



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Spring 2007

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

## HOT TOPICS

### ► Recycling / Trash

Confused about trash pick-up and recycling in the township? Here is a little information that might help. Recently, the Town Board voted to join the county-wide effort to reduce costs for trash pick-up and recycling. Residents and businesses on the Peninsula can now call one of three Grand Traverse County waste haulers who do curbside recycling and waste removal:

- Allied / Shoreline (to Wilson Road only) 800-968-4143
- American Waste 231-258-9030
- Waste Management Inc. 800-796-9696

If you choose trash cart service, the cost for curbside recycling is included. If you purchase the yellow bags, the price for curbside recycling is an additional charge. To identify which contractor's program is right for you or for more information, call the waste haulers to identify their fees, schedules and features or the recycling hotline on 941-5555 or check the recycling web site on [www.recyclesmart.info](http://www.recyclesmart.info).

### ► Connect Prior to July to Avoid Fee

As you know, the township is planning capital improvements for our public water service district. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is requiring that we comply with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act. The Township Water Service District is located south of Wilson Road. The township has initiated a 20-year low interest loan through the Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to pay for the improvements. There is a water benefit charge of \$3,800 for all new construction that connects to the system. Prior to July 2007, existing buildings can connect without paying the \$3,800 benefit fee if public water lines are immediately available to your property. In July 2007, all other properties with existing buildings will be charged the benefit fee at the time they connect to the system. Phone the township to verify your options.

## 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 [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com). Issues currently being discussed at either the Town Board or Planning Commission:

- Dark Night Sky Ordinance - minimizing the impact from lights on the evening sky
- Non-Conforming Structures Ordinance - clarifying the newly approved definitions and intent
- The Orchards at Bowers Harbor PUD/Site Condominium - 40 residential units located on Devil's Dive
- Bowers Harbor Inn and Condominium Subdivision on Peninsula Drive - 13 residential units adjacent to the Inn
- Hawthorne residential project - 35 residential units located between Peninsula Drive and Montague Road
- Park Ordinances No.5 and No.7 – combining into one ordinance
- New Master Plan based on recent surveys

## **MISSION POINT LIGHTHOUSE**

The township is considering whether to open the Old Mission lighthouse to the public on a regular schedule. Currently, our Parks Manager resides in the lighthouse providing a full time presence on the property. Grand Traverse, Point Betsie, South Manitou and South Fox lighthouses are all open to the public. If you are interested in serving on our lighthouse committee to explore how the public might use it, contact the Township Supervisor on 223-7322. Right now, the only time you can climb to the top (lantern) of our lighthouse is in conjunction with Log Cabin Days (see schedules and events).

## **SCENIC HERITAGE ROAD DESIGNATION**

The Town Board approved the application to designate Center Road (M-37) as a Scenic Heritage Road. If the application is approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), there will be an additional period for public comment and final approval by the state legislature. The most important aspect of the designation is that it provides direct and scheduled communication with MDOT and other agencies and utilities regarding the protection of the scenic quality of Center Road and it opens the door to additional road improvement money.

## **ELIMINATING THE "POP-UP TAX" WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

Public Act 446 of 2006 may eliminate the "pop-up tax" if your property is permanently protected by a qualified conservation easement. This new law was sponsored by Senator Michelle McManus (R-Leelanau) amending the General Property Tax Act. Now you may transfer ownership of land that is subject to a conservation easement without uncapping the property tax assessment. This exemption applies only to the land. It does not apply to buildings or structures on the property. The act encourages land conservation by offering a tax incentive. The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (929-7911) encourages your questions and will provide expertise about conservation easements. From the township's perspective, incentives for protecting land through conservation easements, including our Purchase of Development Rights program, benefit all of our citizens by retaining farmland, natural habitat and scenic views.

## **KUDOS**

To Gary Wilson for fixing the leak above the entryway at the township offices

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- ▶ The Long-term Retirement Health Care law suit has been resolved with most participants. The township attorney has filed a brief with the court to come to resolution with the remaining parties. The court date is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ The Town Board has adopted the fire department and special and general funds budgets for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2007 and ending March 31, 2008. In an effort to reduce costs, a cap was established that the township was willing to pay for full-time employee health care benefits. The Town Board will continue to examine ways to reduce the budget during the year.
- ▶ The 25<sup>th</sup> Bayshore Marathon will be taking place again this year over Memorial weekend. Center Road will be closed on May 26<sup>th</sup> to through traffic between McKinley and Island View Roads from 7 am until 11 am. Traffic will be diverted to Peninsula Drive. Gray Road will be closed east of Craig Road. Bluff and East Shore Roads will be impacted but technically not closed. Travel with caution. Viewing stands will be located at Archie Park and at Boursaw Road.
- ▶ The sheriff's department and the Cherry Capital Cycling Club have worked on cycling guidelines to assure safety for cyclists and drivers. Citations will be awarded for those who do not follow the rules. This includes both cyclists and drivers. Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the cycling club chairman, Fred Schaafsma on 223-9446.

- ▶ Our assessor will be in the field this summer, reviewing parcels to ensure the accuracy of property records, as required by the state. Call ahead to schedule appointments for personal business.
- ▶ To reserve a pavilion at Bowers Harbor Park or for information about summer programs / tennis classes, call the office manager on 223-7322 or check the website at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com)

**OPERATING INFO**

- ▶ The Township recognizes all veterans on Memorial through Labor Day weekends by placing an American flag on each grave site. If you know of a veteran’s site that has not been recognized in the past, please call the Clerk’s Office on 223-7321.
- ▶ Now that the snow is gone, our Deputy has noticed speeds have increased on all arteries. He wants you to expect a personally autographed ticket if you aren’t following the rules.
- ▶ The summer issue of the newsletter will be included with the summer tax bills to minimize postage costs.
- ▶ The Grand Traverse Resource Recovery Department is holding the following spring clean-up events:
  - The Keystone Road brush drop-off site opens April 7<sup>th</sup>. Hours are Tuesday, noon to 7 pm and Thursday and Saturday 9 am to 3 pm. Acceptable materials include brush, branches, grass clippings and leaves.
  - Compost is available at the Traverse City Farmers Market on Saturday, April 21, 9 am until noon (or until gone). Bring your own shovel and container.
  - Household hazardous waste will be collected on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 pm to 6 pm. Call 941-5555 to make your appointment to dispose of oil based paints, auto fluids, cleaning products, pesticides, batteries, mercury, moth balls and pool chemicals.

**DIRECTORY**

<b>Office Manager:</b>	
Wendy Witkop	223-7322
	Fax 223-7117
<a href="mailto:officemanager@peninsulatownship.com">officemanager@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
<b>Supervisor:</b>	
Rob Manigold	223-7322
<a href="mailto:supervisor@peninsulatownship.com">supervisor@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
<b>Clerk:</b>	
Monica Hoffman	223-7321
<a href="mailto:clerk@peninsulatownship.com">clerk@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	
Dave Weatherholt	223-4484
<a href="mailto:treasurer@peninsulatownship.com">treasurer@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
<b>Trustees:</b>	
Jill Byron	932-1339
Jed Hemming	223-7396
Jim Horton	223-4282
Penny Rosi	223-7560
<b>Assessor:</b>	
Sally Akerley	223-7313
<a href="mailto:assessor@peninsulatownship.com">assessor@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
<b>Planner:</b>	
Gordon Hayward	223-7314
<a href="mailto:planner@peninsulatownship.com">planner@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
<b>Zoning Administrator:</b>	
Gordy Uecker	223-7318
<a href="mailto:zoning@peninsulatownship.com">zoning@peninsulatownship.com</a>	
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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

**HELP WANTED**

- The township needs volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians. If you have ever considered doing this, now is the time, as the fire department is in dire need of help. Call the Fire Chief on 223-4443 to express your interest or to find out more information.
- The township has also started a committee of Town Board and Fire Department members who are researching ways to maintain fire and medical services. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the Treasurer on 223-4484.
- We still have openings on our Zoning Board of Appeals and PDR Selection committee. Please convey your interest, including a resume, to the Clerk.
- The Peter Dougherty Society is looking for volunteers to sell 500 auto-graphed copies, [Barns of Old Mission Peninsula and Their Stories](#) donated by Evelyn Johnson. All proceeds from the book sale go toward the restoration effort. Volunteers are also needed to help with the ebay sale of items being liquidated from the Dougherty House. Contact the Township Supervisor (223-7322) for either opportunity.

# SCHEDULES and EVENTS

**Town Board Meetings**  
(second Tuesday at 7 pm)  
April 10  
May 8  
June 12

**Planning Commission**  
(third Monday at 7 pm)  
April 16  
May 21  
June 18

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
(second Thursday at 7 pm)  
April 12  
May 10  
June 14

**Park Board**  
(first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
April 4  
May 2  
June 6

**Old Mission Peninsula  
Historical Society**  
(first Thursday at 7 pm—Town Hall)  
April 5  
May 3  
June 7 at Legion Hall—Annual Meeting  
Dinner

**Peninsula Community Library**  
Story Hour 1st and 3rd Thursday (11 am)  
Book Discussion 3rd Thursday (7 pm)

**Peter Dougherty Estate Sale**  
Township Office Lower Level  
Friday, May 25th from 9am to 5pm  
Saturday, May 26 from 9am to 5pm

**Bayshore Marathon**  
Saturday May 26 from 7am—noon  
Center Road closed

**Log Cabin Days**  
Old Mission Lighthouse Park  
Sunday—June 24 from 11am—5pm

**Blossom Days**  
May 19-20  
Blessing of the Blossoms/Chateau  
Chantal  
Sunday—May 20 at 12:30

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

**Peninsula Township Office is open:**  
Monday through Friday  
8 am until noon and 1:00 pm until 4:30  
pm  
The office will be closed on April 6th  
(Good Friday) and May 28 (Memorial  
Day Observed)

**American Legion Dinners**  
(First and Third Tuesday—6:30 pm)  
American Legion Hall on Swaney Rd  
Public Welcomed

Peninsula Township  
13235 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

