



Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers to Staff Debris Drop-off Sites Needed NOW

Grand Traverse County – Grand Traverse County’s Resource Recovery Manager Susan Shipman and Emergency Management Coordinator Gregg Bird say volunteers are immediately and urgently needed to work in shifts at the two storm debris drop-off sites.

According to Shipman, it has been a challenge every day since the two sites opened last weekend to find even one or two individuals to greet and direct residents dropping off debris. Whitewater Township Supervisor Ron Popp and the site’s property owner, Earl Ashmore, “have worked tirelessly, nonstop” this past week at the Whitewater Township drop-off location, said Shipman, who has been coordinating site staffing schedules, and going back and forth between the two sites to help.

Reports from both sites indicate that large loads of debris are being dropped off on a steady basis, up to 15 truckloads an hour at the Whitewater Township location.

“This is an opportunity for residents to keep that community spirit going, that tremendous spirit we’ve seen the past two weeks since the storm,” said Bird. “Based on the stories I am hearing, and what I am seeing in our city and townships, it is evident that our county residents really care about each other and want to help.”

Shipman said that volunteering at one of the sites is gratifying and eye-opening. “You see firsthand how our community has come together, and feel like you’re part of something much bigger when you hear about everyone’s experience with the storm. You also realize the magnitude of what has happened here.”

Sites are located at 7304 Skegemog Point Road, the Ashmore Gravel Pit, and at 656 Rasha Road, the former East Bay Township Recycling property. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, until further notice. Volunteers are needed to greet and direct debris drop-offs in an orderly manner. Individuals who sign up to volunteer will be receive detailed instructions. Food, water, and shelter are provided at each site.

“Even if someone can volunteer for a few hours, every little bit helps,” said Shipman. Bird added, “These sites might be open for weeks, until all of the storm debris throughout our county has been cleaned up. State and local resources are allocated to the cleanup effort right now, so any help community members can provide will be greatly appreciated.”

To volunteer to staff one of the sites, call 616-841-5399. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Grand Traverse County asks residents to please consider getting involved.

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