



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Summer/Autumn 2014

www.peninsulatownship.com

HOT TOPICS

Your vote counts! The midterm election cycle for local, state and federal offices is coming up with the Michigan Primary on Tuesday, August 5th and the Michigan General Election on Tuesday, November 4th. Due to recent resignations, the local elected offices include Supervisor, Park Commission and Library Board positions. The State election includes the Michigan House and Senate seats and the Governor's Office. On the Federal level, the election covers US Senate and House seats. There will be two proposals on the August ballot: a Township proposal to renew the Police Protection Millage and a State proposal for approval or disapproval of amendatory act to reduce State Use Tax and replace with a local community stabilization share to modernize the tax system to help small businesses grow and create jobs. If you have any questions about election voting procedures or absentee ballots, contact the Clerk's Office.

SPECIAL USE PERMITS (SUP), ORDINANCES (ORD), AND ISSUES CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED AT THE TOWNSHIP

- The Orchards /Bower's Harbor Park extension – The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has awarded funding to the Township for the acquisition of a 59 acre parcel adjacent to Bowers Harbor Park on Devil's Dive Road. The Township is seeking community input on the public use of this property. Check the website for future public hearing dates.
- Little League Fields – Two Little League baseball fields will be constructed at Bowers Harbor Park beginning this summer. The old fields were not adequate for Little League baseball games so a group of citizens offered to privately raise funds (over \$110,000) for construction of the new fields, utilizing the existing ball field areas.
- SUP#120- Last year, AT&T proposed the construction of a 110-foot cell tower to replace an existing 40-foot tower near Carpenter Hill, just east of Center Road. Negotiations were dropped in December but have been resumed.

KUDOS-Special Thanks To All Of The Following:

- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Wilbur Ellis Company

for providing over \$10,000 in grant money for the purchase of 2 Masimo RAD 57 pulse oximeters for the Peninsula Township Fire Department. These devices detect carbon monoxide in the blood of a patient or firefighters. Currently this cannot be done until an ambulance reaches a medical facility.

- Cristin Hosmer for her service on the Zoning Board of Appeals and to Jon Goode for his service on the Park Commission. Laura Serocki is now on the ZBA, Steve Love is on the Park Commission and Jon Goode has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Fire Board.
- Bill Stott for spraying for poison ivy at the Lighthouse State Park!
- Nick and Kathy Kroupa for placing American flags on the graves of veterans interred in all of the Township cemeteries. Nick has been doing this every year since 1968 (that's 46 years!)
- Ryan Deering for providing CPR, First Aid and AED training to our office employees.

DID YOU KNOW?

- We are in the maintenance phase of the phragmites program and will be treating a portion of the Peninsula this year. Last year, approximately 14 acres of beachfront was treated, including the state park waterfront and Power Island. We will hold a public hearing in July or August, with proposed treatment area maps. Our DEQ permit will allow private homeowners not within the specified treatment areas to contact our specialist (Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions) to have their property treated at the property owner's expense. Treatment will occur in late September/early October and property owners will be notified before the herbicide application occurs.
- Garlic Mustard is another aggressive invasive plant that can be controlled fairly easily with vigilance. It has a weak root system, so a household or neighborhood group can scout/pull/dispose of it before it goes to seed. For more help, contact the Grand Traverse Conservation District at 941-0960.
- The Dougherty House in Old Mission was purchased by a group of citizens in July 2006 and given to the Township. Since 2006, the Peter Dougherty Society (PDS) has worked steadily to preserve the building and is now raising private funds for completing the restoration. With private donations, they intend to raise the foundation, restore the original floors, re-plaster the walls and provide handicapped access to this historic building. Recently, PDS has received generous contributions from the Biederman Foundation, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and Traverse City Rotary. These contributions will be used to match a commitment from the Jeffris Family Foundation of Wisconsin. Contact Bill Cole (223-8778) for further information regarding the project and how you can help. Incidentally, PDS is holding its annual fundraiser dinner at Bowers Harbor Park on August 9th with music provided by Dave Warne and his Dixieland Band!

- The US Coast Guard invited members of the Peninsula Fire Department to train on our new Safe Boat at the USCG Station in Charlevoix in June. Our personnel stayed in the USGS barracks, free of charge, and received professional training from active duty Coast Guard personnel on our vessel.
- TCAPS is sponsoring Summer Adventure Day Camp for ages 3-12 at Old Mission Peninsula School from June 18th through August 22nd. The program runs from 7am – 6 pm. The camp includes weekly field trips, games, sports and arts/crafts. The program is open to area residents and summer visitors. Check our website for more information.
- Summer means additional roadway traffic. Please slow down for farm equipment. As a reminder, ORV's are not allowed on Center Road, nor on East Shore Road, Peninsula Drive from the Traverse City limits to Gray Road, or Bluff Road between Center Road and Blue Water Road.
- It is a busy time of the year for our farmers. Please, respect that orchards and vineyards are private property.

OPERATING INFO

- The Township Board recently approved a policy regarding storm water review on new residential structures on the Peninsula. Residential structures seeking a land use permit will be subject to storm water control review based on the following guidelines: a residential structure with a footprint in excess of 3,500 square feet and within 500 feet of the ordinary high water mark will receive a major review, a residential structure that will disturb more than an acre of land will receive a major review, and a residential structure with a footprint less than 3,500 square feet and located on a property subject to an ordinary high water mark setback will receive a minor review. Please contact the Planning & Zoning Office for questions or to obtain an application.
- For many years, Michigan's property tax structure was not "family friendly". That is, parents wanting to convey property to their children could not do so without causing the uncapping of taxable value. This resulted in sizeable property tax burdens for successive generations. Public Act 497 of 2012 went into effect on December 31, 2013. The law reads "Beginning December 31, 2013, a transfer of Residential Real Property – if the transferee is related to the transferor by blood or affinity to the 1st degree and the use of the Residential Real Property does not change following the transfer – is not a transfer of ownership." Blood affinity to the 1st degree has been defined as one of the following relationships: spouse, father or mother; father or mother of the spouse; son or daughter; adopted son or daughter; son or daughter of the spouse; siblings. However,

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Compactor/Recy. Station 943-8088

Fire Department (non-emergency) 223-4443

Old Mission Penin. School 933-7420

Peninsula Comm. Library 223-7700

Sheriff (non-emergency) 223-4525

many are making the mistaken assumption that property conveyed via a trust is also exempt from uncapping. That is not true. Due to the blood relationship clause, the Michigan State Tax Commission has determined that the transferor must be a person. Therefore, the exemption from uncapping does not apply to a trust, a limited liability company or a distribution from probate. Contact the Assessor for further clarification.

- Peninsula Community Library and Mission Point Lighthouse join this summer for fun activities on the grounds of the Lighthouse. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy! In case of rain, activities will be held at the Library. Programs include story telling for the little ones on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings in July and August at 7 pm and Celtic music with the Cherry Blossom Ramblers at 7 pm on August 13th. Mark your calendars!

HELP WANTED

- The Lighthouse Keepers Program allows us to open our historic lighthouse to people from all over the world. Visitors step back in time to the 19th century as they tour the Old Mission lighthouse and grounds. You can help support the program as a volunteer by greeting visitors or running the gift shop. The work is interesting and the schedules are flexible. Contact Celia at missionpointlight@gmail.com or (231) 645-0759
- Appointment to the Planning Commission will occur in August. Contact the Clerk for information if you wish to serve for a three-year term.

SCHEDULES and EVENTS

Township Board

(second Tuesday at 7pm)
 July 8
 August 12
 September 9
 October 14
 November 18 (meeting changed from original date)
 Township Board also meets on the 4th Monday at 1pm if there is additional business

Planning Commission

(third Monday at 7pm)
 July 21
 August 18
 September 15
 October 20
 November 17

Zoning Board of Appeals

(second Thursday at 7pm)
 July 10
 August 14
 September 11
 October 9
 November 13

Park Commission

(first Wednesday at 7pm)
 July 2
 August 6
 September 3
 October 1
 November 5

Fire Board

(first Monday at 7pm)
 November 3
 July 7
 August 4
 September 8 (meeting changed from original date)
 October 6

Board of Review

Tuesday, July 22 - 9am to 11am
 Contact the Assessor to make an appointment

Peninsula Community Library

Monday and Thursday - 9am to 9pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9am to 5:30pm
 Saturday - 9am to 1pm (closed during the summer)
 Summer reading programs for all ages
 Annual Used Book Sale begins July 24

National Cherry Festival of Races

Saturday, July 12
www.cherryfestival.org/festival-of-races

Traverse City Triathlon

Sunday, August 17
www.enduranceevolution.com/traverse-city-triathlon

Lighthouse Half Marathon

Sunday October 12
www.lighthousehalf.com

Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society

(first Thursday at 7pm)
omphistoricalsociety.org

American Legion Dinners

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

Mission Point Lighthouse

10am to 5pm
 Open Daily, April - October
 Admission for Peninsula residents is always free

Compactor Station Hours:

Wednesday, noon to 6pm
 Saturday, 9am to 5pm
 Recycling at any time

The Peninsula Township Office is open

Monday 7:30am to 6:30pm and Tuesday through Thursday 7:30am to 5:00pm.
 The office is closed every Friday and on September 1st for Labor Day, November 11th for Veterans Day and November 27th for Thanksgiving Day.

Mission Point Lighthouse Museum Admission - 2014

VOUCHER

Good for free admission for resident and up to six guests. Coupon required - single use only. Sponsored by the Peninsula Township Park Commission