



**Meetings & Events @
Town Hall
(unless otherwise noted)**

Township Board*

1st Wed/month @ 7 p.m.
In person and Zoom

Planning Commission*

Last Mon/mth @ 7 p.m.
Zoom only

***Meetings via Zoom**

Meeting ID: 841 1114 6136
PASSWORD: WabanaMtg2

Pancake Breakfast - New

Sat, July 8 from 9-11 a.m.

Firewise Brush Pick-up, See p. 2

Fight Blight Clean-up

Sat & Sun, July 22 & July 23
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ice Cream Social

Fri, Aug. 11, 6-8 p.m.

Community Fund Meetings

Mon, Aug. 21 @ 6:30 p.m.
Mon, Sept. 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Community Garage Sale

Sept. 15-17 (donations will support
Wabana Community Fund projects)

Fall Roadside Clean-up

Wed, Sept. 20 @ 9 a.m.

Wabana Northwoods Creations

Arts & Craft shows
Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. date to be announced

Hunter's Supper

Sat, Nov. 4 @ 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Exercise - SAIL

Tues & Fri /wk @ 10 a.m. Free

Cribbage - Every Tues @ 1 p.m. \$3

Wabana Warbler

A newsletter for residents of Wabana Township

Wabana Township Recreation Projects

The Wabana Township Recreation Committee has been very busy working to improve the recreation facilities in the township. The projects include improvements to the playground equipment, tennis court, hockey rink, new pickle ball court, and more.

The Committee has consulted with Sarah Carling, regional director of Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA) on fundraising and grant opportunities. With much support from the community, the township has raised \$276,000, including grants from the Blandin Foundation (\$50,000); the IRRR (\$30,000), and other generous donors. News on the DNR grant status should come in early July.

You won't want to miss the **Pancake Breakfast** fundraiser on Saturday, July 8 from 9-11 at town hall. A freewill offering is requested to support the project. A breakfast feast is planned, including gluten free options.

With the help of the Wabana Community Fund, tax deductible donations to the project may be made through the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, you can donate online at www.gracf.org/donate and search for Wabana Community Fund, or mail a check to the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, 350 NW 1st Avenue, Suite E, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. If you would like more information on the project, please contact Kim Oja at mrs.o@msn.com or 218-256-2661.

Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to **Carol Speedling** for receiving the Wabana Township Citizen of the Year award. Carol has been a dedicated contributor in many township activities, including her work on the 100 year anniversary event in 2021, serving on the Planning Committee, planting & maintaining landscaping around town hall, serving as a leader of the SAIL exercise class, serving as Deputy Clerk for the Township, as well as other services. Congratulations Carol, we appreciate your commitment to the community!



Board Chair Gary Oja presents Carol Speedling with the Citizen of the Year award. Wayne Speedling holds the plaque which includes her name; on display at town hall.

Shoreland Management Use Ordinance

It has been a little over a year since the Wabana Township Board adopted Ordinance No. 2022-1, the Wabana Township Shoreland Management Use Ordinance. A copy of the Ordinance is available at the Itasca County Public Library, and is viewable on the Wabana Township website. If you live in a Shoreland area (within 1000 feet of the lakeshore or 300 feet of a river or stream) in Wabana Township and have questions regarding the Shoreland Management Use Ordinance, please contact Kathy Gregerson, Planning Commission Chair, at kgregerson@gismn.com

Wabana Cemetery

If you have questions about the Wabana Cemetery or would like to purchase a cemetery lot, contact Kim Oja, Cemetery Sexton, at 218-256-2661.

When you drive past the Wabana Cemetery on Wakeman Bay Road, you may notice the gardens that have been lovingly designed, planted and maintained by Cheryl Bennett and Kim and Gary Oja. Thank you for your gardening skills and care. The gardens look beautiful!



Boat Wash Decontamination Station

Residents and visitors are encouraged to use the free hot water boat wash station to help stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in our area lakes. The boat wash station is located at Town Hall (entrance at 30980 Clearwater Road) and is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the summer and into early fall from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any personal watercraft, including kayaks, paddle boards, jet skis, boats, may be cleaned at this station. DNR certified Level II AIS Inspectors will staff the station during open hours. The inspectors may educate watercraft owners, provide inspections, and perform decontamination procedures on watercraft and trailers contaminated with aquatic invasive species (AIS).

You can help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species by taking these three steps every time you leave a lake or river - whether or not it's infested:

- **Clean** all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other invasive species from boats, trailers, and water-related equipment.
- **Drain** water from your boat, ballast tanks, motor, live well and bait container. Remove drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting equipment.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash. To keep live bait, drain the water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Want to do more? Take the Pledge to protect Minnesota Waters at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/data/ais-pledge>



2023 Spring Clean up Volunteers

Many thanks to the following residents for volunteering on May 18 to help pick up debris on Wabana township roadway ditches: Louie & Janeen Gueltzow, Ken & Barb Zimmer, Steve & Jean Melin, Denny and Jean Koewler, Gary & Kim Oja, Tom & Lori Moore, Pam Friesen, Bonnie Larson, Keith Carlson and Mark Conover. A Fall roadside clean up is scheduled for September 20; all are welcome to help keep our community clean!

Firewise Brush Pick-Up July 10-13

The Township will participate in the Firewise Brush Pick-up program. If you have brush you want picked up, contact Louie Gueltzow 218-999-9217 to fill out paperwork which will get you on the list for pick up. *Paperwork must be turned in by Noon on July 7.* The pick-up is scheduled for July 10-13.

Fight Blight July 22-23

Itasca County is once again sponsoring the “Fight Blight” program to help diminish blight in the county. The event will be held July 22 & 23 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The County has asked all townships to get the word out and volunteer to help Fight Blight within their township.

The County will provide dumpsters at Wabana town hall for township property owners to put in non-household garbage and landfill materials. There is no charge to the township for the use of these dumpsters.

There will be designated areas where items such as old furniture, appliances, and demolition materials will be piled up outside of the dumpsters. **NO TIRES** will be accepted at this event. The County will haul the items away at the end of the event.

The Township will need to provide the volunteers for Saturday and Sunday. **We need volunteers for this project to be successful. If you can help, or have questions, contact Lloyd Adams at 218-999-9749. Thank you!**



2022 Fight Blight program
Photos by Kim Oja



Wabana Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following five Wabana Township graduates who received a Wabana Community Fund scholarship. Funding for the scholarship program comes from the Community Fund’s annual Deer Hunter’s Supper.

Abigail Birkey graduated from Grand Rapids H.S. in 2023 and plans to attend Macalester College in St. Paul. In addition to pursuing a major in biology, with the goal of becoming a collegiate sports physical therapist, she will be playing soccer for the varsity team.

Taylor Birkey graduated from Grand Rapids H.S. in 2023 and plans to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, majoring in biological sciences on a pre-med track, with a concentration in environmental studies. Taylor desires to become a pediatric physician or allergist.

Anna Clough graduated from Grand Rapids H.S. in 2022 and is completing her associates degree from Minnesota North College. She has not yet decided on a major but wants to pursue a career in helping others and has a desire to give back to her community.

Megan Koetz graduated from Grand Rapids H.S. in 2023 and is planning to attend the University of North Dakota to pursue an education in biology, focusing on dermatology.

Sophia Verke graduated from Grand Rapids H.S. in 2023 and will attend Minnesota State University Moorhead to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Graphic Design, with a minor in entrepreneurship. Sophia will also be on the swim team to compete at the Division 2 level.

Garage Sale Fundraiser Sept. 15-17

The Township will participate in a Community Garage Sale the same weekend as the Hwy 38 sale. The Wabana Community Fund is asking for donations of good used, and clean garage sale items. Proceeds from the sale will support the Wabana Community Fund projects, including the recreation complex projects.

Donations may be dropped off at Town Hall on Thursday, Sept. 14. A full list of acceptable and unacceptable items will be available prior to the event. For questions, contact Anne Johnson at 218-910-6360 or email markannejohnson@paulbunyan.net.

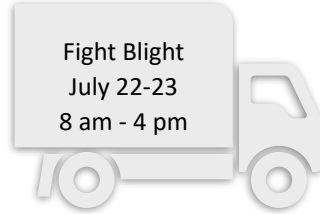
Get on the Township E-mail News List

Sign up on the Township website at <https://wabatanatownship.com/wabana-warbler-newsletter/> or contact Jean by email: jeanonwabana@gmail.com, or phone 952-250-6690 to get on the Township news email list. By signing up, you will receive an email with this newsletter and other important township items throughout the year. This is a good way to keep up-to-date on community news.

Don't miss these events at Town Hall



Pancake Breakfast
Sat, July 8
9-11 am



Fight Blight
July 22-23
8 am - 4 pm



Ice Cream Social
Aug 11
6-8pm



Community Garage Sale Sept.15-17
(donations support community projects)

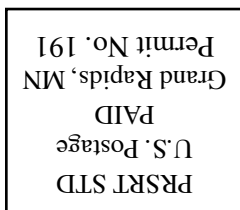
Wabana Township Officers and Staff

- Gary Oja, Chairman (ph: 218-259-0732; email: gary.oja.wabana@gmail.com)
- Jane Moore, Deputy Chairman (ph: 563-580-5253; email: jane.moore.wabana@gmail.com)
- Lloyd Adams, Supervisor (ph: 218-999-9749; email: lloyd.adams.wabana@gmail.com)
- Steve Melin, Clerk (218-256-5913; email: wabanatownshipclerk@gmail.com)
- Deb Kee, Treasurer (ph: 218-326-2115; email: deb.kee.wabana@gmail.com)
- Carol Speedling, Deputy Clerk (text: 612-518-8992)
- Ken Aho, Maintenance (ph: 218-256-7230)

*Township Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in person and via Zoom
Any changes to the meeting dateltime will be posted at Town Hall and on the website.*

Jean Panchyshyn, Newsletter Editor, 952-250-6690 or email: jeanowabana@gmail.com

Return Service Requested



C/O Wabana Township
30980 Clearwater Rd.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744