



News You Can Use!

Peninsula Township

Summer 2017

www.peninsulatownship.com

FROM THE TOWN BOARD

Ahhh...Summer is here, and the living is...crazy, lazy, hazy..._____? You will have to fill in the last part of the sentence!

In this issue, the Town Board hopes to inform you on the latest developments affecting the Peninsula Community School; safety considerations (during this season of cook-outs, fireworks, and high traffic); the latest news on the Peninsula Community Library; summer taxes and special assessments; Bluff Road and a Natural Beauty Road designation; and events taking place across the Peninsula.

It looks like a busy season ahead, so let's get going!

IN REMEMBRANCE...

Throughout the cemeteries surrounding the 4th of July holiday and throughout the summer, you will see small flags posted at the gravesites of our veterans. Thanks to Nick Kroupa and others, who place the flags in the cemeteries, this has become an annual expression of the Township's gratitude to those who fought for our freedom, and have now passed on.

SPECIAL THANKS...

Special thanks go out to Sharon Olsen and John Schneider, who donated specially mounted historic newspapers, artwork, and memorabilia to the township for display in the Township Office Building.

NEWS FROM (AND ABOUT) THE LIBRARY...

There is big news at Peninsula Community Library! The Library Building Campaign has surpassed the one million dollar mark! As of June 21, \$1,140,000.00 had been received in donations and legally binding pledges from 230 donors. Many thanks to donors Bill and Nancy Davy for their gift of \$750,000. The library is also grateful to Tim Carroll, who will be sponsoring the Johnson Carroll Local History Room in the new library. Many naming opportunities are available. This is a lasting way to honor the memory of someone or something special. Call the library for details! The Board and Director of PCL promise that you will always have a truly public library on Old Mission. Our community is making it happen!

July is a busy month at PCL. We host book clubs, story hours, yoga, teen nights, Summer Reading Club activities, movie showings and more. PCL is a great place to just hang out. Kids can play in our Imagination Station, do crafts or read while parents enjoy a hot beverage, visit and relax with a book or magazine. We offer copying, FAX, large print materials, movies, music, games and more. Our WiFi is up 24/7. After hours, you can access it from the Adirondack chairs behind the library! Take a walk around!

The Friends of PCL kick off their annual Friends and Fine Editions Book Sale on July 20 from 4-7 pm with an ice cream social for "Friends" members; opening to the public at 7 pm. Our Local Artist's Fair will be held on July 22 from 9-4 and this year will host food trucks. The book sale continues through August 2. All are invited to our Summer Reading Club Finale July 27 at 6:30 pm on our property at the corner of Island View and Center Roads. Pack a picnic and blanket and enjoy ice cream courtesy of AcenTek, music with Miriam Pico and more. Check our website at www.peninsulacommunitylibrary.org under Events and Calendar for more of what's happening

at PCL!

Libraries in America are no longer the quiet, stodgy institutions they were stereotyped as years ago. Libraries have reinvented themselves into dynamic community gathering places. Come on in to PCL this summer! Make a joyful noise! Libraries are alive and thriving. Peninsula Community Library is headed into a secure and bright future! We are the heart of the community!

For more information on library activities or to support the new library with a financial gift, contact Vicky Shurly, Head Librarian, Peninsula Community Library, 2699 Island View Rd., (231)-223-7700, <vshurly@tadl.org>.

FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT...

Purchase of Development Rights

In May, the Township Board renewed a contractual agreement with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to continue to implement the agricultural preservation / PDR program. Since 1994, thanks to two voter-approved mileages and our partnership with the Land Conservancy, over half of the designated prime agricultural land in Peninsula Township has been permanently protected.

We are excited to introduce Laura Rigan, Farmland Protection Specialist at the Land Conservancy, as the point person for this agreement. Laura was born and raised on the peninsula and will provide a number of services to assist Peninsula Township and the PDR committee. Some of Laura's duties will be to develop and maintain working relationships with PDR applicants (including applicants from Application Round IV), to visit properties and prepare easement and closing documents, to track eligible funding and grant opportunities, and to showcase the township's farmland preservation efforts to increase private investments in the program. The Conservancy has already secured significant matching funds, and is committed to monitoring future grant opportunities to further our land protection efforts.

Also in PDR news, the Township Board will be reviewing new applicants for the PDR selection committee. The purpose of the selection committee is to advise the Township Board in the selection of eligible lands for purchase.

Donation of Development Rights

Peninsula Township also offers a Donation of Development Rights (DDR) program. DDR allows landowners to permanently protect important agricultural, natural, and open spaces through a tax-deductible conservation easement donation.

Events Ordinance

The Board of Trustees would like you to know that we have heard your concerns about some recent large events held on the peninsula (i.e. road races). We will be reviewing the events ordinance in the near future.

NEWS FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE...

Updating the Newsletter's Mailing List

In the first quarter, 2017 Newsletter from the Township, residents were asked if they preferred snail mail, email, or some other correspondence media. Nearly 350 households clipped the small survey form that was in the Newsletter and returned it to the Town Hall. While the majority of respondents indicated their preference for a mailed Newsletter, over a hundred individuals said they would prefer receiving the Newsletter via email. The Clerk's office has been slowly going through the returned mail to update the mailing addresses of our residents so that by the end of the year, each household will receive the Newsletter via the communication link that it prefers.

New PDR Selection Committee

Five residents have applied to be on the new 2017 PDR selection committee, within the timeframe set by the Town Board. They include: Virginia Coulter, Harold David Edmondson, Karen Cline, Susan Tarczon, and Mary Manner.

FROM THE ASSESSOR...

Several special assessment districts were approved this spring covering a variety of projects (road improvements, drainage districts and city water extension). Work is currently under way and the expectation is for all district projects to be completed by November 2017. Any questions should be directed to our township engineer (Brian Boals of Gourdie-Fraser) at (231)932-5537. Residents in the impacted areas will receive special assessment bills annually (separate from property tax bills) beginning summer 2017.

Any questions? Call me, Sally Akerley, Township Assessor, 223-7313.

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE...

Summer Taxes Are Due...

July 1st is when we will begin to collect Summer tax payments. As a kind reminder Summer tax payments are due by September 14th, 2017. Please make checks payable to **Peninsula Township**. For your convenience, you may pay by mail or in person at our Township Office. We also have a secured drop box out front of the Township entrance doors. This allows you to drop your payment in the box when the office is closed. Another alternative is our pay on line option. You will find it on the Peninsula Township home page. Just click on it and follow the step by step instructions.

Many of our residents pay their taxes via their mortgage/escrow companies. We wanted to let you know to look on your tax bill for a statement, "**This Bill Has Been Sent To Your Escrow Company**". If you have this specific statement on your bill it means it will be paid by those sources and eliminates your writing a check as well. If this statement is not on your bill then your taxes will need to be paid by you.

Special Assessment Districts...

There are a number of Specials Assessment District-residents who will receive a separate bill. Please note it will be in a different colored envelope than your tax bill and will have "Special Assessment Bill" on the front of it. Please keep an eye open for it as this will be the first installment for many of those residents in the new and recently created Special Assessment Districts (SAD). SAD payments are due in our office from July 1st to September 14th, 2017. Checks are to be made payable to **Peninsula Township**. Please note that beginning on September 15th, a 1% per month interest penalty will be incurred. Further, if the payment is not received by November 1st, it is added to the Winter Tax bill for collection.

Please feel free to call my office as we welcome any questions or ways we can best assist you. Brad Bickle, Township Treasurer, 223-4484, email: treasurer@peninsulatownship.com.

FROM THE SHERIFF...

The Township recently purchased two new *All Traffic Solutions* radar devices to add to the one the Township already owns. These devices are portable and can be moved to areas of traffic concern. They can be programmed to flash a motorist's speed when passing a sign as well as record the number of vehicles and their speeds when passing through an area. Don't worry, they do not take a photograph, and you won't end up on social media!

In the first five days, Friday, June 16th to Tuesday, June 20th, one of the devices was set on Center Road near Timber Lane. During that time, there were over 20,000 vehicles traveling North on to the Peninsula. The average speed of those vehicles ranged from 46 to 49 mph. In a 24-hour period, there was an average of 167 vehicles per hour traveling north during the five-day period. Of the 167 vehicles, an average of 72 vehicles were traveling at or below the speed limit; 89 vehicles were traveling the speed limit or five mph over the speed limit; and 5 vehicles were traveling 10 mph or more over the

speed limit. The average speed of motorists over this time period was 46.3 mph. 66.1% of motorists adjusted the speed they were traveling as a result of the device. These are just some basic statistics that can be gathered. This data will allow the Township to stay on top of traffic safety issues while working with the Sheriff's Department, MDOT and the Grand Traverse County Road Commission.

In the future look for more detailed reports on traffic that can be found in the Peninsula Town Board packets, posted online at: <http://www.peninsulatownship.com/agendas-minutes-packets-and-special-meeting-notice.html>.

If you have specific traffic concerns, please contact Deputy Jason Hamilton at 231-223-4525 or jhamilton@gtsheriff.org.

BLUFF ROAD, PENINSULA DRIVE, AND SAVE THE TREES...

Peninsula Township has lost 600 trees to the County Road Commission's "Road Improvement" projects within the last 2 years! Several beautiful, wooded roads on the Peninsula are likely to be worked on within the next two years. Please read and sign the SAVE OUR TREES petition that would require the Road Commission to adopt MDOT's less aggressive tree removal guidelines and give residents 60 days-notice of intended removals. Find the petition at the Township offices, at local businesses, at club meetings, etc., and share with your neighbors. For questions, call either: Jim Floraday 231-735-8352 or Mary Beth Milliken 231-590-5880 to leave a message. This is a resident-initiated project that could affect all of the roads in our Township.

HELPFUL NEWS BITS...

Recycling Household Hazardous Waste-August 10

2017 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-off Events include: oil-based paint, solvents, automotive fluids, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs. HHW drop-off events are by appointment only and will be held from 1:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, August 10. One Saturday drop-off event will be on October 14 from 9:00 am-2:00pm. Register to bring your waste by calling 231-941-5555 or go online at www.RecycleSmart.info. Sarah Archer is the program manager.

THE PETER DOUGHERTY SOCIETY...

The eleventh Annual Peter Dougherty Society Fundraiser will be held on August 5, 2017, at Bowers Harbor Park, Pavilion #1, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Good food along with beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. An All Girls Band will perform for your dancing enjoyment. Tickets are \$45 per person and can be obtained from any Peter Dougherty Board member or call Bill at 231-223-8778.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT...

Hope everyone has been having a great summer so far! With that being said, when having campfires or burning brush piles always check first to see if it is okay to burn. You can check online by going to Michigan.gov/burn permits; then click on Grand Traverse County; and the screen will show if it is ok to burn in Peninsula Township or

not. It updates every day at 10:00am, or you can call the station at (231) 223-4443; the duty crew will be happy to check for you.

The Fire Department will be having open houses each month for people to stop by ask questions and met your local responders. For the Month of July, it will be at Station #2 (8150 Center Road) on July 29th from 5:00pm till 7:30pm. Hotdogs and chips will be provided. You can also purchase green address signs while you are there. These signs help us locate your residence during an emergency.



As always feel free to stop by Peninsula Township Fire Station #1 (14247 Center Road) and say "Hi" or have a tour.

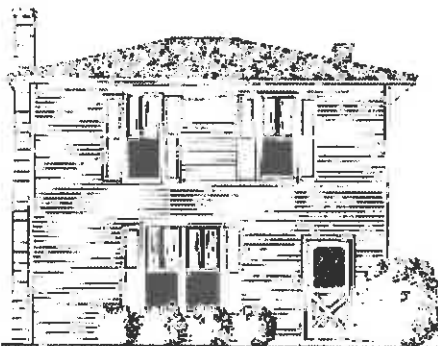
-Interim Fire Chief Randy Rittenhouse, randyr@peninsulatownship.com

ARCHITECTURE OF THE OLD MISSION PENINSULA

A HISTORY OF VERNACULAR HOUSING STYLES.

This hand-rendered sketch of the J.M. Smith house was done by Greg Alban, a MSU student in the Landscape Architecture Program at Michigan State University. It shows the home as it looked in 1988 when it was photographed by J. Westphal. It housed one of the earliest residents on the Old Mission Peninsula. The 2017 photo illustrates how a residential structure changes over its lifetime by small, incremental modifications. A house such as this, provides an important link to the cultural heritage of the Peninsula. --Dr. J.M. Westphal

1866



2017



Housing Genre: National Folk Style with a Pyramid Roof, 18249 Mission Road. **History:** This was Reverend J.M. Smith's home in the Old Mission townsite. Built in 1866, it is one of the few pyramidal roofed, national folk houses on the Peninsula. Balloon architecture and asymmetrical window and door treatment of the front facade were a tell-tale characteristic of national folk homes.



Peninsula Township Newsletter
 13235 Center Road
 Traverse City, MI 49686

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 TRAVERSE CITY, MI
 PERMIT NO 335

TOWNSHIP HOURS:

Monday 7:30-6:30;
 Tuesday-Thursday 7:30-5:00;
 Closed Fridays

STAFF

Supervisor:..... Rob Manigold223-7322 supervisor@peninsulatownship.com
Clerk: Joanne Westphal223-7321 clerk@peninsulatownship.com
Deputy Clerk: Brenda DeKuiper223-7321 deputyclerk@peninsulatownship.com
Treasurer: Brad Bickle223-4484 treasurer@peninsulatownship.com
Deputy Treasurer:..... Margaret Achorn 223-4484 deputytreasurer@peninsulatownship.com
Trustee:..... Margaret Achorn 223-7536 Marge.peninsulatrustee@gmail.com
Trustee:..... Maura Sanders 313-5921 maura.peninsulatrustee@gmail.com
Trustee:..... Warren Wahl (989) 312-1006..... warren.peninsulatrustee@gmail.com
Trustee:..... Isaiah Wunsch 620-0791 wunschis23@gmail.com
Assessor: Sally Akerly223-7313 assessor@peninsulatownship.com
Planner: Brian VanDenBrand223-7314 planner@peninsulatownship.com
Zoning Administrator:.... Christina Deeren223-7318 zoning@peninsulatownship.com
Office Manager: Susan Piehl223-7322 fax: 223-7117 officemanager@peninsulatownship.com
Lighthouse Manager: Ginger Schultz645-0759 www.missionpointlighthouse.com