

*We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. Abraham Lincoln*

## SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

# Littlefield TOWNSHIP

Est 1877

ALANSON • ODEN • PONSHEWAING

Emmet County, P.O. Box 188 Alanson, Michigan 49706

### FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

*If you have any questions at all about your property taxes please call or email anytime.*

**NAME CHANGES:** Only done at Emmet County Equalization 231-348-1708

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** No address changes for differences in summer/winter residency. Primary residence addresses only please.

**PRE:** This is your homestead exemption. If it is your primary residence it should not be 0%.

**BILLS:** Sent only to the property owner or representative. Escrow Companies request and receive their information separately.

**RECEIPTS:** Only sent if you request at the time of payment with a self-addressed stamped envelope or email address or a fax number. You may also call and make other arrangements.

**PARTIAL PAYMENTS:** This office does accept partial payments. You may start making payments upon receipt of your bill.

**PROCESSING TIME:** Payments received are usually processed in one or two days. The 2 weeks before the due date, however because of tremendous volume, may take up to a week or more after it arrives here. It is a very good idea to mail your payment in well before the due date. That way, if there is a problem there is time to correct it. It is also a good idea to include contact information along with your payment in case there is an error and we can correct it quickly and save you time and money.

**INTEREST:** All late payments will be charged interest, no exceptions.

**OFFICE HOURS FOR TAX COLLECTION:** **Sept 14, 2017**, the deputy treasurer will be at the Township Hall to collect taxes. Any other method to drop off payments must be pre-arranged with the Treasurer as we don't have regular office hours.

**TIMES OF BILLING:** Two property tax bills are sent out at the same time each year. The Summer bill is sent out just before July 1st and the Winter bill is sent out just before Dec. 1st. If you didn't receive yours please call us.

**WEB SITE:** We are working on having all necessary information posted and regularly updated on a page dedicated to The Treasurer's Office. **Thank you!**



*Late afternoon view at the site of the proposed new marina park.*

## Admiral's Point/Hay Lake UPDATE 2017

By Damien Henning, Littlefield Township Supervisor

In Littlefield Township's Winter 2016 Newsletter it was reported that the Township acquired Admiral's Point Marina with a \$200,000.00 acquisition grant from the MDNRTF. In addition, the Township received a development grant from the MDNR Waterways grant program in the amount of \$371,400.00. On December 8, 2016, Littlefield Township was notified that its development grant application to the MDNRTF in the amount of \$280,000.00 was recommended for approval. This brings us to \$851,400.00 in acquisition and development grants from MDNRTF and MDNR Waterways. Over the course of the winter, Littlefield Township has proceeded with completing a preliminary study to determine the feasibility and the most desirable means of constructing recreational boating facilities at the marina.

This is in accordance with our grant from the MDNR Waterways grant program. This forms the basis for developing preliminary plans and ultimately accomplishing the work of preparing final construction drawings, specifications and final cost estimates. The township hopes to have bid packages for portions of Phase 1 of development ready by the end of June 2017. Phase 1 construction should be starting after Labor Day 2017.

In the meantime, the Township is waiting for the State to appropriate the funds for the \$280,000.00 development grant.



### A Little Bit of History

Fire protection in the early settlement days of Alanson was the "bucket brigade" and consisted of buckets, volunteers, and the river. When the Village of Alanson incorporated in 1905, it appears one of the first orders of business was looking for ways to make firefighting more efficient. In the April 1905 Village Counsel meeting, a motion was made and supported to put up a building to house the fire ladders and pails. The June 1905 Village Council meeting states that May 8th a fire house, 8 feet wide, 25 feet long and 7 feet high was built on site. The Town Hall/Fire Station which is on River Street and now is the home of the Inland Water Route Historical Society, was built in 1926. In 1973 a bond was taken out for a new community building on Warren and Burr (now S. US 31) which was a joint venture with the Township of Littlefield and the Village of Alanson. The Fire Department was then relocated to the part of that building which now is the home of our Alanson Public Library. In 1992 the Township of Littlefield being the larger of the two entities of the joint venture took over the Alanson Fire Department, and it became the Alanson-Littlefield Fire Department. In 2007 the Township organized the financing, design and construction of the new state-of-the-art Fire Hall located on West Street. Before the Township took it over the Fire Department held weekly Bingo games and other fundraisers to try to help finance the fire department. When the township took over the fire department that's when they really were allowed to grow, and the Bingo games became a thing of the past. There are still some fundraisers needed even with the 1 mil fire tax levy and financial appropriations from the Township, grants and private donations, simply because of all the costs required in providing such excellent service to our and surrounding communities. One of these fundraisers is the Crooked River Car Show in the Fall of every year.

For complete information of the very early days of our community read the book *Alanson, Our Town 1882-1982*. A copy is available to read in the Alanson Public Library.

## Littlefield Township Board Of Trustee Appointee Al Waterson Steps Down After 23 Years Of Service

After over 23 years, Al Waterson has stepped down from his appointments to two important Township boards. The first appointment came in 1994, when Al was asked by the Township if he would consider sitting on the Board of Review. Al agreed to serve and acted as chairman during his entire tenure.

The Board of Review consists of three members who are all township residents. The Board meets three times a year for various statutory reasons. First, there is the March Board of Review where property owners may have questions concerning the valuation of their real and personal property. The Board of Review also meets in July and December. The Board meets at these times to correct qualified errors and to consider appeals related to Principal Residence Exemptions.

The second appointment came in 1997 when he was approached by the Township to sit on the five member Fire Administrative Board ("Fire Board"). Al again agreed to serve on this board and ended his tenure as chairman.

The Fire Board meets monthly and manages the Alanson-Littlefield Fire Department. The Fire Board prepares the annual fire department budget and submits it to the Township Board for approval. In addition to other duties it also makes recommendations to the Township Board regarding the acquisition of property by purchase, lease, gift or devise.

Al and his wife Georgia became residents of the Village of Alanson in Littlefield Township in 1990. They moved here from Petoskey a few years prior to his retirement from Michigan Maple Block. Since the couple moved here, they have provided the Village and Township with many years of service. Al also served as head of the Alanson Department of Public Works which oversees maintenance of the roads in the Village.

Al says he has been thankful for his good years here and that he and Georgia have enjoyed them very much. When asked what he enjoyed most about serving in his various capacities for the Village and Township governments his reply was "working with the people". It is Al's sense of service that makes the Village and Township Governments work for the benefit of their citizens. Along with his dedication, Al brought a great sense of humor. Thank you, Al. *by Damien Henning*

*Stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong. Abraham Lincoln*

## Jim Cantrell To Retire From Service To The Community After 44 Years.

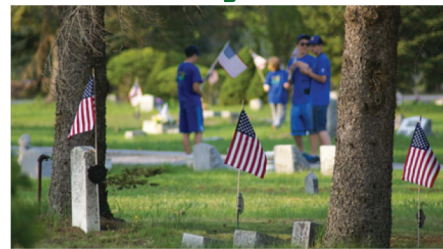
In 1973 When Jim was graduating from High School and 18 years old he applied for the Volunteer Fire Department in Alanson. His Father and Grand Father had both served on the fire department before him. Firefighting back then was a lot different than today, Jim remembers. There was no schooling, just on the job training. Larry Williams was the Fire Chief that really thought it was important and made it his goal to get his firefighters trained with the most up to date schooling and so Jim remembers it was Larry that really encouraged and pushed him into this getting all the classes he could. Those first schools were held in Petoskey.

Jim remembers that in 1982, the Alanson Fire Department started doing medical responding. It's very different from today. At that time there weren't a lot of guidelines other than advanced first aid, which he took. In 1983 Littlefield Township and the Village of Alanson took applications for a maintenance/groundskeeper. He applied and got the job and has worked at that ever since. In 1984 he and three others took the first basic EMT class held at the college and got a certificate and a license. He was then promoted to assistant chief. In 1990 there was a need for a new fire chief. There was a fellow all lined up for the job, Jim recalls, and at the last minute, it fell through. Jim was quickly asked to fill the position. His answer was that he would do it ONLY until they found someone else to permanently fill the position. That lasted 22 years!! He was the Fire Chief from 1990 until he retired in 2012! He has still, however since that time, kept his position as a medical responder/firefighter for the fire department and also the maintenance/groundskeeper for the Township and Village up until now.

Jim said he enjoyed the best! It was his dream job to continue as the maintenance person and do his fire chief responsibilities as well during this time! He is very thankful for this. Physically, it has now become too much for him, and so after long consideration he is retiring from both his fire department and Township/Village positions. He hopes to work part time some place locally. So we hope to run into him still in town from time to time and have a short chat.

Thanks for helping us all these years, Jim!

## Cemetery News



Have you ever wondered who puts the flags on the Veterans graves? This spring, as they have for well over 10 years, the Alanson Boy Scouts will be placing the flags that the Emmet County

Veterans Office provide for our cemetery. They (the Scouts) normally do this the week before Memorial Day Weekend. Of the 1624 burials in our Cemetery we have 235 Veterans in our records.

The breakdown is:

**Civil War, 16   Spanish-American, 7   WWI, 55   WWII, 111  
Korean Conflict, 13   Vietnam, 11   Veterans, 22**

**\*\*UPDATE\*\*** Before this was sent to be printed Kim Morgan, Sexton of the Alanson-Littlefield Cemetery, reported that someone, unknown to her, had placed flags in the veterans holders. If you are or know who is our 'Flag Fairy' please contact Kim at 231-529-5542.

## The Inland Water Route Historical Society

Summer Hours of Operation are: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm M-W-F-Sa-Su.

### Alanson 4th of July Celebration

#### Boy Scout Breakfast 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.

A menu of pancakes, sausage, French toast, potatoes, eggs, biscuits and gravy, coffee, juice, milk and other assorted breakfast foods. Cost is \$8 a person or \$15 a couple.

### Independence Day Parade!

Starts at 11:00

Line up starts at 9:30 on Banwell Road  
Contact Person: Art Drayton, 231-548-5646

### Alanson Riverfest

August 11 - 13, 2017

See schedule at:

[alansonriverfest.com](http://alansonriverfest.com)

**Crooked River  
Firefighter's Antique  
Truck & Classic Car Show:  
2nd Weekend in September**

### Township Phone Numbers

Emergency: 911

Fire Department: 231-548-5646

Supervisor: Damien Henning 231-548-5443

Clerk: Sondra Festerling 231-348-8464

Treasurer: Kim Shomin 231-548-2142

Assessor: Jim LaPeer: 231-238-9606

Cemetery Sexton & Sewer Clerk:

Kim Morgan 231-529-5542

Trustee: Dean Morford 231-347-0653

Trustee: Katie Derrohn 231-347-1937

### Hillside Garden Annual Plant Sale September 9

### Littlefield Alanson Community Hall Rental

Call: Brooke Milbrandt

231-881-4924

For more information:

[www.villageofalanson.com/  
services/other-services/](http://www.villageofalanson.com/services/other-services/)