



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Spring 2013

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

## **HOT TOPICS**

The Peninsula Township Fire Department has a legal obligation to respond to all fire and rescue emergencies within its jurisdiction. This includes the entire shoreline and all waters extending to the mid-point of both East and West Grand Traverse Bays. All marine rescue operations were conducted aboard a 17 foot fishing boat donated to the fire department 4 years ago. The Department recently received a grant from FEMA/Department of Homeland Security (Port Security Grant) for a marine rescue vessel. The grant funds 75% of the total cost of the boat and all required equipment, training and certifications. Our Marine Rescue Team consists of 17 certified marine rescue personnel who responded to over 30 calls in the past 4 years. The new vessel provides room and equipment for medical treatment, fire suppression, improved electronics and communications equipment and twin engine reliability. The Fire Department received four other grants in 2012. The total cost to the township is about \$113,300. Obtaining these grants allows for more efficient use of your tax dollars and extends the reach of the department's effectiveness. Projects awarded last year were from the DNR, FEMA Region 7, FEMA DHS and the Par Plan.

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

SUP No. 117 – St. Joseph Catholic Church is being amended to reduce the footprint of the building and the total property area.

SUP No. 118 – Oosterhouse Vineyard and Winery – Chateau Winery located on 50+ acres off Center Road, south of Nelson.

Discussion continues regarding changes to the Zoning Ordinance for Wine Production and Winery Operations.

## **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). 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**

- ▶ Dan Leonard, Township Planner, has taken a new job with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. His new job covers the northern territory of Michigan from Grayling to the Mackinaw Bridge. Dan was with the Township for three years, guided us through the Master Plan update and has done extensive work on the Zoning Ordinance update. Congratulations Dan and keep in touch with your friends on the Peninsula!
- ▶ To Carrol Lock, our recently retired Board of Review member. He was there for the abrupt and substantial market downturn and the increased number of appeals it generated. Thanks for all your help, Carroll.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Each winery on the Peninsula has completed the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) verification process to protect the groundwater and soils by using best agricultural management practices.
- ▶ The Insurance Services Office (ISO) ranks communities for fire suppression capability. A rating system of 1-10 is used by the ISO which helps insurance providers determine fire insurance costs. This rating system is called the Public Protection Classification (PPC). Areas of the Township that previously had a PPC class rating of 9 now have a rating of 7. In areas of the Township which have pressurized water, the rating has been reduced from 6 to 5. Within the past two years, the fire department has made two important changes: 24-hour staffing to reduce response time and implementation of a box alarm fire dispatch system for automatic mutual aid alarms. The improved ratings may help residents receive lower rates on home and property insurance. You are urged to contact your insurance provider with this information.
- ▶ The Old Mission Post Office is open on weekdays from 10 am to 2 pm and on Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm for transactions. Access to the post office lobby and individual post boxes is available at all times (24/7). There is a mail box in the lobby for stamped mail drops.
- ▶ The Peter Dougherty Society received two grants: one to restore all of the windows in the Dougherty House using antique glass and another to restore the circa 1900 cutter (one horse sleigh).
- ▶ Think spring! Here are several maintenance tips from The Watershed Center to protect our bays: if you fertilize grass on your property, use non-phosphorus fertilizer (for example: 10-0-5), don't fertilize your plants within 100 feet of the bay, skip fertilizing near paved areas or before a rainy period and avoid beach grooming or uprooting shoreline plants. Fewer chemicals used on land, means healthier water quality in our bays.
- ▶ WiFi is available at the township offices, community library and the Peninsula Market.

## OPERATING INFO

- ▶ There have been several 2012 year-end legislative changes that affect assessments. If you need more information, please contact the Assessor.
  - ▶ Public Act 324: Allows a person to retain an exemption on a principal residence after moving to a nursing home or assisted living facility. The owner must continue to own the property, not establish a new principal residence exemption, maintain the property and the property must not be occupied, will not be for sale or lease nor used for business or commercial purposes.
  - ▶ Public Act 368: If a parcel is classified as agricultural real property, any contiguous, vacant or wooded parcel, or a parcel where there is 1 or more agricultural outbuildings that comprise more than 50% of the total taxable value of all buildings on the parcel, will be classified as agricultural real property.
  - ▶ Public Act 494: New construction on development property is exempt from collecting school operating taxes for 3 years or until the new construction is no longer located on development property, whichever comes first. Same filing deadlines as the Principal Residential Exemption (PRE).
  - ▶ Public Act 497: Beginning December 31, 2013, in transfers of Residential Real Property, if the transferee is related to the transferor by blood or affinity to the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and the use of the Residential Real Property does not change following the transfer, it is not considered a transfer of ownership and taxes are capped at the current rate. "Residential Real Property" equals Real Property classified as Residential Real Property under 211.34c.
  - ▶ Public Act 524: Changes conditional rescission deadline to match new PRE deadlines.

**OPERATING INFO (cont.)**

- ▶ Mission Point Lighthouse is open for tours beginning in April. An entry coupon is located in this newsletter.
- ▶ As you prepare your income tax information, remember that you can access property tax information on the Township website under the resident/tax tab.
- ▶ The Summer Recreation Program at Bowers Harbor Park will run for ten weeks this summer with activities for children ages 4-7 and 8-13. Watch our website for information on the weekly sessions. Tennis lessons for all ages will be conducted by Tim Moore, the tennis pro (946-7018) in August. Racquets are available for participants.
- ▶ If you have a deceased loved one who served in the military and is buried in one of our township cemeteries, contact the Clerk's office so a flag can be placed at the gravesite for Memorial Day.
- ▶ Heads-up!! Don't forget Center, Bluff and East Shore Roads are closed from 7 am until noon on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> for the Bay Shore Marathon. You will need to take Peninsula Drive into town during those hours.

**HELP WANTED**

Friends of the Lighthouse are organizing to address grounds maintenance, public programs and fund raising. Contact 231-313-8217 if you would like to help in any of these roles. Also, if you are interested in being a Lighthouse Keeper for a week, contact the Lighthouse Manager at 645-0759.

Mission Point Lighthouse  
Museum Admission - 2013

**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

**DIRECTORY**

**Office Manager:**

Susan Piehl 223-7322  
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officemanager@peninsulatownship.com

**Supervisor:**

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**Clerk:**

Monica Hoffman 223-7321  
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**Treasurer:**

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**Trustees:**

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Jill Byron 932-1339  
Penny Rosi 223-7560  
Wendy Witkop 883-6003

**Assessor:**

Sally Akerley 223-7313  
assessor@peninsulatownship.com

**Planner:**

Dan Leonard 223-7314  
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**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 9  
May 14  
June 11

The Town Board also meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 1 pm if there is additional business.

**Planning Commission**  
(third Monday at 7 pm)  
April 15  
May 20  
June 17

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
(second Thursday at 7 pm)  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13

**Park Commission**  
(first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
April 3  
May 1  
June 5

**Fire Board**  
(first Monday at 7 pm)  
April 1  
May 6  
June 3

**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 Stew – 1st and 3rd Thursday at 9:30 am

**Wineries of Old Mission**  
Blossom Days – May 18 and 19  
Blessing of the Blossoms May 19 – Noon at Chateau Chantal

**Annual Bay Shore Marathon**  
May 25 – 7 am to noon  
Center, East Shore and Bluff Roads closed until noon

**Log Cabin Days at Lighthouse Park**  
Tours of 1853 Hessler Log Cabin and 1871 Mission Point Lighthouse  
Additional tours of 1842 Peter Dougherty House in Old Mission  
June 30 – 11 am to 3 pm

**Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society**  
(first Thursday at 7 pm)

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

**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 also closed on Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day).

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**NEWSLETTER**

