



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Autumn 2011

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

## HOT TOPICS

### Planning and Zoning Update

Our Zoning Ordinance was adopted in June of 1972. Since then, it has been amended over 65 times! As you can imagine, it has become extremely cumbersome to read and implement. In May, the Town Board voted to have the entire document rewritten to comply with recent state enabling legislation. The board directed the Planning Department to prepare a well written, clear and readable ordinance while maintaining the intent of the original ordinance. Our planner and township attorney expect this process to take at least six to nine months with public workshops planned for next spring. The Planning Commission has already opened discussions regarding wineries and will be talking about a shoreline overlay and access management standards soon too. If you are interested in the Zoning Ordinance revision process, you can provide input at the monthly Planning Commission meetings on the third Monday of each month.

In June, upon recommendation of our township attorney, the Town Board approved Amendment No.188 to remove Section 5.7.4 "Special Exceptions" from the existing Zoning Ordinance. The Special Exceptions provision allowed petitioners to request uses which exceeded our zoning regulations. Removal of Section 5.7.4 brings us into compliance with the State Zoning Enabling Act.

At the second September meeting, the Town Board approved SUP No.117, the Archdiocese of Gaylord request to construct a new St. Joseph's Catholic Church behind the Catholic cemetery off Center and Island View Roads.

The Master Plan was officially adopted at the July Town Board meeting. The Master Plan is available on the township website, on disc or in a manual form for a printing fee through the Planning Department.

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

- ▶ Improvements to the old Town Hall building including repairing the stone foundation, replacing handicap access, and improving the parking lot layout.
- ▶ Proposed winery ordinance provisions establishing uniform standards for all wineries and chateaux located on the peninsula.

## 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, reports, minutes and meetings check the web site regularly at [peninsulatownship.com](http://peninsulatownship.com). Notice of Public Hearings and a synopsis of Town Board meeting minutes are also found in the Record-Eagle classified section. The Town Board and Planning Commission have additional posted/open meetings at the Town Hall other than the regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

## KUDOS

- ▶ Thanks to Bruce Summers for his work on the Parks Commission, especially his organization of the Adopt-a-Park program.
- ▶ Congrats to Cristin Hosmer and Bill Householder on their appointments to the Planning Commission as well as to Bernie Soutar who will continue on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Best wishes to Ellen Kohler who has retired from the Planning Commission and moved to New York.
- ▶ Nathan Schultz has been selected to serve on the Board of Review as an alternate.
- ▶ Many thanks to the Tree Committee of the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society and Boy Scout Troops No. 31 and No. 34 for planting maple trees and other hardwoods along the Center Road corridor. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, they will plant 20 more trees bringing the total number of trees to over 500!

## DID YOU KNOW

- ▶ The Old Mission Post Office was the first branch in Grand Traverse County. The branch could be in jeopardy of closing with all of the cuts the post office must make...we don't know for sure yet. To keep our branch open, purchase stamps, rent PO boxes and mail your packages...all without waiting in line...plus it's a pleasant drive.
- ▶ Memorial trees are available through the Historical Society for \$50. Over 100 of the trees planted along Center Road memorialize a friend or loved one with an engraved plaque. The \$50 fee also supports the entire tree planting effort. Go to [omphistoricalsociety.org](http://omphistoricalsociety.org) or phone Jim Hall on 223-8823 for an order form.
- ▶ Two Peninsula properties have recently been honored with listings on the National Register of Historic Places: Dougherty Mission House in Old Mission (statewide status) and Stickney Summer House/Bowers Harbor Inn in the Bowers Harbor area (local status). The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of properties deemed worthy of preservation.

## OPERATING INFO

- ▶ We are definitely managing the phragmites infestation along the Grand Traverse Bay shoreline thanks to the cooperation of shoreline property owners. Once again, Vickie Smith of Wildlife & Wetlands Solutions, LLC has been hired to implement the fall treatment application. She will be spraying herbicide from now through October 10<sup>th</sup>. Only properties actually containing phragmites will be treated. Each treated parcel will be flagged after the chemicals are applied. After the herbicide is applied, the stems should turn brown in color. As before, the dead material will be cut down in the spring and removed. Contact Vickie at (231) 943-0762 regarding any questions you may have about her work on your property. Also, many people have asked about the management of phragmites on public lands throughout the township including the Mission Point Park, two DNR boat launches and the Power Island shoreline. Phragmites management in these areas relies in part on contributions from the general citizenry. Last year, over \$1200 was contributed to the township Phragmites Fund in support of the general eradication effort. Contact the Treasurer's office for more information.

- ▶ Two township parks are still available in the Adopt-a-Park program: Bowers Harbor Park and Old Mission Point Park/ Brinkman Trailhead. Recently, The Old Mission Historic Church Replica was adopted by the Cavender Family and the Old Mission Point Park/ Ridgewood Trailhead was adopted by Dimension Controlled Specialties. Whoops!! There was an error in our last newsletter regarding Archie Park which is being cared for by Old Mission Massage Therapy. Sorry about that!
- ▶ We had a request to let people know it is against the law to hike or walk on private property without prior authorization from the owner. With hunting season soon approaching, you may want to be especially careful. Wear bright colors when you are hiking and always ask first...and use our parks. That's why they're there.
- ▶ Mission Point Lighthouse is open daily until October 31 and then on weekends through December. Keepers are needed for December through April. Call the lighthouse manager at 645-0759 if you would like to stay in the lighthouse for a week or more. Further information on the lighthouse is available at missionpointlighthouse.com.
- ▶ School is back in session and that means buses on the roads with kids nearby early in the morning before daylight and late in the afternoon at dusk. Please follow school bus rules and stop when the lights are flashing. The bus drivers are considerate and usually let you pass before pulling out again, so please be considerate of them too.
- ▶ If you feel like you just paid your summer tax bill, get ready, because here comes your winter tax bill (December)...thankfully it is not due until well after the holidays (February).
- ▶ The Conditional Rescission of Principal Residence Exemption (4640) allows Michigan residents filing a new "homestead" to keep their prior (Michigan) homesteads for up to three years as long as their former home is for sale, is not occupied nor leased or used for commercial purposes. This was initiated in response to property owners caught in the middle of establishing a new home while trying to sell their old home in a depressed economy. Eligible property owners must file this form by year-end each year. If you do not file annually, the exemption will lapse at the end of the year and there is no appeal process to retroactively reinstate it. If you have further questions or feel you may be eligible, please contact the Assessor.

**HELP WANTED**

There is a vacancy on the Peninsula Township Park Commission. The term expires on November 20, 2012. Interested applicants have to be registered, qualified electors of Peninsula Township. The deadline to apply is October 10, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Please send your resume to Peninsula Township Clerk, 13235 Center Road Traverse City, MI 49686.

**DIRECTORY**

**Office Manager:**

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 officemanager@peninsulatownship.com

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 Penny Rosi 223-7560  
 Gary Wilson 223-7348

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**Planner:**

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**Zoning Administrator:**

Gordy Uecker 223-7318  
 zoning@peninsulatownship.com

Compactor/Recy. Station 223-4446

Fire Department 223-4443  
 (non-emergency)

Old Mission Penin. School 933-7420

Park and Meeting Room 223-7322  
 Reservations

Peninsula Comm. Library 223-7700

Sheriff (non-emergency) 223-4525

**SCHEDULES and EVENTS**

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

**Town Board Work Session**  
 (fourth Thursday at 7 pm, if needed)  
 October 27  
 November (no meeting due to holiday)  
 December 22

**Planning Commission**  
 (third Monday at 7 pm)  
 October 17  
 November 21  
 December 19

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
 (second Thursday at 7 pm)  
 October 13  
 November 10  
 December 8

**Park Commission**  
 (first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
 October 5  
 November 2  
 December 7

**Fire Board**  
 (first Monday at 7 pm)  
 October 3  
 November 7

December 5  
**Board of Review**  
 December 13 – 9 am to 11 am  
 Correction of clerical errors and mistakes of fact only

**Peninsula Community Library**  
 Monday and Thursday – 9 am to 9 pm  
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9 am to 5:30 pm  
 Saturday – 9 am to 1 pm  
 Story Hour, first and third Thursday – 11 am  
 Book Discussion, third Thursday – 7 pm

**Election**  
 BATA Mileage Renewal and School Board Members  
 Tuesday, November 8 – 7 am to 8 pm  
 Precinct No. 1 – Town Hall  
 Precinct No. 2 – Fire station No. 2

**Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society**  
 (first Thursday at 7 pm – Town Hall)  
 Holiday Party at American Legion Hall  
 December 1

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

**Pasta on the Peninsula PTO Fundraiser**  
 Tuesday, October 4 – 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
 Old Mission Peninsula School

**Old Mission Women's Club Annual Cookie Sale**  
 Saturday, December 3 – 8 am to noon

**Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula Macaroni and Cheese Cook-off**  
 Saturday after Thanksgiving  
 November 26

**Compactor Station Hours**  
 Wednesday – noon to 6 pm  
 Saturday – 9 am to 5 pm  
 Recycling at any time

The Peninsula Township Office is open Monday through Thursday. Monday hours are 7:30 am to 6:30 pm. Tuesday through Thursday hours are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Office is closed on Friday. The Office is closed on November 24 (Thanksgiving) and December 26 (Christmas Day observed).

Mission Point Lighthouse  
 Museum Admission - 2011

**VOUCHER**

Good for free admission for bearer and guests. Coupon required. Valid for up to six persons. Can not be duplicated. Single use only.

**Sponsored by the Peninsula Township Park Commission**

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**NEWSLETTER**

