



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Spring 2011

www.peninsulatownship.com

HOT TOPICS

Trash and Recycling Services Update

The new solid waste and recycling contract with American Waste began April 1. If you have not responded to the postcard mailed in March, please call American on 231-943-8088 or go to their web site (www.gocalgoamerican.com) and identify the type of service you would like.

Service choices range from curbside pick-up for waste and recycling (no sorting required) plus a bulky item each month to no service at the home at all. American will provide the containers for waste and recycling. Arrangements can be made for people or associations that are in difficult-to-reach locations by locating a community use receptacle nearby.

The compactor station will continue to operate and some charges have been reduced. If you have a current green punch card, it will be exchanged at the station. American will have a bin of compost available at the station and will haul grass clippings that you bring in to local farmers to compost. If you are interested in composting clippings at your location, please call the office and let us know (231-223-7322).

American Waste is a locally owned and operated business. They agreed to do waste removal at significantly reduced prices while increasing the type and number of items that can be recycled and services offered.

ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED

Paper and cardboard plus boxboard

- Newspapers, magazines and catalogs (glossy), office paper, junk mail, phone books
- Cereal, shoe, detergent, cracker, moving, pizza boxes

Aseptic packs

- Juice and milk cartons, broth and soup boxes

Plastics – numbers 1 through 7

- Water; pop and milk bottles
- Shampoo and lotion bottles
- Food containers
- Laundry and dish detergent bottles
- Black garden plastics

Plastic bags and films

- Grocery, bread, produce, dry cleaning, outer wrappings
- Marine shrink-wrap

Glass

- Bottles and containers – all colors

Metals

- Cans and foils
- Trays
- Plates
- Chairs
- Aerosol and non-hazardous paint cans

SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Septage Treatment Plant settlement regarding under-estimated volumes/revenues was agreed to recently by the County Board of Public Works (BPW) and Gourdie Fraser, Christman and Michael Houlihan. The agreement was initially mediated and refused. Shortly before the deadline for filing suit, an agreement was reached among the parties for the mediator's settlement number of \$725k plus no further plant liability on the part of the defendants. The settlement is now before the County Commission for agreement. If they agree, the settlement provides for about two years worth of volume/revenue shortages until the bonds can be refinanced in 2013. The BPW is seeking additional volumes and will begin a pilot campaign to increase pumping frequencies in East Bay Township. If that campaign is successful it will be rolled out county-wide in 2012. Also, some haulers offer discounts for multiple pumps if they are located close together. Peninsula Township set the record for being the township to pump most frequently. 82% of our residents fell within the desired 3 to 5 year pumping range suggested by MSU Extension Services and the Watershed Center. You may recall that the plant was built to help protect the water quality of the Grand Traverse Bay region.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Peninsula Township Fire Department responded to 372 calls for assistance in 2010, up 7% over the previous year. 70% of the calls were for medical service where the Fire Department provided Basic Life Support assistance and Northflight provided Advanced Life Support on-scene and during transport to Munson. Approximately 12% of the calls were for fire-related services. The balance was for water rescues, downed wires or mutual-aid to other fire departments. The fire station at Mapleton is now staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with Fire Department employees who respond immediately to calls. Previously, the station was staffed 16 hours a day during the week and 12 hours a day on weekends. The new 24/7 staffing provides faster response times using 2 employees already on duty. They continue to be supplemented by part-time employees who respond via pager if additional help is needed. To offset the additional cost of 24/7 staffing, a recently-adopted township ordinance permits the township to recover transporting costs from insurance companies with no out-of-pocket expense for township residents who require transport to Munson.

PHRAGMITES UPDATE

Shoreline property owners have been dealing with this invasive plant for the past few years. With success in sight, we are now at the point of cutting and removing the dead plant material. Private landowners who participated in the phragmites control program last year should contact Vicky Smith at Wildlife Wetland Solutions (231-943-0762) for information on the next steps (mowing, removal and burning plant debris). The township holds a township-wide DNRE permit for the removal process, but each property owner must work directly with Vicky regarding cutting and clean-up. The costs associated with the clean-up are the responsibility of each property owner and will be calculated by Vicky. If you choose to handle the removal differently, you must secure your own DNRE permit through the DNRE Land and Water Division Cadillac office. The good news is that the phragmites invasion has been stopped, the shoreline is protected, and water quality is improved. The township set up a fund for voluntary contributions to be used for future phragmites control. We have already received donations and hope that all shoreline property owners will consider a contribution of \$25 or more (checks to Peninsula Township/Phragmites Fund) to help finance future control measures to protect the bays.

KUDOS

- ▶ Thanks to the volunteers who provided the ice skating rink at Bowers Harbor Park. The rink was a great gathering place during the long winter months!
- ▶ Thanks to Tobin and Associates for 5 years of service as our township auditor and welcome to Dave Wilson of Gabridge, our new auditor. Gabridge is a locally owned company providing auditing services at reduced cost to the township.

OPERATING INFO

- ▶ The Planning Commission is beginning a comprehensive review of township zoning ordinances concerning zoning administration, the Zoning Board of Appeals (including variances and special exceptions) and the Special Use Permit process.
- ▶ The Peninsula Community Library has a new address: 2699 Island View Road TC 49686. No, the library has not moved an inch! The summer book sale will occur in July this year. Donations for the sale can be brought to the township offices now for storage and sorting before the sale. No textbooks please.
- ▶ Mission Point Lighthouse is open for tours beginning in May. An entry coupon is located on the back of this newsletter. Clip it out and come to see the 5th Order Fresnel lens which is on loan to us for the season. Our original Fresnel lens was taken by unknown varmints many years ago. We still hope it will be returned.
- ▶ Do you have a favorite township park? You can adopt it. The Peninsula Township Adopt-A-Park program is supervised by the Park Commission and allows groups, organizations and individuals an opportunity to adopt any of the township parks. The Pelizzari Natural Area was recently adopted by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Adopt-A-Park information and applications are available at the township office or online at the township website under the Parks tab.
- ▶ The Fire Department is hosting a boater's safety course sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Contact the Fire Chief (231-223-4443).
- ▶ The Summer Recreation Program at Bowers Harbor Park will run for 10 weeks this summer. There are activities for children ages 4 – 7 and 8 – 13. Contact the Director (231-218-4128) for information on the weekly sessions. Tennis lessons for all ages will be conducted by the tennis pro (231-946-7018) in August. Racquets are available for participants.
- ▶ As you prepare your income tax information, remember you can access your property tax information at the township website under the Tax tab. The site provides the amount of tax paid last year as well as lets you print a receipt.
- ▶ 2010 census information should be posted to the township website by the middle of April.
- ▶ Peninsula Township honors all veterans buried in any township cemetery. If you know a veteran who passed away during the last year, please contact the Clerk so a flag can be placed on the grave.
- ▶ It's time to clean the garage! Thursday, May 12, from 1:00 pm to 6:45 pm the county is hosting its household hazardous waste drop-off program. There is no charge for this service. Visit www.RecycleSmart.info to schedule your appointment online or call the RecycleSmart Hotline at 941-5555.

HELP WANTED

Lighthouse staff is looking for volunteers to help with yard work and gardening as well as folks interested in running the gift shop and talking to visitors about the history of the lighthouse. Perhaps you would like to be a lighthouse keeper for a week. Contact the Director (231-645-0759).

The Peter Dougherty House is looking for helpers with light carpentry skills to rebuild several walls in the summer kitchen and the carriage house. May 21 is the date for general spring clean-up throughout the entire property. Contact 231-631-2256.

DIRECTORY

Office Manager:

Wendy Witkop 223-7322
 Fax 223-7117
officemanager@peninsulatownship.com

Supervisor:

Rob Manigold 223-7322
supervisor@peninsulatownship.com

Clerk:

Monica Hoffman 223-7321
clerk@peninsulatownship.com

Treasurer:

Dave Weatherholt 223-4484
treasurer@peninsulatownship.com

Trustees:

Jill Byron 932-1339
 Jim Horton 223-4282
 Penny Rosi 223-7560
 Gary Wilson 223-7348

Assessor:

Sally Akerley 223-7313
assessor@peninsulatownship.com

Planner:

Dan Leonard 223-7314
planner@peninsulatownship.com

Zoning Administrator:

Gordy Uecker 223-7318
zoning@peninsulatownship.com

Compactor/Recy. Station 223-4446

Fire Department
 (non-emergency) 223-4443

Old Mission Penin. School 933-7420

Park and Meeting Room
 Reservations 223-7322

Peninsula Comm. Library 223-7700

Sheriff (non-emergency) 223-4525

SCHEDULES and EVENTS

Town Board
(second Tuesday at 7 pm)
April 12
May 10
June 14

Town Board Work Session
(fourth Thursday at 7 pm)
April 28
May 26
June 23

Planning Commission
(third Monday at 7 pm)
April 18
May 16
June 20

Zoning Board of Appeals
(second Thursday at 7 pm)
April 14
May 12
June 9

Park Commission
(first Wednesday at 7 pm)
April 6
May 4
June 1

Fire Board
(first Monday at 7 pm)
April 4
May 2
June 6

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

Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society
(first Thursday at 7 pm – Town Hall)
Annual Meeting at Legion Hall - June 2

American Legion Dinners
(first and third Tuesday at 6:30 pm)

**Old Mission Peninsula Elementary
School Parent Teacher Organization**
Movie Nights – April 8 and 29 at 6 pm
Spring Carnival – May 5
Information – 231-933-7420

Old Mission Women's Club Garage Sale
April 29 – 8 am to 4 pm
April 30 – 8 am to 3 pm
St. Joseph's Catholic Church Hall,
Center Road near Mapleton

Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula
Blossom Days – May 14 and 15
Blessings of the Blossoms at Chateau
Chantal – May 15 at noon

Annual Bayshore Marathon
May 28 – 7 am to noon
Center, East Shore and Bluff Roads closed
until noon

Log Cabin Days at Lighthouse Park
1853 Hessler Log Cabin and 1871
Lighthouse tours – Game, crafts and
demonstrations – Jun 26 – 11 am to 3pm

**Peter Dougherty Society Annual Open
House, Dougherty House in Old Mission**
Tours of 1840 historic home, icehouse
and privy! – June 26 – 11 am to 3 pm

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 for Memorial Day on
Monday, May 30.

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

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