



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Winter 2012

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

## **HOT TOPICS**

### **Planning and Zoning Update**

Work is proceeding with a complete rewrite of the Peninsula Township Zoning Ordinance. The Planner proposed a schedule for the process to help the township and residents progress. In the coming six months, workshops and community discussion groups addressing the following topics: wineries, shoreline standards, historic areas, residential zoning districts, agricultural zoning districts and site plan requirements are scheduled. Preliminary meetings were held already on wineries and the shoreline overlay concepts. In the next six months, the other topics will be explored. As the community reaches consensus, each of the topics will be discussed at public forums as part of the monthly Planning Commission meetings. Community support is crucial for zoning regulations to be adopted by the Town Board. Interested citizens are urged to contact the Planner with their thoughts and ideas. For reference, the recently adopted Master Plan and the township's current Zoning Ordinance are on our web site.

### **Smoke Alarm Goal Set By Fire Department**

The fire departments of Grand Traverse County established a five year goal for every home in the county to have at least two working smoke alarms. Teams of firefighters come to your home and install or replace your current smoke alarms with dual sensor smoke alarms. This program is supported by grants and donations and there is no cost to residents. Call the Fire Department for more information. Smoke alarms save lives.

The fire departments staff also do free blood pressure and blood sugar checks at Fire Station No. 1. If you need to periodically check one or both, drop in anytime.

## **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.

## DID YOU KNOW

- ▶ Peninsula Community Library (PCL) entered into an agreement with the Traverse Area District Library (TDAL) to provide library services to all libraries associated with TADL for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016. Thank you to TADL trustees, Greg Luyt and Jerry Beasley, for a smooth and productive process. The library staff is looking forward to continuing to provide patrons with outstanding service. Contact the PCL Board should you have questions.
  
- ▶ Got Phragmites? Many shoreline property owners have been working with the township and Vickie Smith of Wildlife & Wetlands Solutions, LLC to treat the invasive plant. Properties with stands of phragmites were sprayed last October and require mowing/cutting and removal in May. If property owners want to have mowing completed by Wildlife and Wetland Solutions, you need to have a contract in place by May 1. Contact (231) 943-0762 to contract for your work. If you choose to do removal in another manner, you must get a permit from the DEQ.
  
- ▶ Michigan Green Consortium is sponsoring a recycling drop-off on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. All kinds of waste material can be recycled besides plastics, glass and paper. The list of acceptable recyclables includes fluorescent bulbs, chainsaws, carpeting, cameras, non-working microwave ovens, lumber, doors and cabinets, laptop computers, printers and scanners, styrofoam, barbecue grills, asphalt, concrete, porcelain toilets and sinks. Essentially, they will recycle just about everything with few exceptions like batteries, oils, chemicals, pesticides, insulation (hazardous waste) and regular household trash. Check [www.mgconline.org](http://www.mgconline.org) for further information. A good way to remember the date: the drop-off always coincides with the bi-annual time change for Daylight Savings Time!
  
- ▶ In July, the Town Board approved Ordinance 45 "Donation of Development Rights". The ordinance provides a legal mechanism for local residents to donate property development rights to Peninsula Township for conservation purposes. In December, the township approved the first donation of a 4.5 acre parcel owned by the David K. Sanger Trust. Unlike our PDR program, no funds are involved with the donation but donors might get a tax benefit depending on their particular circumstance.

## OPERATING INFO

- ▶ It's that time of year again when many residents leave for the winter months before tax bills are due (February 14). If you go on vacation, the Treasurer asks that you do not send a postdated check for your tax bill. He cannot hold checks until the due date. When the Treasurer's Office receives tax payments, the checks must be cashed immediately. You can mail the payment from anywhere and as long as the envelope is postmarked by February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Treasurer's office will accept your check as being paid on time. Remember that the postmark must be a US postmark, not a postmark using an office machine.
  
- ▶ The Michigan Presidential Primary is being held on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 7am until 8 pm. Voting will take place at the Town Hall, Fire Station No.2 and by absentee ballot. In this election, you are required to choose a straight Republican or Democratic ballot. If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, you must request an absentee ballot application or be on the permanent absentee voter application list. Contact the Clerk's office with any questions.

**KUDOS**

- ▶ All of our township parks have been adopted in the Adopt-a-Park program! Peninsula Township Fire Department has adopted Bowers Harbor Park and Paul Tata and Martha Bornak of Natural Landscapes have adopted the Murray Park trailhead at Lighthouse Park.
- ▶ Township Planner Dan Leonard received a Distinguished Service Award from the County Planning Department for the development and adoption of our Master Plan.
- ▶ New appointments: Fredericka Janiga has offered to serve as an alternate on the Board of Review. Debbie Rough was chosen to serve as a Board Member of the Parks Commission. Welcome Freddie and Debbie! Jill Byron will serve on the ZBA as the Town Board representative and Kristin Hosmer will represent the Planning Commission on the ZBA. Penny Rosi will continue as Town Board representative on the Planning Commission.
- ▶ **A BIG THANK YOU** for all of the help at the Pelizzari Natural Area (PNA) during the tree planting efforts. Grants were received from Consumers Energy (\$2,945) and the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Center (\$5,000). Additionally, the Peninsula Township Historical Society donated 14 maples which were planted along M-37. Trees were also supplied by Garden Goods and JCS Outdoors. JCS Outdoors and Mutual Farm Management dug holes with heavy equipment and moved the larger trees, while local Boy Scout troop No. 34, Friends of the PNA, township staff and Fire and Rescue did the actual plantings. In the past year, the PNA received over 200 trees all acquired from grant dollars and planted with volunteer time. Past plantings were conducted with help or money from Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Friendly Garden Club, DTE Energy, Traverse City Young Professionals, and many local volunteers.
- ▶ Thanks to Randy Rittenhouse of the Fire Department who voluntarily backed-up Grant Blackmer (Parks and Grounds) while Grant was on his honeymoon.

**HELP WANTED**

If you are interested in being an election worker in 2012, please contact the Clerk's Office.

**DIRECTORY**

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<b>Fire Department (non-emergency)</b>	223-4443
<b>Old Mission Penin. School</b>	933-7420
<b>Park and Meeting Room Reservations</b>	223-7322
<b>Peninsula Comm. Library</b>	223-7700
<b>Sheriff (non-emergency)</b>	223-4525

**SCHEDULES and EVENTS**

**Town Board**  
(second Tuesday at 7 pm)  
January 10  
February 14  
March 13

**Town Board Work Session**  
(fourth Thursday at 7 pm if needed)  
January 26  
February 23  
March 22

**Planning Commission**  
(third Monday at 7 pm)  
January 16  
February 27\*  
March 19

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
(second Thursday at 7 pm)  
January 12  
February 9  
March 8

**Park Commission**  
(first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
January 4  
February 1  
March 7

**Fire Board**  
(first Monday at 7 pm)  
January 9\*  
February 6  
March 5

**Board of Review**  
Valuation Appeals Only  
Town Hall  
Monday, March 12  
9 am to 1 pm and 3 pm to 9 pm  
Tuesday, March 13  
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 Stew, first and third Thursday – 11 am

Nuestros Amigos, third Saturday – 10 am  
French Class – January through March  
iPad/iPhone Help, January 28 – 10 am

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

**American Legion Dinners**  
(first and third Tuesday – 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 every Friday. The office also is closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year holiday and Monday, February 20 for President's Day.

\*Denotes date change

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**NEWSLETTER**

