



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Autumn 2007

[www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com)

## HOT TOPICS

► House Bill No. 4780 is the State's attempt to reduce costs by reducing the responsibilities of townships with fewer than 20,000 constituents and shifting more responsibility to counties. An analysis completed by Michigan State University states that the legislation will shift or increase costs, not reduce them. See [michigantownships.org](http://michigantownships.org) for more information. To comment, contact Governor Granholm, Andy Dillon, Speaker of the House and Mike Bishop, Senate Majority Leader and our representatives Howard Walker and Jason Allen.

## ► SPECIAL USE PERMITS (SUP) AND ORDINANCES CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED AT EITHER THE TOWN BOARD OR THE PLANNING COMMISSION

- **SUP 98** - The Orchards at Bowers Harbor (40 residential unit PUD/Condominium) Public Hearing at the August Township Board meeting resulted in a decision to hire a third party environmental engineering firm to assess all of the questions raised by the public. That information will be provided to the Planning Commission for further work.
- **SUP 103** - Bowers Harbor Inn (13 residential unit PUD/Condominium) is complex because of the non-conforming use status of the Inn on residentially zoned property and the resultant mixed use which is not a part of our current zoning ordinance.
- **SUP 104** - Vineyard Estates (35 residential unit PUD/Condominium) is currently before the Planning Commission. The property consists of orchards/vineyards and steep wooded hillsides and is located between Montague Road and Peninsula Drive.
- **SUP 105** - Boathouse Restaurant's request for special use permit revisions for additional seating on the deck, kitchen addition, lighted sign, tent for 3 catered events and musical entertainment remains at the Planning Commission.
- **SUP 106** - Old Mission Tavern request for special use permit revision for garden awning remains at the Planning Commission.
- **Ordinance No.153** - The Planning Commission recommends denial of Diamond Acquisitions 20 acre rezoning request from A-1 to R-1A. It is a key parcel for the future sub-area plan in the Master Plan. Current zoning allows 4 residential units and R-1A zoning would allow 20 residential units.
- **Ordinance No.175**, Dark Night Sky Ordinance and **Ordinance No.176**, Non-Conforming Structures are scheduled for Public Hearing at the October Town Board meeting.
- **Ordinance No.177** - This ordinance identifies the wall height for detached residential garages and allows for storage of personal vehicles, boats and household belongings.
- **Ordinance No.5** - The Park Regulation Ordinance passed at the August Town Board meeting (7-0). The ordinance is a restatement of policies pertaining to the use and maintenance of our parks. The new ordinance was formerly described in two separate ordinances.

## STAY INFORMED

Plan to attend the meetings, write letters and call Planning Commission and Town Board members to voice your concerns on these and other issues. To keep up with notices, agendas, ordinances, reports, minutes and meetings, check the web site regularly at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com).

## ► SCENIC HERITAGE ROAD

The Scenic Heritage Road Management Committee will soon be forming to work with Patti O'Donnell of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments. Representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation, Consumers Energy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Grand Traverse Road Commission will serve. The township is looking for members of the community to represent several interests including agriculture, tourism, historic features/structures, residential communities and environmental protection. The task is to specify the issues of greatest concern for the protection and maintenance of the Center Road corridor.

## ► OLD MISSION LIGHTHOUSE PARK

A Public Hearing at the Township Board meeting in September indicated mixed opinions on opening the lighthouse next summer. While many citizens like the idea of opening the lighthouse to the public, larger concerns regarding security, entrance fees, a schedule for visitors and a gift shop must be addressed. Further work will be done by the ad hoc committee and the Park Commission prior to anything happening and whatever does happen will be rolled-out cautiously.

## ► TWO NEW WINERIES ARE COMING TO OLD MISSION PENINSULA

Two Lads winery is located on Smokey Hollow Road and Black Star Farms is opening on McKinley Road. Both facilities will grow and process grapes grown on their properties and will have tasting rooms. Watch the news for opening dates.

## KUDOS

- To Jackie Richer (Director), Julia Coulter, Rachel Mazure, Laurie Asava, Emily Gourlay and Dani Wick who managed a well attended summer parks program and Tim Moore who ran the tennis program. Thanks to everybody!
- To Jim Teahen who served on the Planning Commission for over 20 years. Thanks Jim!!
- To Keith Leak, reappointed to the Planning Commission and John Elashkar, newly appointed to the Planning Commission, and to Gary Wilson, reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Consumers Energy is upgrading the electric substation on Montague Road. The work started in September and is expected to continue for approximately three months. The project will replace some of the existing substation equipment and will help maintain system reliability for Peninsula Township as we grow. A mobile substation is on site and is handling the electric load while the work progresses. No outages are expected. The mobile substation will be removed at the completion of the project and the area will be landscaped.
- The Planning Commission is using an outside consultant to help incorporate specific issues identified in the Master Plan Citizen Survey. Those issues are: trail systems, shoreline planning, agricultural zoning differentiation, three sub-area plans and the future land use map.
- The conceptual improvements proposed for the Peninsula Drive Cemetery were approved by the Town Board. A phased implementation plan was suggested. A water well and designated parking area are the first improvements to be put in place. An entrance feature, landscaping and road/pathways for Phase One will be considered during the next budget cycle.
- The Township Board approved two new positions for the Fire Department to staff a second shift from 4 pm to midnight on Monday through Friday. An ad hoc committee established to address our staffing concerns continues to look at future staffing plans and operating possibilities for the Fire Department. The positions were advertised in the Record Eagle and staffing selections will be made in the next few months.



# SCHEDULES and EVENTS

**Town Board**  
 (second Tuesday at 7 pm)  
 October 9  
 November 13  
 December 11

**Planning Commission**  
 (third Monday at 7 pm)  
 October 15  
 November 19  
 December 17

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
 (second Thursday at 7 pm)  
 October 11  
 November 8  
 December 13

**Park Commission**  
 (first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
 October 3  
 November 7  
 December 5

**Board of Review**  
 December 11 (9 am - 11 am)  
 (to correct mistakes of fact  
 and clerical errors only)

**General Election**  
 November 6 (7 am to 8 pm)  
 Precincts 1 and 2

**Old Mission Peninsula  
 Historical Society**  
 (first Thursday at 7 pm - Town  
 Hall)  
 October 4  
 November 1  
 December 6

**Peninsula Community Library**  
 Monday and Thursday  
 (9 am - 9 pm)  
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
 (9 am - 5 pm)  
 Saturday (9 am - 1 pm)

**American Legion Dinners**  
 (first and third Tuesday – 6:30  
 pm)  
 American Legion Hall on Swaney  
 Road

**Pasta on the Peninsula  
 (Fund Raiser)**  
 October 4 (5:30 pm - 8pm)  
 Old Mission Peninsula School  
 For information call 933-7420

**Peninsula Community Library Dinner  
 (Fund Raiser)**  
 November 6 (6 pm)  
 at Boathouse Resturant  
 Tickets (\$40) available at 223-7700

**Dickens' Christmas Bazaar**  
 November 3 (9 am - 4 pm)  
 First Congregational Church

**Mac and Cheese Cook-off**  
 Saturday, November 24 (11 am - 5 pm)  
 At the wineries on Old Mission Peninsula

**Old Mission Women's Club Cookie Sale**  
 Saturday, December 1 ( 8 am - Noon)  
 Fire Station No. 2

**Compactor Station Hours**  
 Wednesdays, noon – 6 pm  
 Saturdays, 9 am – 5 pm  
 Recycling at any time

**Peninsula Township Office is open:**  
 Monday through Friday 8:00 am until noon  
 and 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm. The office is  
 closed on November 12 (Veteran's Day),  
 November 22 and 23 (Thanksgiving Holi-  
 day), December 24 and 25 (Christmas  
 Holiday), December 31 and January 1  
 (New Year's Eve and Day)

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