

FIFE LAKE TOWNSHIP

Summer 2026 Newsletter

231.879.3963

Office Hours by Appointment

www.fifelaketwp.com

Meeting Schedules:

Township Board

CHANGE:

Third Monday at 6pm

Township Planning Commission

Second Thursday, 6:30pm

Fife Lake Area Emergency
Services

Second Monday, 6pm

Fife Lake Area Utility Authority

Third, Wednesday, 6pm

Board of Review

July 12 time tba

December 5 time tba



Supervisor's Spotlight

We have submitted a \$2million request for each of the federal and state governments to help with the campus redevelopment of the former prison Pugsley, and that request has been approved by the US House of Representatives, now we need to pass the US Senate and the state legislature.

Ramsay Timber Bridge replacement is planned to start later this summer, thanks to the generous funding from Conservation Resource Alliance and the Road Commission.

We have been talking with the road agencies about Lakeshore Dr (west side) as well as County Line/131 traffic.

Potential Headquarters Dam removal continues to be a concern we are addressing, as is culvert size on Lakeshore.

Public safety matters are a high priority with the increase in visitors to our area bringing nefarious activities. Deputy Chris Whetstone is doing a fantastic job addressing things. We are feeling lucky that he recently turned down an offer with MSP to remain an important part of our Fife Lake Township family.

I am deeply honored to have received the Spirit of MTA Award for Leadership in April. It was especially meaningful to be nominated by my peers, selected by local leaders from across the state, and to receive the award surrounded by nearly 1,000 township officials who share the same commitment to serving their communities (and my daughters and husband!).

This recognition reflects the dedication, courage, and commitment of our small but brave and mighty township team, whose willingness to embrace new ideas continues to strengthen our community. I am equally grateful to the many mentors and local leaders who have generously shared their time, knowledge, and encouragement throughout my journey. Leadership is never accomplished alone, and I am thankful to be part of a group where public servants continually inspire, support, and learn from one another to provide for their community members.

Lisa Radtke, M.Ed, CECD

Proud Fife Lake Township Supervisor

supervisor@fifelaketwp.com

231.879.3963 x301



L-R^: Dawn Zimmerman, Deb Rodriguez, Lisa Radke, Annie Allen, Cathy Sorrow, Jayme Werner



Clerk's Corner:

There are two upcoming elections this year, **August 4 & November 3, 2026**. We are excited to announce an important update as we work towards becoming a Permanent Mail Ballot Township! This change is designed to streamline the voting process for our community and enhance your voting experience.

What This Means for You:

All registered voters received an absentee ballot application in the mail in the last couple of weeks. You have the option to be added to the Permanent Mail Ballot list by completing the Absentee Voter application and returning it to the clerk's office. Once on this list, you will no longer need to request an application ahead of each election. This initiative will not only simplify voting, but it will also help save taxpayer dollars of printing, postage, and labor expenses.

Important Dates to Remember:

Early Voting:

July 25 - August 2, 2026:

Polls open daily from 8AM - 4PM.

Primary Election Date:

August 4, 2026: Polls open from 7AM - 8PM

Join Us in Serving Our Community:

With a busy election year ahead, we are looking to recruit Election Inspectors. If you're interested in playing a vital role in the electoral process, please inquire within the clerk's office.

Debbie and I are here to assist you and are available by appointment.

Clerk Annie Alllen
clerk@fifelaketwp.com
23.879.3963 x300



Treasurer
Cathy Sorrow

231.879.3963 x304



Treasurer's Tax Collection Hours

Office hours for the summer tax collection are on the following Saturdays:

July 18

July 25

August 15

August 22

September 5

All From 12-2pm

and

Monday, September 14 9am-5pm

Appointments can be made by contacting the treasurer.

treasurer@fifelaketwp.com

Any changes to this schedule will be posted on the township website and on the physical building.

Please see new tax payment link on our website that offers additional payment options for paying online.

www.fifelaketwp.com

Parcel info can be obtained through the County tax parcel viewer.

Citizen-Led Ballot Initiative for Village Dissolution

We have received many questions about the citizen-led ballot initiative to dissolve the Village-Level of Government within Fife Lake Township. The township hosted a Q&A session with our attorney that was open to the public and the list of FAQs are on our website. Additionally, we have scheduled workshops open to the public to better understand potential impacts on the township if this passes, for these dates: July 16, July 22, July 27 all at 6pm and Aug 5 at 10:30am.

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Zoning, Planning and Ordinance Enforcement

The township board has determined the best path forward for adopting an updated Master Plan and subsequent ordinance updates that fit township citizens' needs in an expeditious manner is to create a township Planning Commission rather than the joint PC of the prior 7 years. We appointed 4 of 5 members who held their first meeting in June. We currently have a moratorium on commercial and industrial special uses and site plan reviews until approximately September to give the new PC time to get bylaws in place, a meeting schedule and notice to plan for master plan updates. They will utilize all data and input collected to date and work to get a new master plan adopted by the end of the year. From there, they can determine the best path forward for a new zoning ordinance. Please provide input on your land use thoughts for Fife Lake Township by attending meetings, sending correspondence or calling. We hired a new Zoning Administrator and Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Marvin Radtke, Jr., who is also helping in a Planner role to help the new PC get up and running. Feel free to reach out to Marvin with questions or input.



zoningadmin@fifelaketwp.com

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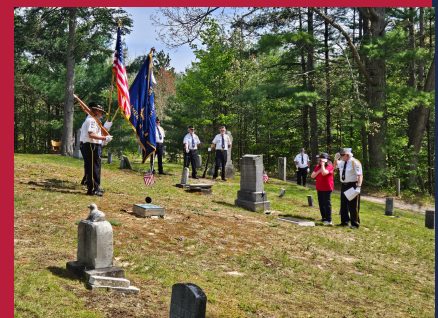
Miles Bryant was born on March 1, 1834, in Fulton County, NY. On September 9, 1864, at the age of 30, he voluntarily enlisted in the 184th New York Infantry Regiment for 1-year of service, leaving behind his wife, 3 young children, and his work as a sawyer. Standing 5' 11" tall, with a light complexion, gray eyes, and brown hair, he served in Company H under Colonel Robinson at Bermuda Hundred with the Army of the James at Harrison's Landing, Virginia. Although he committed to a full year of service, the Civil War ended before his enlistment expired, and he was honorably discharged on June 29, 1865, at City Point, Virginia.

Between 1869-1870, Miles and his family moved to Michigan, settling first in St. Joseph, where he farmed. By 1880, they had made their home in Fife Lake, where he worked as a fireman. Following the death of his wife, Helen Haight Bryant, in 1907, Miles moved to Springfield Township in Kalkaska County to live with his daughter, Cora, and her husband, Fred Mitchell. Remarkably, the 1910 Census records that, at age 76, he was still employed as a mill engineer.

Miles Bryant passed away on January 1, 1913, at the age of 78. He was laid to rest here in Fife Lake Cemetery. Today, more than a century later, we proudly honor his service and sacrifice by dedicating this military grave marker. This monument was provided entirely through private funds; no taxpayer funds were used.

Cemetery News

Preserving
Our Past



Lisa Plamondon
Cemetery Sexton
cemetery@fifelaketwp.com



Dear Fife Lake Community,

As we head into summer, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Fife Lake-Springfield Fire Department.

This year has already become our busiest since opening in 2018. From EMS assists and vehicle accidents to structure fires, wildland fires, severe weather, and the tornado warning we experienced this spring, our firefighters have answered the call time and time again. I couldn't be prouder of the men and women who serve this community. They leave their families, jobs, and daily lives behind at a moment's notice to help their neighbors, and that dedication does not go unnoticed.

One of our goals this year is to increase training throughout our area. If you see us out training, stop by, say hello, and meet your local first responders. We are always happy to connect with the community we serve.

As we look forward to the Best 4th in the North, I invite you to join us for our Fourth of July Open House from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the fire station. Donuts will be ready, and kids' games begin at 10:00 a.m. We would love to see you there!

Most importantly, we need your help. Our department currently has 14 paid-on-call firefighters who proudly serve Fife Lake, but we're always looking for people who want to make a difference. You don't need experience; we can teach the skills. What we can't teach is a heart for serving your community.

The family you'll find in the fire service is something special. It's built on trust, friendship, and a shared commitment to helping others. If you've ever considered joining, now is the time.

Meetings are held Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station, 134 Morgan Street. Reach out on our Facebook page: Fife Lake Springfield Fire Dept. We will gladly send you an application. I'm a phone call away and will answer any question along with helping you throughout this journey. If firefighting isn't for you, maybe it's for a friend, neighbor, or family member. Please help us spread the word.

Thank you for allowing us to serve this incredible community. We look forward to a safe and memorable summer together. **See you on July 3rd as we kick off the Best 4th in the North!**

Chief, Scott Tinker
(231) 624-0096
Chief.flaesa@gmail.com
**Call 911 for an
actual emergency**

