



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Winter 2011

www.peninsulatownship.com

HOT TOPICS

Trash and Recycling Services

Citizen response to our recent services survey was very helpful. Thanks to your input, we have a good idea of what you want regarding solid waste and recycling. If you would like to review the results of the entire survey, go to the web site at www.peninsulatownship.com. You can be confident of the results within plus or minus 3% of the percentages indicated.

Over a third of our residents use the compactor station for solid waste and recycling disposal. Therefore, the County's decision to eliminate compactor station recycling at the end of 2010 was not an acceptable solution for our township because of seasonal, rural and difficult to reach places. However, the majority of our residents have service provided by one of two or three haulers and continues to desire weekly, curbside service for solid waste and recycling.

The township joined with the city and two other townships to get bids for services to reduce costs and the number of trucks on the roads. We have not finished evaluating them, but based on the bids we received, it appears we can get weekly curbside waste service and recycling plus one bulky item per month. The hauler would still do the billing and would maintain the relationship with the customer. This can be done for about a 50% reduction from what many people are currently paying. Residents who have less waste and use the bag system could still use the bags and could have curbside recycling added. For anyone who does not want to use curbside waste removal and/or recycling, the township is committed to providing the services at the compactor station. The details and costs for those services are being worked out over the next few months but in the meantime, American Waste has agreed to keep the recycling bins at the compactor station open after the first of the year. The township compactor station will continue to operate with its current Wednesday/Saturday schedule.

A public hearing is being held at the January 11th Town Board meeting to get further input from residents. Watch the web site for further information too. Our goal is to have the entire trash/recycling system in place by April with efficient, reasonably priced service for all residents.

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

- ▶ 2010 Master Plan and Land Use Map – Ready for review by the Town Board
- ▶ Solid Waste/Recycling Ordinance – Public Hearing at the January 11th Town Board meeting
- ▶ Ambulance and Fire Service Fees Ordinance – Public Hearing at the February 8th Town Board meeting
- ▶ Ord. No. 187 – Planning Commission review of Roadside Stands to reflect GAAMP standards
- ▶ SUP 115 – Brys Estate Vineyard and Winery Special Use Permit for a Chateau Winery under review at the Planning Commission
- ▶ SUP116 – Old Mission General Store Special Use Permit for a Bar/Tavern under review at the Planning Commission
- ▶ Jensen Rezoning request from A-1 and R1-B to C-1 under review at the Planning Commission

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. 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.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

Emergency medical service costs continue to rise so the Fire Board is looking for ways to provide those services while keeping millage assessments as low as possible. Recently, the Fire Board drafted an ordinance that would allow the Fire Department to recover some of the costs from insurers for providing services such as emergency runs. The draft ordinance has been forwarded to the Township Board for consideration. A Public Hearing will be held at the February 8th Town Board meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance.

Here are the basic points being discussed: Most peninsula residents have private insurance which covers emergency medical services. Health insurance premiums are based on average health care costs in a geographic region and are not affected by individual claims. Therefore, the township's insurance agent has assured us that there will be no increase in any residents' individual insurance premiums. Also, township residents without insurance will not be billed for runs. Emergency medical service will continue to be provided to anyone needing it, regardless of whether they have insurance or not. Insurers will be billed by an outside billing agency. All of the insurance payments will go to reduce Fire Department costs and will not be part of the township general operating budget. Collecting from insurers should help keep taxes down and benefit all residents and taxpayers.

KUDOS

- ▶ Thanks to the Friendly Garden Club and Consumers Energy for their generous grants to put trees and shrubs around the parking lot of the Pelizzari Natural Area, to Dave Edmondson who used his heavy equipment to dig the holes and to the many volunteers who helped plant and water them.
- ▶ Thanks to Dr. Soji Adelaja, Director of the Land Policy Institute at MSU, for meeting with the Planning Commission to discuss policies and techniques to protect land for innovative agriculture and scenic preservation. He praised our land use policies including PDR but urged our community to plan for future agricultural innovations and referenced the Food Innovation Center at MSU as a resource (www.landpolicy.msu.edu).

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Recently, the Septage Treatment Plant bond payment was made by the County. 2010 is the first year the township has had to cover a portion of that expense. The money will be refunded to the township as revenue become available in 2011. The plant was built to ensure water quality throughout the watershed and to meet mandated state land application regulations which went into effect last winter. The earlier structural problems at the plant were fixed at no cost to tax payers since Gourdie Frasier and the Christman Company covered those expenses. Legal issues associated with the original volume estimates are in mediation. The Board of Public Works (BPW) continues to work on the financial situation by bringing in new business customers. The BPW is also considering changes to pumping fees including incentive programs, budget payment plans and refinancing the bond payment in 2013. We will continue to update you on this issue as information becomes available.
- ▶ Master Plan...What is it? Many people question a Master Plan's effect upon a community once it's adopted. Actually, finalizing the document should have no immediate effect on anyone or their property; its value or their ability to use the land. It is, however, a guide for the future of the township. The township's newly created plan sets goals and objectives which encourage development of new rules, zoning classes and potential uses appropriate to the needs of the community. The Master Plan is a document which explains the vision for the community, while the Zoning Ordinance is a book of rules and laws providing direction on how best to accomplish that vision. Adopting the 2010 Master Plan will aid the Planning Commission and Town Board on how best to continue protecting, preserving and enhancing the peninsula.

OPERATING INFO

- ▶ Winter tax bills are due February 14th. Tax bills were mailed out December 1st. If you have not received your bill please let us know.
- ▶ The township is going out for bids on our auditor contract. Tobin and Associates has done a great job for us over the past few years, but as a good business practice we now bid most contracts every three to five years. After a successful first year, we have extended our legal services contract with Young, Graham, Elsenheimer and Wendling, P.C. for another two years.
- ▶ The March Board of Review is a property owner's opportunity to protest assessed valuations, taxable valuations, classifications and submit poverty exemptions. The Board is meeting on Tuesday, March 8th to accept the assessment roll (petitioners are not heard at this time). The Board is meeting to hear petitioners' protests on Monday, March 14th from 9 am to noon and 2 pm to 9 pm and Tuesday, March 15th from 9 am to 11 am. Property owners may petition by letter if they are unable to attend in person.
- ▶ David Weatherholt is replacing Gary Wilson as the Town Board representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Penny Rosi will continue on the Planning Commission.
- ▶ The Lighthouse staff is looking for information regarding the original Fresnel lens that disappeared sometime after 1933. The Lighthouse was purchased by the township in 1948 and the staff is wondering if anyone recalls where the lens may have gone.
- ▶ Winter is here! Based on residents' requests, an outdoor ice skating rink was put in at Bowers Harbor Park for all to enjoy. Skate at your own risk, bring a shovel for snow removal and respect all skaters. The park closes at 9 pm.
- ▶ Common' folks...this is at least the third request...due to increasing complaints, residents are reminded that having unleashed dogs in any township park is a violation of the Grand Traverse County Animal Control Ordinance. Violations are subject to fines. The ordinance is being enforced.
- ▶ An Adopt-A-Park program is being developed for the township parks. Information and details will be on our web site and in the next edition of the newsletter.

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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

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 lighthouse's history. Volunteering comes with perks, and they'd love to have you!
Contact Sonja at (231) 645-0759.

SCHEDULES and EVENTS

Town Board
 (second Tuesday at 7 pm)
 January 11
 February 8
 March 8

Town Board Work Session
 (fourth Thursday at 7 pm)
 January 27
 February 24
 March 24

Planning Commission
 (third Monday at 7 pm)
 January 17
 February 28 (note date change
 due to holiday)
 March 21

Zoning Board of Appeals
 (second Thursday at 7 pm)
 January 13
 February 10
 March 10

Park Commission
 (first Wednesday at 7 pm)
 January 5
 February 2
 March 2

Fire Board
 (first Monday at 7 pm)
 January 3
 February 7
 March 7

Board of Review for Valuation Appeals
 March 14 – 9 am to noon
 and 2 pm to 9 pm
 March 15 – 9 am to 11 am

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

Fire Prevention Week Open House
 October 9 – All day
 Fire Station No.1

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

Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society
 (first Thursday at 7 pm – Town Hall)

Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula
 At all wineries noon to 5 pm
 Winter Warm-up – January 15
 Romancing the Riesling – February 12 and 13

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 February 21 for
 President's Day

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NEWSLETTER

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 13235 Center Road
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