

*News You Can Use!*

# Peninsula Township

Winter 2017

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

## **FROM THE TOWN BOARD**

Greetings everyone! As the start of the New Year gets underway, we are happy to announce the re-institution of the Township Newsletter, as a quarterly publication beginning this month. Because many of our residents travel south in winter, we are making the publications available in either paper form, online, or on the website. A short information survey on the last page will let you express your household's preferences for receiving the newsletter; if you would be so kind as to clip, & mail the survey to the township, it will let us update the mailing list for the newsletter.

The newsletter will attempt to keep all our residents aware of events and issues that will directly affect them. Each quarterly publication will highlight events that will be taking place in the township; special notices from the various offices in the township (along with deadlines); recognitions and remembrances; contact information; and features that focus on unique aspects of the Peninsula as a community. From all of the members of the Board, we thank you for your support, and we hope you will become increasingly engaged in the people, places, and issues that comprise the Peninsula. Best wishes.

## **IN REMEMBRANCE...for those who have served us well**

**Pete Correia**—Served as Township Supervisor from 2014-2016 and long-term summer resident of the peninsula.

**Al Gray**—Involvement in the Old Mission Peninsula community was a large part of his life, as he dedicated 10 years of service to the Peninsula Township Fire Department and served as a Peninsula Township Trustee for 16 years.

**Mary Avery**—Served 16 years as Peninsula Township Deputy Treasurer. Her hearty laugh, good will, and big smile will be missed by all.

**Wanda Crampton**—Served as the chief librarian and director of the Peninsula Community Library for several decades. Always willing to help with an acquisition or a library resource retrieval, she was a strong advocate for the library and its collections.

## **HOT TOPICS**

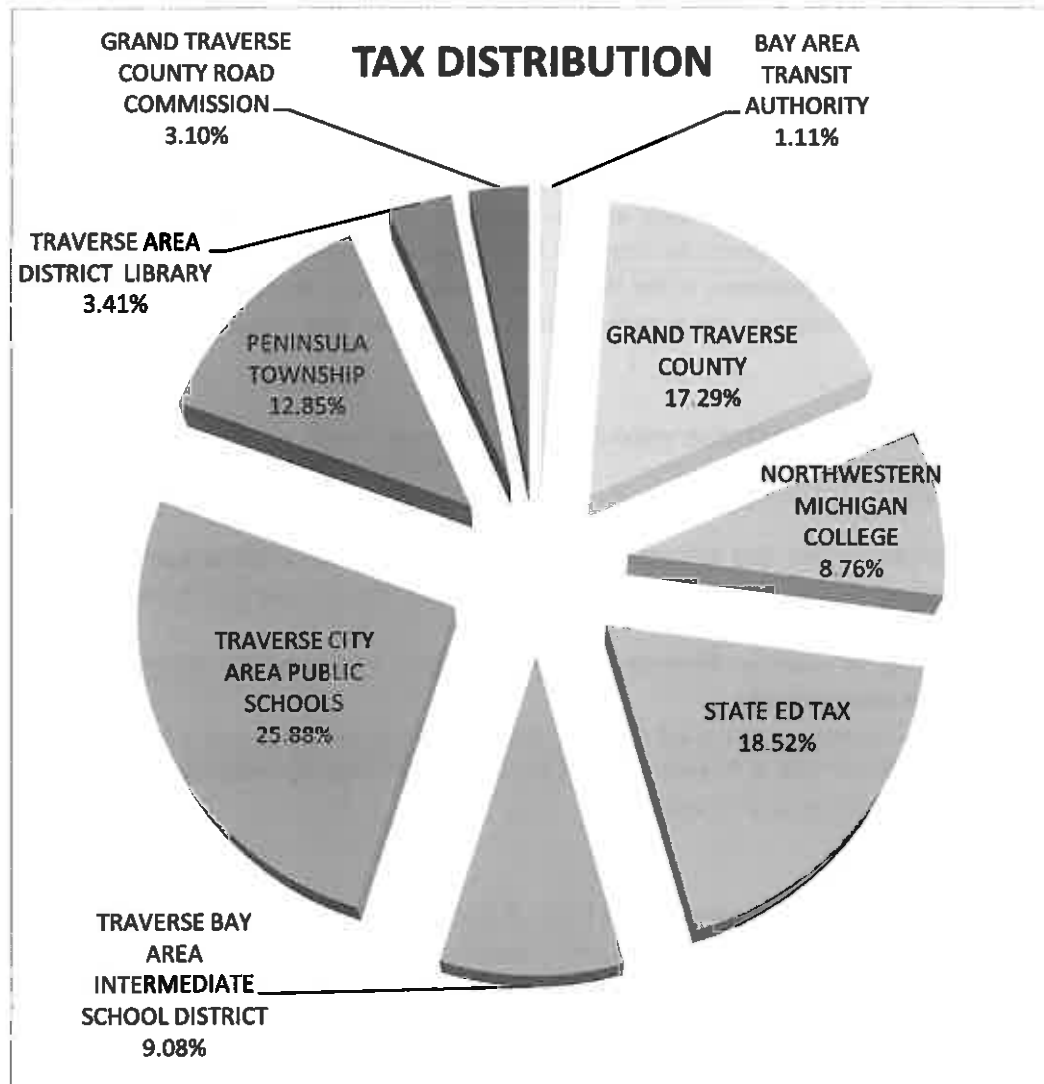
New **Medical Marijuana Laws** (Act 281-283 of 2016) became effective December 20, 2016. The new laws allow medical marijuana dispensaries, edibles, large scale medical marijuana growing, processing, testing and delivery operations. Municipalities have until December 15, 2017, to take action on these various types of facilities. If the municipality takes no action, none of the facilities are allowed. See the Township website for two articles from Michigan State University, Land Policy Institute's *Planning and Zoning News* that has covered state-related medical marijuana legislation in its last two issues. The Township website ([www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com)) has links to the two issues containing the articles.

Kristin Esch of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development presented recent developments in the **Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices** (GAAMPs) standards for protection of agricultural activities relating to crop production used for road stands and farm markets under the Right to Farm Legislation. The meeting was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, and was well-attended. Several important "take-home" points included the fact that owners of agricultural land seeking protection under "Right to Farm" legislation must first meet the GAAMP standards. These standards can be verified by a free inspection of a property by the Michigan

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, by calling Kristin Esch for an inspection of the property (517) 242-1990. GAAMPs only covers the production of an agricultural crop, not the processing of a crop. Therefore, the production component of the following entities like wineries, cider mills, breweries, and bakeries do not fall under GAAMPs and Right to Farm legislation. For more information, contact Ms. Esch at the number listed above.

### FROM THE TREASURER

The Treasurer, by statute, is required to receive and take charge of all funds belonging to the Township - which in essence is to collect taxes and disburse them to the various taxing authorities within Grand Traverse County and to the State of Michigan. There are two tax billing cycles – in the summer and in the winter. Only approximately 12.85% of the total taxes collected remain with the township. The rest is distributed to the taxing authorities, as shown below in the pie chart.



The other duties of the Treasurer's office are to process daily bank deposits, reconcile monthly bank statements, control petty cash and other funds, authorize disbursement and fund replacement, balance all accounts, invest funds and maintain proper cash flow for the Township. The Treasurer evaluates fiscal policies and processes in the managing of investments, deposits and expenditures – as well as maintaining other financial records and providing financial reports to the board. Also as a finance committee member, the Treasurer gives recommendations to the board on financial decisions. We welcome our residents to visit or call us with any questions as we are honored to be of service to our neighbors.

clip this form

### LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE

Clip this form, with your address on the back side of this newsletter, and let us know if you want to receive the newsletter by: (check one)

mail

email (Please provide the email address) \_\_\_\_\_

website

Would you prefer a newsletter in: (check one)

Black & White       Multi-color

Mail this form to:

Joanne Westphal, Clerk,  
Peninsula Township  
13235 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Thank you for allowing us to serve you efficiently and cost-effectively.

### MISSION POINT LIGHTHOUSE

We had a great season in 2016, with more than 19,000 lighthouse visitors paying to take the lighthouse tour. The lighthouse-keeper program is going strong with nearly the entire season scheduled for 2017, but we do need local volunteers to help with answering questions from visitors and helping with traffic control in the lighthouse area. Even if you can volunteer for only 2 hours a month, that would be very helpful. Please contact Ginger if you are interested in volunteering.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Mission Point Lighthouse in 2017.

Township residents can visit the lighthouse museum and climb the tower at NO COST. Bring your family and enjoy!

Ginger Schultz, Lighthouse Manager  
13235 Center Road, Traverse City, MI  
49686, 231-645-0759  
missionpointlight@gmail.com

### OLD MISSION SCHOOL NEWS

Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation (OMPEF) is a charitable, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing quality educational programs on Old Mission Peninsula. OMPEF was incorporated September 14, 2016.

Currently (OMPEF) is in negotiations with TCAPS to purchase the Old Mission Peninsula School (OMPS). An offer of \$1.1M has been made for the building, property and contents. It is anticipated that the building will be purchased in early 2017.

The next step is to determine the best possible way to continue to provide public Education on Old Mission Peninsula. A citizen group has been exploring options over the past year while negotiations for the building have been ongoing. OMPEF will hold a public meeting to discuss and gather input from the community on the direction of the education to be offered.

The OMPEF members would like to thank the people of Old Mission Peninsula, and Traverse City, for their support in this mission of continuing to provide education on Old Mission Peninsula. The passion from the community and the continued support of the work being done is why people choose to live on Old Mission Peninsula. The views are fantastic, but the community is irreplaceable. If you would like to learn more about OMPEF, the history of the peninsula school, or how to support education on the peninsula, please visit the webpage at [www.OMPEF.org](http://www.OMPEF.org).

Allison O'Keefe, Chairperson

**THANK YOU...**Special thanks go out from the township to Nick and Kathy Kroupa, who have been placing American Flags on the graves of veterans interred in all the Peninsula Township cemeteries. Nick has been doing this since 1968.

### PLANNING NEWS

A new planner has been hired—Brian VanDenBrand, currently the deputy planner for Garfield Township in Traverse City. He will come on board in mid-January.

The zoning ordinance rewrite under contract to McKenna Associates has been posted on the Township website; the ordinance language is presented both with, and without, markups to help readers see how the wording has changed. Following an edit review by the Planning Commission, it will be sent to McKenna to prepare a final draft, after which the Planning Commission will hold a series of public meetings for feedback before sending it to the Township Board.

The Bonobo has moved into compliance with the hiring of Farm Service Management and the help of the MSU Experiment Station personnel, who will be overseeing the soil remediation necessary for the planting of apple and grapes in 2018.

Peninsula Township  
13235 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

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### SCHEDULES & EVENTS

**Peninsula Township Hours:**  
Mon.7:30-6:30;Tues., Wed., Thurs. 7:30-5:00,  
Fri. and Holidays, closed

**Peninsula Community Library** 223-4525  
**Hours:** Mon. & Thurs., 9am-8:30pm; Tues.,  
Wed., Fri., 9am-5:30pm; Sat., 9am-1pm  
**Events:** Pageturners Book Club for adults:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm; Story Stew for pre-  
schoolers:1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

**Old Mission Peninsula Historic Society**  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7pm- Old Townhall

**American Legion Dinners**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday-6:30 pm  
American Legion Hall, Swaney Road

**Wineries of Old Mission**  
Romancing the Riesling-February 18

### NOTICES:

- The Township has been receiving complaints about trespass on private property. Remember orchards, vineyards, and open land are private property unless otherwise posted. Before you hike, bike, ski, snowshoe, snowmobile, or ATV, please make sure you have the property owner's permission.
- We have been notified that Consumer Energy Company will be replacing power lines between Traverse City and McKinley Road in 2018. This may involve some tree removal.
- The County Road Commission will be widening the road right-of-way on Bluff Road south of Bluewater to M-37; trees will be removed (see website for more information).