's Department or the Assessor's Department.

RENTALS of PARK PAVILIONS AND THE WALLACE F. WATT COMMUNITY CENTER

If you have a family get-together planned and would like to have some built-in activity areas, renting a park pavilion offers plenty of room to play games of all kinds. There are ball fields available and play equipment for the younger kids. Each pavilion has electricity and grills. The rates are \$35.00 for a partial day (10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.-dusk) or \$55.00 for a full day (10:00 a.m.-dusk). In addition to the rental fee, there is a \$50.00 refundable deposit. The Township also rents the gym for parties, reunions, birthdays, etc. The rates are \$85.00 for a partial day (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.-midnight) and \$210.00 for a full day (8:00 a.m.-midnight). A Saturday rental requires a full day rental. In addition to the rental fee, there is a refundable deposit of \$150.00. You can not reserve the facilities for 2010 until January 4, 2010.

The Parks and Recreation Committee sponsored a fantastic Halloween Party on October 31, 2009. There were more than 80 people in attendance. The committee also sponsors a "Lunch With Santa", Easter Party and Memorial Day Parade and Picnic.

Fitness 4 You Aerobics by Jerry McNeilly

Here are a few things to think about before winter comes. If you are diabetic or pre-diabetic, you know that exercise is usually recommended to help control it. Those with rheumatoid arthritis can often maintain or increase their flexibility and range of motion with regular exercise. If your doctor described you as being a "couch potato", you might consider trying our aerobic exercise class (we have no couches!). If you have been advised to do weight bearing exercise to help maintain bone density, try our class.

Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:15pm, and Saturdays at 9am at the Watertown Township Gym. Remember: You can try the class **free** until **you** decide if it fits your needs or not. For more information call Jerry McNeilly at 627-9570.

**Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority
Captain/Paramedic Tim Baker**

As 2009 slowly comes to an end, we at the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority, reflect back at the year that was. As of this printing our annual run numbers have decreased for the first time the Fire Authority has been founded. This is very good news for our residents and a proven fact on how well our fire prevention and safety activities have impacted the community. Even though our run numbers have seen a reduction we haven't let that deter our dedication to the community. We have been vigilant in our efforts to continue the development of our services, programs, equipment, education, training, and staff. In fact a group of Looking Glass Fire members won the 2009 Extrication Competition at the Michigan's Firefighter Memorial.



We have continued our efforts to assist our neighboring departments with services and they us. We have set up agreements with Dewitt Township, Roxand Township, and the City of Lansing, as well as continuing our history with Delta Township and Grand Ledge. In efforts to continue these agreements we have been included in the West Metro Fire Alliance. This group is comprised of Delta Township, Lansing Township, Benton Township, Windsor Township, Grand Ledge, and your Looking Glass Fire Authority. We have come together to develop a training program so all 6 of these departments can learn and hone our skills. In Mid-October all these departments gathered for the first time and accomplished training on using ground ladders to make rescues of victims.



With efforts of cooperation we have hosted 4 large scale training activities in which we invited all area departments to attend. In late September we hosted a Large Truck Extrication class with the assistance of Shroyers Towing. In this class we learned the capabilities of the towing service and had hands-on scenarios of accidents involving large trucks. In October we hosted a Farm Extrication class, with instruction provided by START Rescue Inc. In this class we learned how to mitigate hazards around farming, to include patient entrapment in farm machinery and rescues from silos. The very next day we hosted a live fire training session where we put all of our firefighting training to the test and set fires inside a house for firefighters to extinguish. We also accomplished various activities for ventilation, incident command, and apparatus pumping. In late

October we invited Tri-County Electric to come in and give a presentation on hazards of electricity and downed power lines.

All of these training programs have not only helped area departments, but also enhanced the capabilities of members of the Fire Authority. We have not slowed down our training due to the year winding down. In the next few weeks we will be completing HazMat refresher course, Blood Borne Pathogens, CPR, Fit testing, and Gear Inspections for all department members. So, as the volume of our responses has decreased for the year, our development and dedication to the service of the community has not.

New Fire Truck!
Ken Mitchell, Township Trustee and LGRFA
Equipment Chair

The Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority (LGRFA) recently purchased a new fire truck to replace the dated fire truck that has been in our service since the very beginning of the authority. The original fire truck was purchased used, at a cost saving of \$150,000, over purchasing a new vehicle with limited start-up funding at the time. Now, that old truck is nearing the end of its reliable life and it has needed numerous repairs.

The major concern to the authority was that a new engine would be needed at a considerable cost, and in addition, we were advised that starting in 2010 new federal emission standards were going to take place. This would add approximately \$17,000 to the cost of a new engine. With all these cost factors taken into consideration, we began research to find a replacement. Public safety was now the major concern with the ultimate goal to assure that the Authority provides maximum protection to the residents of our community with reliable emergency equipment.

The LGRFA equipment committee looked at several types of trucks and after detailed review an equipment specification was developed for our specific need and the bid process initiated. After bid review and product selection we are proud to announce that the new truck will be made on a Spartan Chassis manufactured in Michigan (Charlotte) with the accessory equipment assembled elsewhere.

The total cost of the truck will be \$305,000. In addition, there will be \$45,000 worth of new life saving accessories added to the truck with the major part of that being air packs. The expense will be split with Watertown Township's cost of truck and equipment being \$227,500 and Eagle Township \$122,500. The final agreed to price was trimmed and worked out through several meetings and represent a large savings over the original cost estimate of \$450,000.

There will be no need to bond for the new vehicle as the Township Board has been saving funds in reserve in preparation of needing a new fire truck. The LGRFA Authority consists of Watertown Township with 65% of the ownership and Eagle Township 35%. The Equipment Committee working on the project consisted of Ken Mitchell, Billy Crego, John Clark and Fire Chief Steve Fabiano.

Sheriff's Report
Deputy Sharon Worthington

"Tis the season" for car/deer crashes, and our Officers are being kept very busy with all of them. If your vehicle is drivable, and you do not want the deer; you may drive home or to your destination and report it later. Just remember, you must report it in the county the crash occurred in. If you hit a deer and want to keep it, you need a permit that our Officers will give you.

With the holidays upon us, we see many more criminals looking for easy targets and opportunities. Charities are in more need, but so are most others.



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Please don't let anyone talk you into giving what you do not want to give. I always make sure it is a local agency and that the funds will be staying locally. DO NOT give out any financial information to anyone you might have questions about. Remember, most financial institutions and credit card companies are not going to email you to verify and update your accounts. When shopping, ladies do not leave your purse sitting in the shopping cart. Also, do not leave anything of value in an unlocked car – even if it is in your own driveway.

In the next couple of months the county will be making changes to their internet services. One thing that they will be adding is a list serve. This will be great for our neighborhood watch stuff. We will try to switch all of you over without you having to sign up. It will also allow you to “unsubscribe” if you no longer wish to be on the list. You will then be responsible for updating address changes, etc... Hopefully, we will be able to determine areas of the county that we may need more coverage with our neighborhood watches. I think this will be a good thing and I will send out information as we get it.

May you all have a safe and enjoyable Holiday season.

WHAT IS THE DEWITT PUBLIC LIBRARY WORTH TO YOU?

What do you love most about the library? Getting the newest books? Attending children's programs? Using a library computer? The DeWitt Library, via its website www.dewittlibrary.org, is now offering a return on investment calculator. This simple calculator, modeled after the Library of Michigan, allows library users to compare the value of their library usage to their investment in the library via tax dollars.

The calculations are based on the typical per capita income of the DeWitt Library service area. Check your winter tax bill to determine which library your tax dollars support. Of course the DeWitt Library is a great value. Check out the calculator, enter your information, and find out for yourself.

Currently DeWitt Library cards and borrowing privileges are available to those residing within the library district area. Those outside the area who wish to use the DeWitt Library and can show the required picture id with proof of current address are welcome to obtain a library card, borrow materials and make use of other services offered.

The DeWitt Library has two convenient locations; the Main Library located at 13101 Schavey Rd. in DeWitt next to the DeWitt Shopping Center and the Community Satellite located at 16101 Brook Rd. in Lansing inside the DeWitt Township Community Center. Information on programs and services offered by the DeWitt Library can be found online at www.dewittlibrary.org.

Now is the Time to Invest in our Future-With Trees!
By Ronald V. Overton, Planning Commissioner and Master Gardener

The latest edition of the Arbor Society's Tree City Bulletin was both timely and important to our township, our river and not only ourselves, but our kids and grandkids. It stressed that today, when economic times are tough, it's even more important to be wise about our investments. Our trees are an asset that we need to both expand and protect. If you think of them as infrastructure, which they are, they're the only kind to actually increase over time in both their value and the contribution they make.

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While we're all aware of the beauty and shade of trees, it's important when times are tough to consider their economic contributions.

Trees can contribute significantly to saving energy by not only providing shade, but helping to cool your house in the summer and keep it warm in the winter. It is estimated that by properly landscaping your property with the appropriate trees, you can reduce your air conditioning costs by up to 56% and your winter heating expenses by as much as 25%.

If we all did this, think how many fewer power plants we might need to build. In addition, while we don't do this much in our township, evergreen trees have long been used along many rural roads to serve as wind-breaks or snow fences. This helps to keep roads from becoming snow covered, making them safer for motorists.

I have written several times about how trees can help protect the watershed and river from storm water runoff by not only catching it or slowing it down but also by helping to reduce erosion. However, their role in reducing runoff can also greatly reduce the need for expensive storm water management engineering such as retention ponds, catch basins and piping.

Animals like you and I inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Trees are the opposite – they inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen. If you want to help fight global warming, plant a tree. Indeed, they not only capture and trap carbon, but they help clean the air by removing both ozone and other pollutants. There is a lot of discussion about how to combat climate change but the quickest and cheapest way to start it to put Mother Nature to work and plant a few million trees – she's the heavy lifter; let's put her to work.

Having trees in our landscape that are both healthy and mature can enhance our property values significantly. Indeed, this also applies to businesses and even property developers. While it is common knowledge that the price of a wooded lot greatly exceeds that of one without trees, a new study by the University of San Diego and the CB Richard Ellis Group says that the tenants of green buildings are more productive, have fewer sick days and that these buildings have lower vacancy and higher rental rates. This mirrors research that shows that the presence of trees has a positive effect on people in both their business and social interactions (e.g. shoppers buy more and stay longer when there are trees present).

Lastly, keep in mind that part of this investment in trees includes maintaining them in a healthy state. It's easy to cut back on tree pruning when times are tough, but if you spread the costs out over the life of the tree they're minimal. Couple this with the potential costs associated with falling branches (or falling trees), the dangers to public safety and the associated legal liabilities – the benefits far outweigh the costs. Neglect in this area can lead to higher insurance, legal and compensatory costs – both public and private.



Grand Ledge Public Library at Wacousta
By; Nancy Page
Library Communications Consultant



Reading fun continues through December!!

It's not too late for Watertown Township residents to join the fun of the adult reading program at the Grand Ledge Area District Library. Modeled after its popular Children's Reading Program, where youngsters earn rewards for reading a lot of books, the library's first-ever adult reading program runs through Dec. 21. Called "Fall into Reading," it features a Tic-Tac-Toe grid with nine categories of selections: biography/autobiography, suspense/thriller, mystery, science fiction/fantasy, current bestseller, books made into movies and non-fiction, as well as reader's choice and a book recommended by a friend or book club.

To participate, you need a library card and the Tic-Tac-Toe grid. The grids, as well as more information about the program, are available at the Adult Services Desk. Participants can then read or listen to three books from the categories to form a line vertically, horizontally or diagonally to complete the grid.

"Each tic-tac-toe grid you turn in is then entered into the weekly prize drawings," explains Library Director Suzanne Bowles. "The more grids you complete, the more chances you have to win a prize."

The Grand Ledge Area District Library main branch is located at 131 E. Jefferson St. in downtown Grand Ledge (phone 627-7014) and is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The branch at 13080 Wacousta Road also has the Tic-Tac-Toe grids. That branch (phone 626-6577) is open 3 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The library's web address is: <http://grandledge.lib.mi.us>

Free digital library arrives in Wacousta!

The Grand Ledge Area District Library is now offering a free digital service that lets Watertown Township residents download books and movies to their computers and portable devices by teaming with OverDrive, the leading global distributor of audio books, eBooks and videos. OverDrive provides download services for more than 9,000 libraries, retailers and schools worldwide with support for PC, Mac, Sony Reader and MP3, as well as offering the largest collection of iPod-compatible audio books for libraries.

In order to afford this service upgrade, the Grand Ledge library joined a consortium of 25 libraries; the Capital Area District Library is the only other local member of the consortium. "The consortium allows us to expand the collection we have and offer a greater number of titles in these formats than we could do on our own," says Library Director Suzanne Bowles. "We were fortunate to get in before the consortium closed to new members. The service looks like it meets a growing need and gives us and our patrons a chance to try it." Another benefit offered by the consortium is that it uses professional selectors. Two libraries in the consortium employ experts well versed in authors as well as trends, which should help insure selections meet what patrons want.

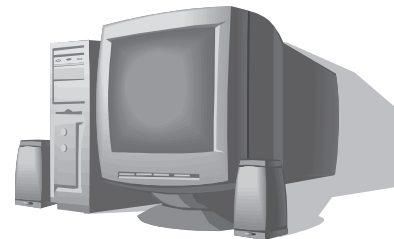
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To access the service, you need a library card and a library pin number, which are available at both the downtown Wacousta and Grand Ledge branches. Those interested can also review the OverDrive service at the library's website before committing to get a library card and pin number.

"This is the way to go because people want to be able to access these materials for free," Bowles says of OverDrive's position as industry leader in downloadable books. "Amazon has the Kindle, but that has a cost. A big plus with the Sony Reader is that patrons can download to it directly. The new Sony Daily Edition has partnered with OverDrive to offer these downloads at participating libraries."

Bowles says the library is meeting a growing need in the community. "We have always had a strong demand for CDs and books-on-tape. This gives our patrons a much greater selection. Our purpose as a library is to share materials. It's an investment the community makes and then uses when it's needed. People can visit the library to try out new technology without making a personal investment." Among the benefits of the OverDrive service Bowles extols are that the service is easy to use with a variety of portable devices, it saves patrons time and money and it's available 24/7, 365 days a year. "It's convenient," she says. "Once you're set up, you can do it from home; you don't need to come to the library. For us, we don't have to store these materials on site. We can provide an enhanced service that doesn't require physical space."

Vital to the library's basic mission is providing access to information. "We provide materials in a variety of media and formats," explains Bowles. "The Internet is now part of our everyday lives. And, this serves all age groups." Once armed with a library card and pin number, patrons visit the library's website to access the Michigan Library Consortium Digital Catalog and Download Center, log-in with their library card number and pin number, and can then browse audio books, eBooks and videos. Once they make a selection, it is placed in their cart, like with on-line retail outlets. They can continue browsing and selecting or proceed to check-out. They then follow instructions to download free software to their computer that will be used to transfer files to their portable device or CD. There is a guided tour of the service, as well as a Quick Start Guide and support is available for each step in the process.



When browsing, users can sort selections by title, by author/creator, published date, most popular and date added to site. The site shows the cover and gives a short synopsis as well as the average rating by other readers. It also tells what devices the title will play on and whether it can be burned to a CD.

In Fiction, there are selections for children, teens and young adults and adults as well as inspirational, the classics, horror, mystery and suspense, romance, and science fiction and fantasy. Non-fiction categories include biographies, business and investing, careers and employment, computers and technology, current events and politics, health and medicine, home and family, religion and spirituality, self-improvement, study aids and reference and travel as well as juvenile non-fiction. Video categories include classic film, drama, feature film, history, horror, humor and mystery-thriller.

The Grand Ledge Area District Library main branch is located at 131 E. Jefferson St. in downtown Grand Ledge (phone 627-7014) and is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. The branch at 13080 Wacousta Road (phone 626-6577) is open 3 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The library's web address is: <http://grandledge.lib.mi.us>.

Watertown Charter Township
12803 S. Wacousta Road
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND LEDGE, MI
PERMIT NO. 132

RESIDENT
ROUTE 3
GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

OFFICE CONTACTS
Main Office 626-6593

SUPERVISOR

Deborah Adams (Home) 626-2273
dadams@wsbyc.com

TRUSTEES

John Maahs (Home) 669-5698
Johnny@TIR.com

Kenneth Mitchell (Home) 321-6352
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George Weitzel (Home) 626-2305
gweit10422@aol.com

Dale Westrick (Home) 626-2256
dale.trustee@yahoo.com

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

EXT. #207

Jennifer Tubbs, Township Manager
Donna Case, Administrative Assistant
JTubbs@watertowntownship.com
dcase@watertowntownship.com

Questions concerning Special Assessments; Sewers; Roads; Non-Zoning Ordinance enforcement; Sewer and Water Permits

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

EXT. #206

Janice Thelen, Treasurer
Amy Kinney, Treasurer Assistant
Jthelen@watertowntownship.com
Akinney@watertowntownship.com

Questions concerning Tax Bills; Special Assessments

PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICE

EXT. #205

Andrea Polverento, Planning Director
Amy Kinney, Planning and Zoning Assistant
apolverento@watertowntownship.com
Akinney@watertowntownship.com

Questions concerning Development/Building Permits; Zoning Requirements; Zoning Ordinance; Zoning Board of Appeals; Planning Commission; Basic Building/Zoning

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

EXT. #201

Melissa Freeman, Clerk
Christy Sochay, Assistant Clerk
Mary Jo Kelley, Bookkeeper
mfreeman@watertowntownship.com
sochay@watertowntownship.com

Questions concerning the Cemetery; Freedom of Information; Elections; Voter Registration; Meeting Dates; Subscription Service; Records of the Township; Accounts Payable; Payroll

CEMETERY

Weekdays-626-6593 or 626-6066
Weekends- Melissa Freeman 517-719-6141
Andy Case, Maintenance Supervisor/Sexton

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR

EXT. #210

Doug MacKenzie, Assessor
Dmackenzie@watertowntownship.com
(Tuesday/Thursday and Friday)
Questions concerning Assessing; SEV's; Property Listings; Property Splits

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Jeff Cranson, Building Inspector
Phone (517)622-8822 Fax 622-8833

LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

(517) 627-9831 (517)627-9833
FAX (517)627-9846
Chief Steve Fabiano
Questions concerning Fire Coverage Districts, Fire Permits

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

George Weitzel, Chair
Ken Mitchell
Janice Thelen
Donna Case, Coordinator