



NEWS YOU CAN USE!



SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Thank you, Carney Strong Initiative and Grand Traverse Band!	1
American Legion Community Hall	1
Treasurer's Office.....	2
Planning Department	3
OMPS	4-5
OMPEF	5
Mission Point Lighthouse & Park.....	6
John Scarbrough, 1949–2022.....	6
County Commission Candidates.....	7
Zoning Department.....	8
Old Mission Women's Club	9
Help Eradicate Invasive Plants	10-11
Peter Dougherty Society.....	12
Peninsula Twp Parks Committee.....	13
Goodbye to Treasurer Brad Bickle	13
Updates at Pyatt Lake from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy	14-15
Supervisors Rob Manigold and Isaiah Wunsch.....	15-16
Assessing Department	16
PDR Renewal on the August Ballot.....	17
Peninsula Community Library.....	18-19
OMP Historical Society	19
Peninsula Township Fire Dept	20
Non-motorized Transportation Committee Update.....	21
Clerk's Office	22-23
Thanks, Troop 34	24

THANK YOU, CARNEY STRONG INITIATIVE AND GRAND TRAVERSE BAND!

We appreciate Carney Strong Initiative's donation of decontamination supplies so that our firefighters can wipe off contaminants and reduce their odds of contracting multiple sources of cancer.

We also thank the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for their two recent allocations to the Peninsula Township Fire Department, including \$17,000 to purchase two thermal imaging cameras and another \$3,850 to purchase an airbag lifting system for extrication during motor vehicle accidents and structural collapses.

Thank you for improving the lives of our firefighters and all those who love them!



Decontamination supplies donated to the Peninsula Township Fire Department by the Carney Strong Initiative

AMERICAN LEGION COMMUNITY HALL IS FUNDRAISING FOR A NEW ROOF

The roof at the American Legion Community Hall is 30 years old and needs to be replaced, so local community members and veterans are holding an ongoing fundraiser. The new roof will cost approximately \$30,000, and an anonymous donor will match any funds that are collected.



If you would like to donate, please write a check to American Legion Post 399 and mail it to PO Box 39, Old Mission, MI 49673. Please write "roof donation" on the memo line and let us know if you would like to be mailed a tax-deductible form and receipt.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give!



TREASURER'S OFFICE

Update from the Treasurer's Office

SUMMER TAX BILLS are mailed July 1, 2022, and are due September 14, 2022. If you have multiple properties, you may write one check in payment of your various properties. Please note any corrections to your mailing address on the return coupon; if you would like us to send you a "Paid Receipt," please note your request on your coupon.

If your taxes are paid through your mortgage company, you will still receive a copy of your tax bill. The statement "THIS BILL HAS BEEN SENT TO YOUR LENDER/ESCROW COMPANY" will be printed on the left side of the tax bill below your property description.

As an alternate to paying by check, you may pay your summer tax bill online through our website at peninsulatownship.com. Click the orange box on the right side of your screen below the picture of Mission Point Lighthouse and follow the instructions. There is a third-party fee for processing credit or debit card payments, but bank-to-bank payments (ACH) are no charge.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BILLS are mailed separately in ivory-colored envelopes on July 1, 2022, and are due September 14, 2022. Payment for special assessments cannot be combined with real estate tax payments. Further, separate checks must be written for each assessment district. Finally, special assessments cannot be paid via credit or debit card.

PAST DUE PAYMENTS will be assessed 1% interest per month (or part of a month) on any unpaid balance beginning September 15, 2022. Please call the treasurer's office to confirm the correct amount of late payments.

QUESTIONS? Call 231-223-4484 or email treasurer@peninsulatownship.com.

Treasurer Margaret Achorn and Deputy Treasurer Katie Clark are available to assist you.

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) **FEDERAL GRANT** to Peninsula Township is \$611,264.00, of which \$306,862.55 has already been received. The remaining amount of the award is expected in about a year. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. While the amount of the

award may appear to be large, the township is in the process of applying for additional grant funds from various sources to leverage additional monies and thereby stretch these finite dollars. To that end, the township is evaluating various projects, mainly in our parks system, where the ARPA grant monies could be obligated. Your input and suggestions are welcome in this vetting process through the treasurer's office at treasurer@peninsulatownship.com.

THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS!

Check out our beautiful flowers! Peninsula Township thanks Terry Harding for once again providing the beautiful geraniums and the Old Mission Women's Club for planting them (and a few other varieties) so beautifully in the six planters in front of the township office.



Officer France keeping the flowers fresh until planting time



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Update on the Citizens' Agricultural Advisory Committee

Peninsula Township's Citizens' Agricultural Advisory Committee was created by the township board in light of the winery (WOMP) lawsuit with the intent of understanding current ordinances and assisting with recommendations for the mediation of points outlined in the lawsuit. The committee has been meeting since December of 2021.

The purpose of the committee evolved to provide policy recommendations that will influence future amendments to the zoning ordinance related to agriculture. Primary goals for future amendments include being consistent with the Michigan Right to Farm Act, mitigating potential

On March 24, the committee hosted Ryan Coffey Hoag from the Advisory Committee for the Michigan Right to Farm Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Farm Markets. Mr. Hoag's presentation was very informative, and he continues to provide assistance to staff in navigating zoning ordinance amendments that are consistent with the Right to Farm Act.

The committee has spent the last few months reviewing the roadside stand ordinance and comparing it to other ordinances in the region and country. Committee members have also reviewed and compared the winery-chateau ordinance and farm processing facility ordinance.

Staff has guided the committee through a thoughtful process that included asking specific questions about the perceived intent of existing zoning ordinance standards and what the desired outcomes might be. This process has assisted staff to understand where the committee stands on certain issues related to agriculture on the peninsula. The conclusions of this process will be formulated into recommendations on policy and the direction in which amendments to the zoning ordinance will take.

In addition to committee members, the audience has consisted of other interested residents and agricultural operators. All present have been encouraged to provide feedback via an open dialogue. Conversations have been lively and productive.

The Citizens Agricultural Advisory Committee is currently on hold but will reconvene in the near future. Additional topics for future discussions include farm markets, agritourism, and agricultural labor housing/migrant housing as well as other topics related to agriculture on the peninsula.



Old Mission Peninsula agriculture at its finest

negative impacts between residential and agricultural uses, and providing equity for all agricultural operations on the peninsula.

All policy recommendations from the citizens' agricultural advisory committee will be vetted with both the planning commission and township board of trustees at public hearings prior to adoption.



OMPS

Children, Community, and Campus: OMPS Celebrates Its Fourth Year!

Old Mission Peninsula School, a self-managed, non-profit, tuition-free public charter school, recently asked its families to share their thoughts and feelings about the school. A few responses follow below.

Question: What makes OMPS a special place for your children and family?

"OMPS has a very strong sense of community, incredible teachers and staff, small class sizes, and a beautiful school setting in nature. The school always makes a tremendous effort to make the learning environment kind, loving and thoughtful all while keeping a strong curriculum. Each child is nurtured in the best possible way."

"It has a special community feel where parents and teachers have a close connection. I love the staff, and their level of love and dedication for the kids is apparent in their everyday interactions."

Question: What do you love about our school community?

"The school community at OMPS is very special. There is a strong bond not only between the teachers and families but also between parents. Everyone pulls together to make this school as special as it can be. As parents, we help each other, and many of us form strong bonds outside of school. New ideas are born that lead to extra curriculums for our children and help them form extra-strong bonds with their peers."

"I was looking for a school with strong community bonds, and I think this is one of OMPS' strengths. The PTO is awesome and the school makes a special effort to integrate local businesses. The kids get to learn directly from farmers, maple syrup makers, and many others. It's an idyllic school."

We can't say it better than our families! Community is a central tenet of OMPS. Our success comes from our marvelous administration, teaching staff, support crew, OMPEF members and donors, PTO, and our dedicated volunteers working hard to demonstrate the meaning of community each and every day.

Please check out these videos on YouTube to learn more about what makes OMPS such a special school:

<https://youtu.be/NijoN0MxVBs> and
<https://youtu.be/0kp5RVxXgJc>.

2021–2022 School Year Highlights

- OMPS kids enjoyed school activities and events including Track and Trail Day, Reading Dogs, OMPS Pumpkin Walk, Maple Syrup Making at Warren Orchards, Repco Wildlife Assembly, Michigan Science Center Assembly, the OMPS Cardboard Sled Race, Diversity and Inclusion Week, Kindness Week, Nelson's Wildlife Safari, Reading Month/Panther Pride Day, Puppet Adventures, Kasey Program for Fire Safety, the OMPS Talent Show, music concerts and field trips to Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, the Leelanau Outdoor Center, and John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids. A special shout-out to the OMPS PTO: thank you for supporting so many of the school's events!
- The Michigan Charter Schools Grant awarded to OMPS continued this year to support eligible school expenditures including curriculum supplements, reading intervention and special education needs, technology upgrades (think 3D printers!), and new playground structures, PE equipment (including snowshoes!), and classroom, library and lunchroom furniture. The last available dollars are being spent this month. OMPS is grateful to the Michigan Department of Education for its guidance and support throughout the entire grant process.



OMPS' 3D printed panther

- OMPS successfully implemented Schoolwide PBIS (positive behavioral intervention and supports) interventions, and students love it! **PAWS** stands for **P**ositive attitude, **A**cting responsibly, **W**orking towards success, and **S**afe student.
- Thanks to OMPS students (and parent volunteer Svenja Maitland!), the school has flourishing indoor, year-round garden towers growing veggies and actively growing



outdoor raised garden beds (both purchased with the Michigan Charter Schools Grant). Chef Theresa uses OMPS veggies as well as a large amount of OMPS farm produce in her delicious lunch menus for the kids and staff. As a member of the Old Mission Peninsula community, fostering a connection to growing food and farming is a top priority for OMPS.

2021-2022 Enrollment

After a relaxing and fun summer break for our families and teaching staff, OMPS will welcome back all our returning families for the 2022–2023 school year. There are still some seats available in kindergarten to Grade 5 classes, and OMPS will continue to welcome new enrollees and offer one-on-one tours for families interested in learning more.

Preschool enrollment is currently full for next year but the

director is maintaining a waitlist. All interested families are encouraged to reach out and ask to be placed on this list. Students on the waitlist will be contacted if any part- or full-time spots become available throughout the school year. To enroll, please call the school or visit <https://www.ompschool.org/enroll.html>.

Old Mission Peninsula School (OMPS)

<https://www.ompschool.org/>
2699 Island View Road, Traverse City, 49686
231-252-0225

Danielle Clayton and Renee Kolle, Co-Principals, Leah Derris, Preschool Director, and Susie Shipman, School Board Secretary/Treasurer, Old Mission Peninsula School



Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation

OMPEF

After Nearly 20 Years, It's Time for a New Roof!

The facilities team at Old Mission Peninsula School (OMPS) has successfully patched the school's roof for years, but the time has come to replace degrading materials and remedy design issues that contribute to its deterioration. With a two-year goal to raise \$100,000 to complete the project, work will begin this summer. The plan is to complete the bulk of the project before the beginning of the 2022–2023 school year, and the Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation (OMPEF) needs your support.

Unlike public schools under the Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) umbrella that rely on tax dollars and district funding to provide education and maintain buildings, OMPS receives no local public funding toward maintaining its vast and beautiful 34-acre campus and school building. The school board created and runs the charter school that hires teachers, maintains the classrooms, and receives state funding to keep the school tuition free.

OMPEF, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing quality education on Old Mission Peninsula, invests in more than just the building. The organization has underwritten many of the start-up costs to establish the charter and re-open the school, subsidizes a portion of the school's yearly operating expenses, and raises funds to help teachers enrich their classrooms. Together with the OMPS school board and PTO, it continues to make our beloved school an outstanding resource for students and families on the peninsula and beyond.

Donate today to help us reach our \$100,000 goal to keep our building safe and warm and our kids learning and thriving. Whether you write a check, donate online, make a gift of stock, or make plans in your estate, your gift will help support our school.

Visit <https://www.ompef.org> to learn more about giving options today. Checks can be sent to OMPEF, 2699 Island View Road, Traverse City, MI, 49686.

Monnie Peters, Treasurer, OMPEF

The Old Mission Peninsula Education Foundation was established in 2016 to purchase the campus, rescue the school, and ensure that this historic institution will continue its legacy of providing education and community support long into the future.



OMPS roof in need of repair



MISSION POINT LIGHTHOUSE AND PARK

Welcome to Summer!

It's good to be in the midst of a normal season, our first since 2019. We opened the doors to Mission Point Lighthouse on Saturday, April 30, and had 129 visitors take the lighthouse tour and climb the tower the first Saturday in May.

Whenever we have more than 100 tour takers, it's a busy day in the gift shop. We have expanded our merchandise this year, and many new visitors commend the great condition the museum and lighthouse are in.

In April, we hosted special visitors from the Pure Michigan Governor's Tourism Conference, which included the folks attending from England and Germany who promote Michigan tourism in Europe. They enjoyed the museum/tower climb and learning about our keeper program from the private keepers' quarters.

Our popular keeper program is strong, with the schedule full by January each year and many high-energy volunteers returning year after year. Teachers are great candidates for the keeper program as well as those seeking a getaway to a waterfront retreat who enjoy helping visitors from all over and enjoying all that the peninsula has to offer.

This year, the annual flower planting and garden help are coming from garden-loving locals and the Traverse City Young Professionals group. We are getting a lot of shop volunteer help from the newly formed non-profit Mission Point Lighthouse Keepers Association (MPLKA). Check out its website at www.mplka.com.

Future projects we hope to undertake include replacing the boardwalk and beach steps, building the barn and boathouse, and improving parking, security, and public toilets. For more information, see our website at www.missionpointlighthouse.com and send any questions and comments about the lighthouse to missionpointlight@gmail.com.

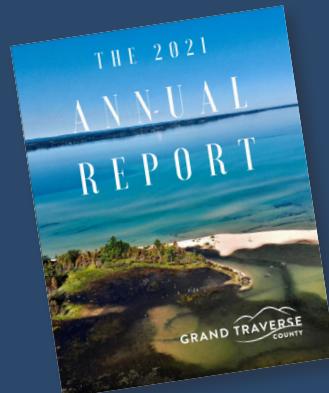
If you're an OMP resident who has never visited the lighthouse, please come out and see all that Mission Point Lighthouse Park has to offer. I'm always amazed to hear from a local who hasn't yet paid us a visit. Our small Great Lakes lighthouse did a very important job for 63 years, and we are lucky to have this structure in such good shape to enjoy with our families and visitors. Hope to see you this season!

Ginger Schultz, Manager, Mission Point Lighthouse

JOHN SCARBROUGH, 1949–2022

Our neighbor John passed away unexpectedly in early June. John grew up in Kansas City and served as a college administrator and faculty member for many years in Illinois but was no stranger to northern Michigan. He taught at Kirkland Community College early in his career, owned a cottage on the Boardman River, and chose to retire on Old Mission. Our peninsula was enriched by his presence.

John was widely traveled and read broadly, always maintaining his academic and personal curiosity. He was passionate about learning and teaching in many venues. He taught psychology at Northwestern Michigan College and displayed his art at the Tinker Studio. Versed in the history of the peninsula, he was passionate about telling its stories. John worked on the Peter Dougherty House, the Old Mission Log Church (replica), The Hessler Log Cabin, and Mission Point Lighthouse and served as president of the Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society. A lover of animals, especially his old canine friend Daily and more recently a couple of kittens named Click and Clack, John lived a robust life that was lit and guided by an insatiable curiosity. He will be missed.



Grand Traverse County 2021 Annual Report

The Grand Traverse County 2021 Annual Report can be viewed at the following link:
https://issuu.com/gtcountymi/docs/2021_annual_report_16_



TJ Andrews

A Traverse City resident since 2004, TJ Andrews is married with two kids in TCAPS schools. An environmental attorney for 20 years, she volunteers for local legal, environmental, and community organizations.



Senator Wayne Schmidt

Wayne Schmidt grew up in Traverse City and serves in the Michigan State Senate. His public service includes the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and Michigan State House. He's running to continue encouraging civility in the political process.

MEET OUR COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATES

A Brief Q&A

1. Why should Peninsula Township residents care about Grand Traverse County government and who our elected county commissioner is?

Regional growth, tourism, and roads have different impacts on the peninsula because of the township's unique geography. Peninsula residents shoulder a heavier share of county taxes and depend on county services. That's why your representative must be hard-working and reasonable, an effective community leader, and share your priorities and values.

I started my career of service at the county level, and now I'm running to return to the most personal level of government. Local boards and commissions are where decisions that affect our day-to-day lives are made; that's why the county commission is so important.

2. What credentials best qualify you to represent Peninsula Township for Grand Traverse County Commissioner?

This township, defined by water and natural beauty, will be well served by my environmental expertise. I'm a strong advocate for greater transparency by elected officials. I'm personally and professionally invested in this community, and I work hard to keep this an outstanding place to live, work, and raise a family.

I've proven my commitment to those I serve by voting my conscience, constituents, and caucus. My bipartisan work and relationships across the aisle have helped me bring home millions of dollars to our district and champion policy issues, like my proposal to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families.

3. As a county commissioner, what is your top priority and what specifically will you do about it?

Good government. I will listen to constituents and stakeholders. My decisions will always be transparent. Our county is empowered to address our critical community needs, and I will work effectively and respectfully with fellow commissioners on those needs, not partisan distractions. These fundamentals set the conditions to better serve citizens.

My top priority is strengthening relationships and partnering with townships, villages, and the city. Collaboration creates better policy and better outcomes for our communities and people.

4. What other key issues will you address, and how do you plan to communicate with township residents about them?

Roads are critical on a narrow peninsula with limited access and growing traffic. The county must partner with Peninsula Township on roads and improve oversight of road management. I pledge routine dialogue with township leaders and residents at township meetings and whenever requested to mutually improve information sharing and decision making.

Additional priorities include increased funding for parks and recreation so we may foster an appreciation of the outdoors and natural resources and continuing the strategic planning of community projects to ensure we have a long-term vision for our communities. I will incorporate resident input for these efforts through coffee hours.



ZONING DEPARTMENT

Helpful Hints from the Zoning Department

Homeowner Association Restrictions and the Township Zoning Ordinance

Often we are asked, "Who enforces the rules of my neighborhood association?" Homeowners in most residential neighborhoods are bound by rules and regulations sometimes referred to as deed restrictions or homeowner association (HOA) covenants. These restrictions are intended to create and maintain a special character within the neighborhood; often, the rules are more restrictive than the provisions of the township zoning ordinance. The township zoning department cannot enforce these deed restrictions or HOA covenants. Enforcement is the responsibility of the neighborhood HOA and requires that the HOA be functional and willing to take action for the benefit of the neighborhood.

Shared Waterfront Property

Property owners within many neighborhoods have access to a shared waterfront lot that provides access to the waterfront and limited ability to install a dock and boat hoists. The zoning ordinance controls how many lot owners in the neighborhood have a right to use the beach, install a dock, and attach a boat hoist to the group dock. Use of the shared waterfront requires a land use permit and notifying the zoning administrator of any change in ownership. Please refer to the zoning ordinance for detailed requirements.

Permits Required by the Township

Just a reminder that a land use permit is required to erect or move a structure that is larger than 25 square feet in area or

to establish a new use on any premise. The land use permit is issued by the zoning department; please see the township website for detailed information on the land use application and fee schedule. The permit must be obtained prior to construction to avoid additional fees. It is the responsibility of the property owner to apply for and obtain the land use permit and post it on the job site. While authority can be delegated to a contractor, the property owner is ultimately responsible.

Summertime Issues and Concerns

Only traffic control signs installed by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission are allowed in the road right-of-way (generally 33 feet from the center of the roadway). Other private signs (for sale signs, garage sale signs, contractor signs, etc.) are only allowed on the property of the sale or project; offsite directional signs are not allowed.

Information Requests and Complaints

Please contact Christina Deeren, zoning director, or Dave Sanger, ordinance enforcement officer, with any questions or concerns. Both are available to work with you and welcome your calls or emails. For contact information, please check the staff directory on the township website or the back of this newsletter. For after-hours concerns regarding noise issues or non-emergency police matters, please remember to call the central dispatch non-emergency line at 231-922-4550 rather than 911.





OLD MISSION WOMEN'S CLUB

Old Mission Women's Club Has a New Look!

Early in 2022, Old Mission Women's Club (OMWC) continued its 91st-year celebration by announcing a brand new brand initiative. New member and chair of the club's re-vamped publicity committee, Lynn McPhee-Ward, wrote the following in the club's press release: "At long last, after more than 90 years, the Old Mission Women's Club now has a logo created and designed by club member Patricia Conlon. The new logo, which is one step closer to helping the club become more easily identifiable in the community, incorporates the club's flower (daisy), emblem (white pine), and colors. Along with an official logo, the club also launched its first-ever website, www.oldmissionwc.org, refreshed its mission statement,

OUR MISSION
Old Mission Women's Club members are committed to providing support and involvement within our community through active participation, charitable contributions, grants and special fundraising events, as well as to forming strong friendships through social and educational gatherings.
[Learn More About Us >](#)

and expanded its social media presence. The intent of the branding initiative is to help communicate more broadly the club's commitment to providing support and involvement with the community through active participation, charitable contribution, and grants and special fundraising events as well as forming strong friendships through social and educational gatherings."

A contest was held for members to submit their ideas for the logo. After a number of submissions were on display for a few weeks at meetings, members voted for their favorite. We're thrilled to finally have a "face" for the club. See the new logo in the banner above.

We invite the Old Mission Peninsula community to view the website that, among other things, will list upcoming events. Next up on our calendar is the Secret Garden at Brys Estate's percentage-of-sales donation weekend on July 8 and 9 to benefit OMWC. The Secret Garden is a must-see farmhouse selling all things lavender, specialty gifts, and U-pick gardens of lavender, flowers, and strawberries in season.

In March of 2022, OMWC members voted to grant monetary awards totaling \$15,000. At our April meeting, awards were presented to the following area nonprofit organizations:

Cherryland Humane Society, Safe Harbor – Grand Traverse, The Laundry Project, and Women's Resource Center. Congratulations to all grantees.

The club held its biennial barn sale in mid-May at the historic Fowler Barn on Old Mission Peninsula. Thank you to owners Colleen and Chris Fowler, who most generously furnished us with this beautiful barn for our sale. The phrase "It takes a village" certainly applies to the fabulous job by co-chairs Nancy Davy and Pat Kitchen and their super-capable committee for this week-long event. Members began accepting donations and organizing the items on a Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were set aside for pricing everything, members were invited to a preview party/private sale on Thursday night, and the two-day sale occurred Friday and Saturday. We also experienced a first this year with two generous sponsors, Serra of Traverse City and Old Mission Associates. Thank you to each of these local companies for their support. The sale was our biggest fundraiser to date, and profits will go toward awarding philanthropic grants in 2023.

May continued to be a banner month for the club's fundraising efforts as members baked 450 dozen cookies (yes, that's 5,400 cookies!) for the runners of the Bayshore Marathon during Memorial Day weekend. Traverse City Track Club has asked the club to participate in this fundraiser for the last 13 years. Thanks to co-chairs Terry Tarnow, Anne Stawicki, and Anita Klein.

OMWC is very grateful to Leisa Eckerle Hankins, owner of Benjamin Twiggs, for once again donating a percentage of the store's sales during Mother's Day weekend to benefit OMWC. Thank you to OMWC member Sandra Busch, chair of this event, along with her four committee members, and thanks also to everyone in the community who bought delicious cherry products this year.

The Peninsula Township office is looking very summer-like thanks to the "green thumbs" of co-chairs Ellen Kerr and Pat Neal, who along with their committee of nine club members planted six containers at the beginning of June. They'll continue to keep the flowers looking beautiful throughout the summer by watering and feeding them.

It has been my honor to serve OMWC for the past two years as president. I've enjoyed keeping our great peninsula community updated with the club's activities via this township newsletter. Thank you, Clerk Becky Chown, for inviting us to participate.

**Janis Haine, Out-going President,
Old Mission Women's Club**



Help Eradicate Invasive Plants on Our Peninsula!

Many of us have seen the damage caused on land and in the water by invasive species such as the spongy moth (i.e., the gypsy moth), the emerald ash borer, phragmites, and zebra mussels.

In addition, we have other invasive species to watch out for and help mitigate here on the peninsula.

Garlic Mustard

This invasive plant with small white flowers that bloom in the spring has heart-shaped leaves that smell like garlic when crushed. Garlic mustard is easy to pull by hand in the spring or after a rain when it's small, before it grows to its full three to four feet in height. Smaller plants grow at the base of these plants and are easily treated with an appropriate herbicide.

Once upon a time, this invasive plant was found in large quantities at the Dougherty House in Old Mission, but thanks to the diligence of many volunteers and the application of herbicides at the appropriate times, only two bags were pulled this year. Compare this to 22 bags back in 2020! The Grand Traverse Conservation District has a red dumpster specifically for garlic mustard. If you use it, be sure to double bag the plants and note that this dumpster is only available for a limited time in the spring. Call 231-941-0960 with questions.

Purple Loosestrife

This tall upright plant with purple blossoms is usually found along wetlands and roadsides and is reported to be in every state except Florida. It grows in drainage ditches along Peninsula Drive and was discovered in Kelley Park in 2021. The first attempt at partial removal has begun, but this infestation will require more volunteers this summer. If you can help, please contact Mike Sukurski, chair of the parks committee, at parks.mike49686@gmail.com. Removal will take place around the end of July and will be published on Next Door and in the *Old Mission Gazette* (volunteers will need to wear water boots and bring shovels and strong arms!).

Autumn Olive

This invasive species is very prominent on the trails at Mission Point Lighthouse Park, in Pelizzari Natural Area, and along our roads and fields. It was first imported from Asia around 1830 to stop soil erosion, act as a windbreak, and provide wildlife

cover, but the population exploded between 1940 and 1970. Drought, disease, and insect resistant, these bushes have stems speckled with thorns and gray-green leaves with a shimmery look on the bottom that's easy to see when the wind is blowing.

Years ago, a work crew organized by Dr. Anne Griffiths cut back and treated many of the bushes at the lighthouse, but continued surveillance and control measures are needed to prevent aggressive growth.

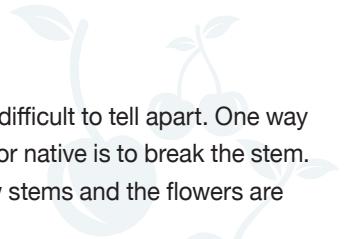
In the spring, autumn olive has fragrant, white, bell-shaped



Autumn olive blossoms and leaves

flowers. In the fall, it has prolific red berries that birds love to eat. The species spreads when the seeds pass through the birds' digestive systems and drop in new areas. New bushes can grow 15 feet high and become prolific in just a few years.

Eradicating autumn olive is difficult – the plants need to be cut back or pulled before their seeds are present and then an herbicide needs to be repeatedly applied to the trunk from summer through winter. Reach out to the Grand Traverse Conservation District at info2gtcd.org for more specific advice.



Honeysuckle

Exotic honeysuckle is another non-native invasive bush (and can even be a vine) we find on our peninsula – the lighthouse trails are full of them. It was brought from Eurasia as an ornamental shrub, wildlife habitat, and ground cover before anyone knew how quickly it could overtake an area. There are many varieties of honeysuckle and several native species.

The plant can grow from six to 20 feet in height and crowd out walking areas on trails and in forests. The exotic varieties begin flowering in late May and have full blossoms in June. The flowers have four petals, are tube-shaped, and are usually white but can turn pink as they age, although some varieties are pink to deep rose. The flowers are fragrant, with a distinctively sweet and overpowering smell.

Invasive honeysuckle varieties have flowers along the young stems while native varieties have flowers/fruits at the end of the branches. Known to leaf out early, these plants dominate the water supply, prevent native plants from growing around them, and retain their leaves until late in the fall. The leaves are in an opposite arrangement, and the red and orange berries are present from June to July and October to November.

Unfortunately, the berries aren't particularly nutritious.

Many honeysuckle species are difficult to tell apart. One way to see if the bush is non-native or native is to break the stem. The non-native bush has hollow stems and the flowers are not fragrant.

Mechanical (from garden loppers to saws and brush hogs) and chemical methods are the primary means of controlling Asian bush honeysuckles and may need to be done several times a year.



Invasive honeysuckle in bloom

Stop the spread of invasive plants by following these eight easy guidelines:

- 1.** Ask for only noninvasive species when you acquire plants. Request that nurseries and garden centers sell only noninvasive plants.
- 2.** Seek information on invasive plants online and from botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies.
- 3.** Scout your property for invasive species and remove them before they become a problem. If plants can't be removed, at least prevent them from going to seed.
- 4.** Clean your boots before and after visiting a natural area to prevent the spread of invasive plant seeds.
- 5.** Don't release aquarium plants into the wild.
- 6.** Volunteer at local parks and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.
- 7.** Help educate your community.
- 8.** Support public policies and programs to control invasive plants.

Helpful Resources

Midwest Invasive Species Network at <http://www.misin.msu.edu/tools/apps/#home>

Invasive Special Network's (ISN's) Go Beyond Beauty program at <https://www.habitatmatters.org/go-beyond-beauty.html>

Audrey Menninga, NW MI Invasive Species Network, amenninga@gtcd.org 231-299-0786

https://www.habitatmatters.org/uploads/9/5/0/6/95066352/woody_invasive_control_methods.pdf

Connie Archer Sargent, Master Gardener Emeritus and Peninsula Township homeowner



PETER DOUGHERTY SOCIETY UPDATES

Summer 2022 Exhibit

The Leffingwell Forest Preserve Association and some of its notable residents are the focus of this year's special exhibit. Through the eyes of Leffingwell families who have summered here for more than a century, we explore their special relationship with Old Mission Peninsula over the years. We invite you to explore the pictures and artifacts telling this unique story in the exhibit room on the first floor.

Bill Cole Memorial Pavilion

Groundbreaking has begun on the Bill Cole Memorial Pavilion. We anticipate completing this special project this summer and look forward to opening it to visitors. A picnic table will allow visitors to view the house and grounds while a storyboard explaining Peter Dougherty and his Mission House is planned for the west-facing wall. Both the pavilion and adjacent short trail are handicap accessible.

Carriage House Lighting

The first of our lighting initiative projects is complete, and what a difference it makes! It is now easy to view the interesting farm implements that hang on the walls of the carriage house as well as the cutter sleigh and wicker pony cart that are displayed in the center of the room. Other interior spaces will receive museum-type lighting as the project proceeds.

Directional Road Signage

If you have traveled along Center Road north to Old Mission Road or Swaney Road, you have seen our new signs pointing the way to the Dougherty Mission House as well as the Replica Log Church on Mission Road. The twin signs display their message in English as well as in Ojibwe (Anishinbemowin), the language of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The tribe has generously provided the translation for the signage.

Come Serve As a Docent or Greeter

We are looking for individuals who share a love for the Dougherty Mission House and would like to help guide



New signage helps visitors find
Dougherty Mission House

visitors around the museum, outbuildings, and grounds. We are willing to train you for this fun job and work around your busy schedule! Please contact us at 269-330-0026 to speak with Chris Rieser, president of the Peter Dougherty Society.

Summer Schedule

Please visit our website at [www.doughertyoldmissionhouse.com](http://doughertyoldmissionhouse.com) or check us out on Facebook at Dougherty Mission House for the current days and hours we are open.



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE

Parks Update

Haserot Beach will have weekly water testing throughout the summer to determine if unsafe levels of bacteria are present. Residents requested this testing. If any safety concerns exist, signs will be posted. The nonprofit group Mission Blues has offered to provide a free life jacket library (life jackets that can be borrowed and returned) for children using Haserot Beach. A mid- to late-summer installation is expected for 2022 with ongoing full season availability thereafter.

Archie Park will receive some much needed tender loving care this summer. The park is a popular bike staging and scuba diving staging area. Improvements to landscaping, fencing, parking, drainage, and more will take place. Some of the work will be done by volunteers, so if you have interest in participating in a work bee, please contact mbmilliken@peninsulatwp.org.

Parks open houses to determine citizen priorities and budgeting process continued through February of this year. As reported in the last township newsletter, extensive work has gone into project needs and budget analysis via work

with the nonprofit Land Information Access Association (LIAA). That work was further informed through parks open houses and feedback at www.participateoldmission.com. Results can be found at the township website at www.peninsulatownship.com.



The newly graded parking lot at Archie Park

Continued emphasis on courtesy in our parks is encouraged. COVID has ushered in a new era of heavy use of public properties. Leashing pets and picking up after them is more important than ever. In addition, the township receives occasional reports of people creating unauthorized trails and disturbing vegetation. Although volunteer efforts to remove obstacles from trails is certainly appreciated, if there are concerns or questions about the

need to trim trees or change trail routing, please contact the township. Many trails within our parks were designed for sustainability or to meet government-mandated due care plan requirements after soil remediation. Any observed trimming of living trees should be brought to the attention of the township. Please call 223-7322 with questions or to report concerns.



NEW FACES IN THE OFFICE

Goodbye to Treasurer Brad Bickle and Welcome to Trustee Armen Shanafelt and Deputy Treasurer Katie Clark!

Peninsula Township Treasurer Brad Bickle resigned in April to pursue a business opportunity. Township trustees subsequently appointed Margaret Achorn, the deputy treasurer, to fill the remainder of the treasurer's term. In turn, Katie Clark, who had been assisting in the treasurer's office, assumed the position of deputy treasurer.

Achorn, who was elected as a trustee in her own right in 2016 and again in 2020 as well as serving as deputy treasurer, vacated her trustee position upon being sworn in as treasurer and becoming one of the township officers.

The township put out the call that a trustee position was vacant, and eight candidates came forward. Township trustees interviewed the candidates in May and appointed Armen Shanafelt, also a member of the parks committee, to fill the remainder of Achorn's term. Should Shanafelt wish to, he will run for the position of trustee in his own right in 2024.

Thank you, Brad, and welcome, Armen and Katie!



GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL LAND CONSERVANCY

Updates at Pyatt Lake: The Bill Carls Nature Preserve

The preservation of Pyatt Lake: The Bill Carls Nature Preserve is one of the most endearing stories in the history of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) and a chronicle of the lasting impact a community can have when it bands together.

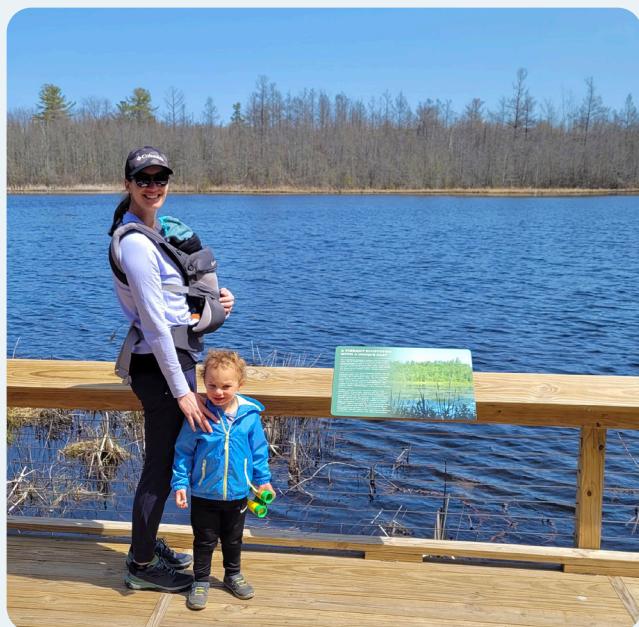
For some, the conservancy's first-ever preserve acquisition is akin to a local legend. The campaign to protect this incredible, ecologically diverse property ignited in 1992 when Bill Carls took notice of a pop can collection hosted by a group of Old Mission Elementary School students to "Save Pyatt Lake." The philanthropist contributed significantly to the preserve's initial purchase and subsequent additions, and he and the Carls Foundation went on to influence support for land protection and stewardship throughout the region.

Since the original 60-acre plot's acquisition, Peninsula Township residents have rallied around Pyatt Lake time and time again.

"We built a community around that acquisition," said GTRLC Executive Director Glen Chown. "We had more than 700 donors, and now, 20, 30 years later, some of these donors are still our strongest supporters. In fact, some of them have never gone a year without making a contribution."

In the last 30 years, the preserve has expanded nine times and nearly tripled in size, with its most recent addition protected near the end of last year.

The 18-acre property was formerly owned by the late Jack and Violet Solmonson, who operated the Peninsula Telephone Company and previously donated an eight-acre parcel with critical wetland habitat as one of the earliest additions to the preserve. Jack and Vi's daughters inherited the land and, wishing to honor their parents' immeasurable



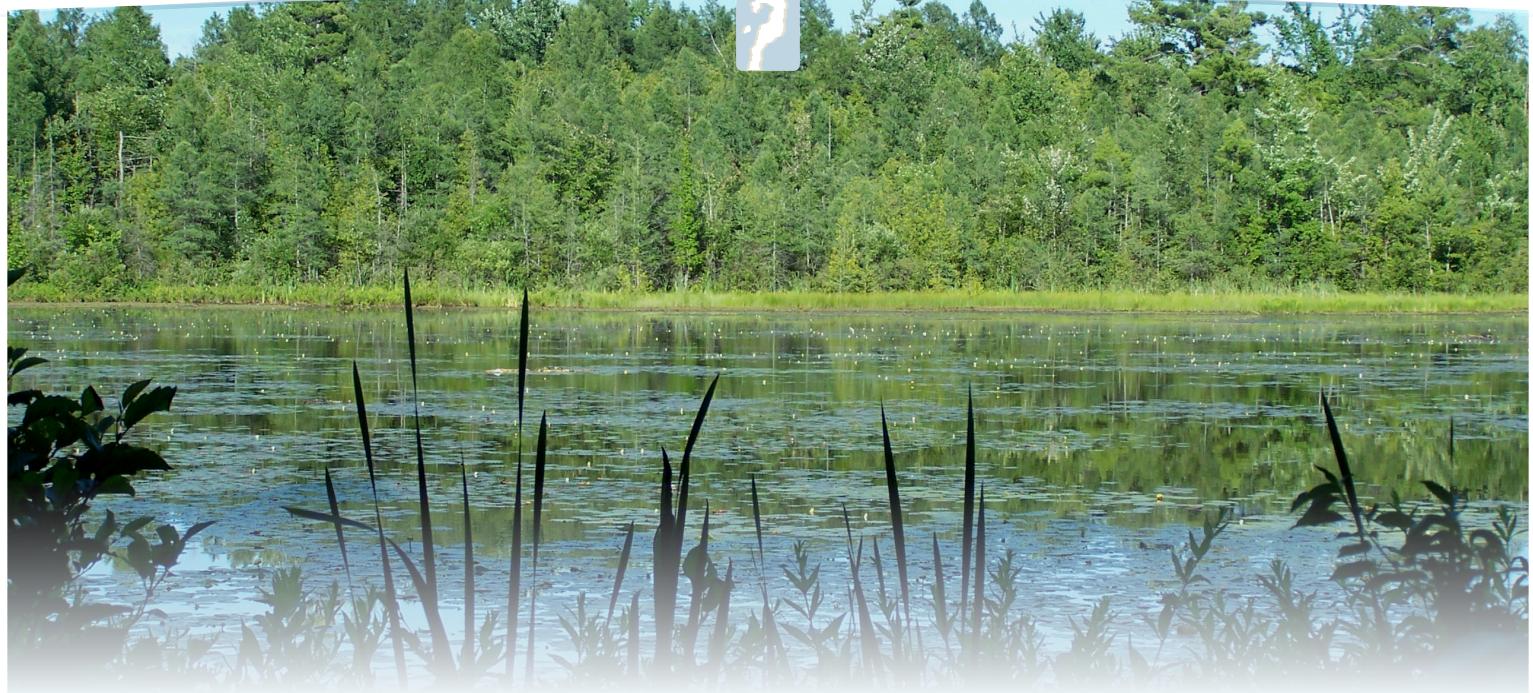
Laura Rigan, GTRLC farmland program director, out for a stroll with her two sons

love of the Old Mission Peninsula and Pyatt Lake, generously sold the property to the conservancy through a discounted bargain sale.

"Jack and Vi loved the land and were among the first to recognize why Pyatt Lake is so special and important to protect," Chown reflected. "They cared deeply about the community, and I am thrilled and thankful that their daughters have honored their legacy by choosing to work with the conservancy. Through their generosity, this family's enduring land protection legacy has not only grown but will benefit our community for generations to come."

Once the second largest unprotected property abutting the current preserve, the parcel sits between Pyatt Lake and Peninsula Drive adjacent to the preserve's north and west boundaries. Though the property borders some of the more sensitive areas of Pyatt Lake, its terrain is almost entirely upland and allows for the construction of a trail without requiring an expensive boardwalk through wetland areas.

Two more additions, the three-acre Brickman property and a two-acre parcel generously donated by the Fry family, will soon be protected in perpetuity. The Fry and Brickman



Pyatt Lake on a summer's day

properties are contiguous to one another and border the southwest corner of the preserve. The properties contain a mix of wetlands and an upland ridge, and, like the Solomonson parcel, they are linchpin additions that will further protect the preserve and provide ideal terrain for a trail corridor.

The acquisition of these properties will also help GTRLC stay on top of beaver activity near Pyatt Lake, which increased following a period of high water levels. While beavers are integral to the local ecosystem and the habitat is expected to bounce back quickly, the conservancy realizes the beavers have caused a nuisance for neighboring landowners and is pursuing a solution. Once the new parcels are part of the preserve, they will offer GTRLC previously unavailable management options.

This summer, with newly acquired access to Peninsula Drive, GTRLC plans to build a new entrance, trailhead, and parking area to ease congestion at the current parking area and allow easy, year-round entry to the preserve. The conservancy also plans to build a trail to connect the new parking area to the existing trail system, while volunteers will help mitigate invasive species on the new additions.

Together, the three additions provide the opportunity to realize a long-held dream of the community and GTRLC: a loop trail around Pyatt Lake. This endeavor, which is sure to enhance visitors' experiences of this botanically rich site, wouldn't be possible without the community's consistent support for protecting Pyatt Lake. GTRLC hopes to complete an engineering study for the loop this year to understand its feasibility and fundraising needs.

THANK YOU, SUPERVISOR ROB MANIGOLD

Longtime township supervisor Rob Manigold announced his retirement in June, with trustee Isaiah Wunsch appointed to replace him as supervisor. Rob's legacy of land preservation is well known. Under his leadership, Peninsula Township instituted the first township-level purchase of development rights program in the United States. Through this program, which residents have twice voted to renew, the township has permanently protected more than 5,000 acres of globally unique fruitbelt farmland. The American Farmland Trust has recognized Old Mission's PDR program as one of the top ten success stories in the nation in terms of preserving a high percentage of an entire working agricultural landscape. Manigold was also instrumental in the protection of Old

Mission State Park (the former Murray farm) when it was threatened with being subdivided into five- and ten-acre lots, the Pelizzari Natural Area, in acquiring the Bowers Harbor Park Expansion on Devils Dive, and, most recently, in working with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to acquire Kelley Park. Rob was also a founding board member of the Old Mission Conservancy and partnered with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy on literally dozens of land protection projects. His legacy of land preservation, like his love for this peninsula, will endure forever.



WELCOME, SUPERVISOR ISAIAH WUNSCH

The township board appointed Peninsula Township Trustee Isaiah Wunsch, first elected in 2016 as part of the “Manigold Seven,” to replace Manigold as supervisor. This means another vacancy for trustee opens on the township board, which the board will act expeditiously to fill. A sixth-generation Old Mission Peninsula farmer, Wunsch has been the township board’s liaison on the planning commission for many years and served as chair of the township’s citizens’ agricultural advisory committee. His academic background is in public policy, particularly related to agriculture and economic development,

and in the past he has worked in state government for the Economic Development Corporation in Lansing. Like his predecessor, Isaiah has been involved in numerous farmland preservation projects, including partnering with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to protect the Wilson Orchards property on Wilson Road and the former Zientek farm on Kroupa Road. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position, and we extend a hearty welcome to him.



ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

A Look at Conservation Easements

Peninsula Township is known for its natural beauty, unique agricultural value, and open, rolling landscapes that draw tourists and potential real estate purchasers to the area. Thanks to many years of thoughtful planning and zoning practices, it has remained one of the most scenic townships in the region. This is due, in large part, to overwhelming participation by township residents in private land conservation.

To date, conservation easements have preserved thousands of acres of land in Peninsula Township, ensuring that residential developments are limited, agricultural benefits are maximized, and natural resources are maintained and preserved.

Conservation easements are contracts made between private property owners and qualified entities such as Peninsula Township, local and regional land conservation organizations, state programs, and national organizations. Each conservation easement is tailored to reflect the individual landowner’s conservation goals and is monitored annually. Some easements are perpetual while others may be confined to a specific length of time. While there are distinct financial and/or tax advantages for those participating landowners and any subsequent purchasers of said lands, these are ultimately contracts that must be upheld. A failure to do so can also have significant financial consequences.

The following are some of the most commonly encountered private land protection tools/organizations in Peninsula Township:

Peninsula Township’s Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) leverages township millage funds to purchase conservation easements on qualifying lands. The agreements generally limit the number and/or location of residential sites that may be available as well as the number of divisions that may be available; it can even include specific restrictions regarding vegetation and other allowable uses.

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy protects many acres of natural and agricultural land through its conservation easement program. GTRLC easements protect the region’s significant natural and agricultural land by limiting development and ensuring sound management.

The American Farmland Trust protects properties by limiting development and specifically promoting agricultural uses.

Public Act 260 (PA 260) allows purchasers of qualified agricultural property to benefit from certain property tax ramifications in exchange for perpetually maintaining agricultural practices.

Public Act 116 (PA 116) allows certain income tax benefits for properties maintaining agricultural endeavors.

The Qualified Forest Program offers incentives in exchange for preserving and maintaining Michigan’s woodlands.

Individuals interested in protecting their land or purchasing land encumbered by a conservation easement can request more information from Peninsula Township or the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy as part of their due diligence.



PDR RENEWAL ON THE AUGUST 2, 2022, BALLOT

As one of the first programs for farmland preservation in the country, Peninsula Township's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program has put 3,291 acres of farmland into permanent preservation and helped inspire and leverage another 1,890 acres of preservation by the state, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and the American Farmland Trust. As a result, a total of 5,181 acres of the 9,861 acres in our farmland preservation zone are now under permanent preservation easements that prevent residential or commercial development.

The PDR program has been funded by a millage that started after voters approved it in 1994 and was renewed for 20 years at 2 mils in 2002. Because that millage is now ending, it is up for another renewal this summer with language on the August 2, 2022, Primary Election ballot. If successful, the millage will be reset to 2 mils, run for another 20 years, and allow the township to continue the success of the program by combining tax dollars with federal, state, and private matching funds to preserve another 3,000 or more acres as well as establish a permanent fund to maintain annual monitoring of the properties protected through the program in perpetuity.

The original 2 mil levy has been reduced annually by a state required amount, established by the Headlee amendment, to the current rate of 1.7123 mils. Resetting the millage to 2 mils would increase the cost above the most recent tax bill each homeowner paid by \$1.20 each month for each \$100,000 of a home's value or by \$5.99 each month for a \$500,000 value home.

Please exercise your right to vote on August 2, 2022.

This article is intended for informational purposes only regarding the upcoming vote. It is not intended to reflect any views or opinions of the township but to provide objective information to inform its citizens.

According to the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and its published Trip Generation Manual, the number of vehicle trips associated with a single-family home is about 9.57 trips per day (it actually can range from 4.3 to more than 21 trips per day).

Information taken from p. 58 of the township's 2022 draft master plan

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AREA (APA)

— HIGHWAYS

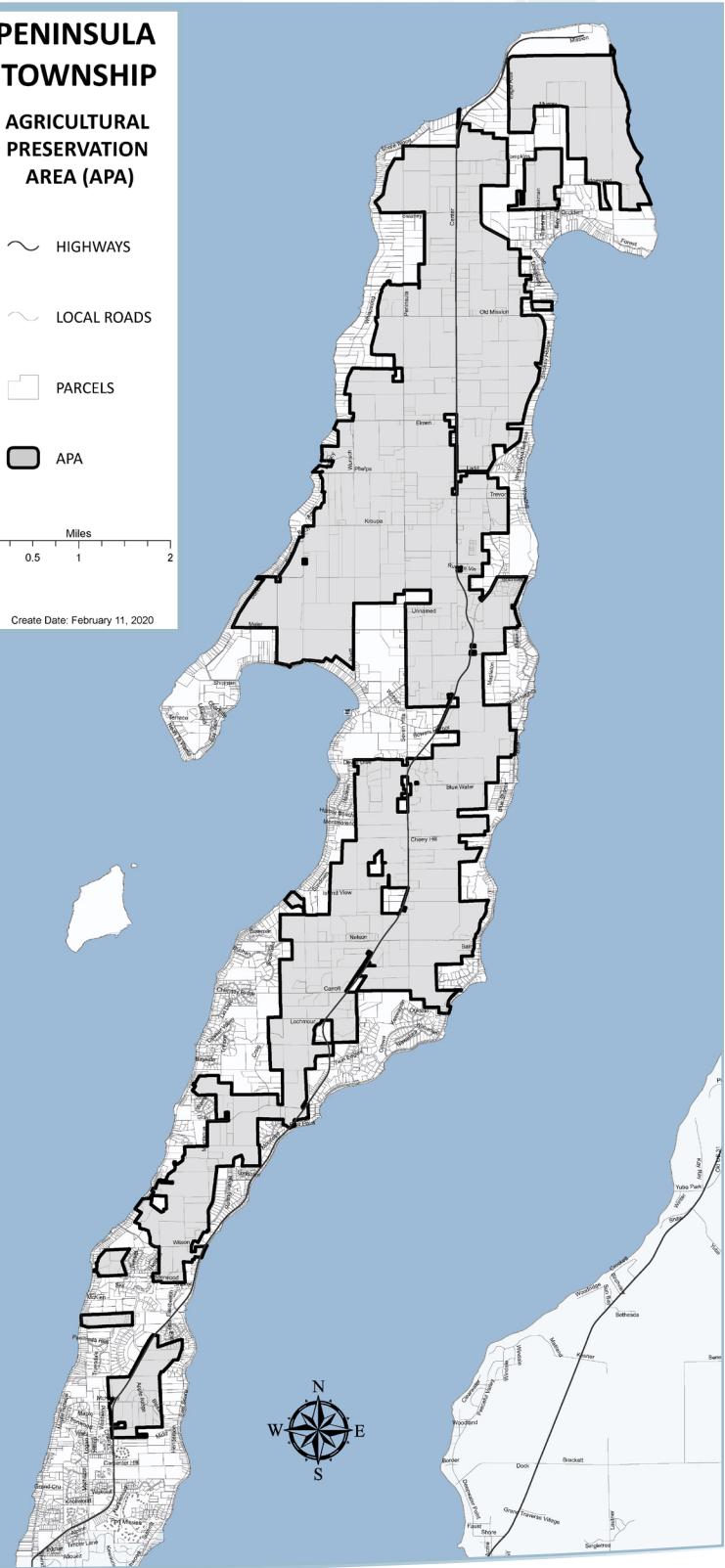
— LOCAL ROADS

PARCELS

APA

0 0.5 1 Miles

Create Date: February 11, 2020





PENINSULA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Update from the Heart of the Community

Beyond Words

I have always loved libraries. My mother was a book binder of rare volumes for the Detroit Public Library, and I probably had the only known set of Little Golden Books in library binding. During college, that same library was a great place to wander and study.

Libraries have since evolved. With collections of unique items not limited to books, they are community centers, places of learning and socialization and entertainment. Here at PCL, we offer a variety of programming and services not imaginable in the library of yesterday. This summer, you can look forward to a Library of Things with items to borrow ranging from a sewing machine to a portable keyboard and more. A generator is being installed soon so that you have a place to recharge those devices, get a hot beverage, and warm up for a bit when the power goes out yet again.

What hasn't changed? The profound sense of possibility when you walk through the door! Come on in this summer. Relax in the garden, read by the fireplace, take home a craft, or enjoy a program. There is something at your community library for all. We are the heart of the community!

Oceans of Possibility

July at PCL means Summer Reading Club! This year's theme abounds with imagination and rewards for patrons of all ages. Kids' programs are offered in the Children's Garden on July Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. with visits from a pirate and mermaid! Pick up a brochure with the schedule and log in June. Multi-age programs during the month include **Storyteller Jenifer Straus 7/7 @ 6:30 p.m., Peninsula Township Fire Department for safety skills & hose play 7/19 @ 11:00 a.m., and musicians Miriam Pico and Ryan Younce 7/26 @ 6:30 p.m.** Summer Reading Club is for everyone!

Lecture Series

In collaboration with the University of Michigan, we are proud to sponsor a series of programs with physicians who

are experts in their fields the world over. We are joined July 25 at 3:00 p.m. by Dr. Henry Paulson, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Paulson is director of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center (MADC) and co-director of the University of Michigan Protein Folding Diseases Initiative. The series will continue in the fall. Check the library's website for more information on future programs!

Toe Tappin'

Pack a picnic and head to PCL August 5 at 7:00 p.m. to hear the Steel City Rovers. Canadian-born performers of Celtic music, bluegrass, and folk, their songs evoke emotions of love, loss, celebration, and heritage!

Chapter Champs!

Our book club for kids grades three through five invites boys and girls to join us Saturday, August 13, at 10:00 a.m. at the Mission Point

"One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by."

The Glass Castle
by Jeanette Walls

Lighthouse Park beach for a fun book discussion and crafts. The book, The Secret Lake by Karen Inglis, will be available on a first come, first served basis beginning June 27. Please RSVP.

Quilting Fun

Kellie Chase teaches basic sewing machine quilting techniques with a two-hour project on August 23 at 10:30. Walk out with a fall door banner crafted by you! Please RSVP.

Friends of Peninsula Community Library

Friends of PCL work hard to do all they can to support the library. The Friends' popular book sale starts August 12 and is preceded by a Friends-only event August 11. Bring your donations from 4:00–6:00 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of the month. Check the Friends of PCL page on our website for details as well as info on their online book sales!

The Artists Fair returns to Peninsula Community Library on Saturday, September 24, from 10:00–4:00. Booth spaces



Hours

Mon/Thurs.....10:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m.
Tues/Wed/Fri10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Sat.....10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

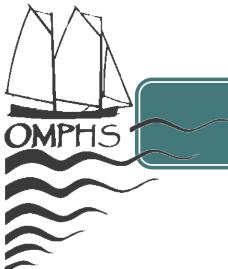


(each comes with a six-foot table) are available. If you are interested in participating, please contact Becky Dykstra at dykstra5110@gmail.com for information and an application. Spaces are limited and available on a first come, first served basis!

The Regulars

The Men's Group gathers the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Gentle Yoga happens Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. for a small fee. Story Stew for preschoolers is offered the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 a.m. Reading Dog Lani is in Tuesdays from 3:30–4:30 p.m. Threads meets Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to noon – bring a project and work among friends! Local history talks happen on the third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Pageturners meets the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Books are available on a first come, first served basis.

Check out our website at peninsulacommunitylibrary.org and "Like" us on Facebook!



OLD MISSION PENINSULA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society News

OMPHS members and interested citizens have been treated to a series of fabulous programs in 2022.

In January, Jordan Owens presented “The History of Bassett Island.”

Kennard Weaver gave a presentation titled “The Hannah Lay Building: Pillar of the Community” in February.

March brought Linda Woods and “Life in Peshawbestown.”

Karen Rieser presented “The History of the OMP Fire Department” in April.

May brought a presentation by authors Anne Magoun and Ann Swaney of History of Libraries in the Grand Traverse Area, their newly published book.

On Sunday, June 26, we celebrated Log Cabin Day at Mission Point Lighthouse Park and the Dougherty House.

Current projects include developing a display for the Old Mission Log Church (replica), continuing to promote and

Pick Up and Take Out

Kids pick up bags with crafts and activities the first and third weeks of each month. Adult craft bags are available the second week of each month while supplies last! Craft bags offered in July are related to Summer Reading Club and are available on a different schedule.

At Your Service

PCL offer books, movies, puzzles, games, explorer bags, large print books, and more. Little Free Libraries have books for the taking. Printing, faxing, copying, iPads, and laptops are available onsite. Check out STEM kits for kids thanks to a grant from Newton's Road. Wireless service is accessible in the parking lot 24/7. Notary service is available by appointment.

Vicki Shurly, Director, Peninsula Community Library

Check out our website at peninsulacommunitylibrary.org and "Like" us on Facebook!



Bassett Island

support our memorial tree plantings, and maintaining local historic buildings.

Please join us for a meeting or become a member! Learn more at www.omphistoricalsociety.org.

Karen Reiser, Co-secretary, Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 Summer News

Happy summer, Peninsula Township! It is great to finally feel the warmth of the sun after a very long winter. The fire department wishes everyone a safe and happy summer filled with awesome memories made on Old Mission Peninsula.

Your fire department has been keeping very busy. Among other tasks, we are training our new members every day to make sure they are ready for every emergency that arises. Skills we must master include fire suppression techniques, driving and operating the apparatus, emergency medical skills and knowledge, water rescue, boat operation, hazardous materials management, maintaining the apparatus, and teaching fire prevention to the public. We deal with a large variety of issues, and we are more than happy to help our residents. Please call 231-223-4443 with any questions or needs.

For many, summertime means enjoying controlled outdoor fires, but before starting any open burns, please look on the state's DNR website to see if burning is allowed on a given day or contact the DNR office in Traverse City at 231-922-5280. If burning is not allowed on a given day and the fire department is alerted that a fire is burning, we will come put it out. Please remember that no construction materials can be burned on the ground. In addition, please do not burn on days when the wind will blow smoke into neighboring homes. Finally, please be sure to have a water supply nearby in case your fire gets out of control. Always call us via 911 if you need help.

I'm sorry to report that fire deaths in Michigan are still increasing. As of May 3, 2022, 51 deaths in 44 fires have occurred throughout the state; this is an increase of three percent over last year at the same time. The biggest causes of these fires are smoking (61%), electrical issues (9%), and cooking (4%). A pervasive problem that contributes to fire deaths is a lack of working smoke detectors. To combat this fact, your Peninsula Township Fire Department has free smoke detectors to distribute. We're so determined to meet our goal of having working smoke detectors in every home that we're even willing to help you install them and change the batteries. We want you as safe as possible, and working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are a great place to start.

Since it's summer, we're seeing many boaters on the bays, which also means an increase in calls for assistance. We want everyone to have a great and safe time on the water, so please follow these tips:

BOATER TIPS

- 1. Take a boater safety course.**
- 2. Check your vessel for safety before putting it in the water.**
- 3. Have a properly fitting life jacket on board for each person.**
- 4. Keep a boat safety kit on board with the following:**
 - Throwaway flotation devices;
 - Fire extinguishers;
 - Visual signaling devices;
 - Sound signaling devices.
- 5. Always check the weather before launching.**
- 6. Do not overload your boat.**
- 7. Check for harmful fumes before leaving the boat hoist or shore.**
- 8. Use proper anchoring procedures.**
- 9. Follow proper docking procedures.**
- 10. Use common sense.**

Finally, the fire department is still looking for township residents who would like to train to be paid on-call firefighters (training will be paid for with funds from Michigan Works). While we have increased our staff, we could still use help from township residents who want to join a great department and the greatest profession in the world. Come talk to us and see what we have to offer; we'd love to have you join our great team. Call us at 231-223-4443. In the meantime, have a safe and awesome summer.

Yours in Life Safety,
Fire Chief Fred Gilstorff



NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The non-motorized transportation advisory committee that grew out of the master plan steering committee continues to meet to discuss opportunities to increase safety, enjoyment, and convenience for non-motorized users in our community. The committee's goals include:

- Improving and expanding safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on shared roads through education, signage, shoulder widening, and separating motorized and non-motorized users of roads;
- Developing connections to key community assets such as parks, the school, library, commerce destinations, and points of interest via existing roads, new trail connections, and linear public easements;
- Pursuing opportunities for regional linkages and partnerships to improve non-motorized transportation opportunities with our adjacent community transportation networks;
- Seeking citizen input through public input processes; and
- Pursuing funding opportunities to implement non-motorized transportation system priorities.

In late April, committee members and township personnel met with a large group of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials and engineers on Zoom to make introductions and establish a plan for future partnership. We were grateful to hear that MDOT supports future township non-motorized planning endeavors and will work with the township on specific bike and pedestrian safety improvements in the near term.

In early May, a working group of the committee met with MDOT engineering staff to discuss improvements to the M-37 corridor to be implemented as part of the current re-surfacing project. Both the Cherry Capital Cycling Club and Peninsula Township had requested Share the Road safety signage be strategically added at the highest cycling/pedestrian user convergences with M-37, and MDOT agreed to work in partnership with the committee to finalize locations for the signage.



Share the Road
safety signage

MDOT also shared with the committee that some additional bike and pedestrian-friendly improvements to M-37 can be expected as a part of the summer roadwork, including six-inch-wide outer white lines and what MDOT calls "mumble strips" to replace the previous centerline rumble strips. This improvement is apparently louder for the persons inside a vehicle but quieter for those outside the

vehicle, including cyclists, pedestrians, and residents who live alongside M-37. This change is sure to be a welcome one for township residents and visitors!

Please watch for more updates in the coming months as we continue to work with our partners to improve safety and enjoyment for all users of our roadways. Thank you to MDOT, the Cherry Capital Cycling Club, and TART Trails for their active participation in these efforts!

The Peninsula Township Non-motorized Transportation Committee meets monthly at the town hall, on the first Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. Please confirm dates by checking the township website for the latest information. Members of the public are welcome at all meetings.

Susie Shipman, Chair, Peninsula Township Planning Commission and Non-motorized Transportation Committee

Please Consider Donating a Bench to Bohemian Cemetery or Peninsula Township Cemetery in Memory of a Loved One

Sexton Bob Wilkinson reports that we have room at Bohemian Cemetery for two benches and room at Peninsula Township Cemetery for five benches that can be donated in memory of a loved one. Benches cost \$1,000 each and include a personalized plaque.



CLERK'S OFFICE

Elections Are upon Us!

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

We have two elections coming up in 2022:

- **August 2, 2022, State Primary**
- **November 8, 2022, State General Election**

Note: a resident is a registered voter of Peninsula Township or a resident who qualifies for a principal resident exemption (PRE) but is not registered to vote. A non-resident is anyone who is not a registered voter of Peninsula Township or does not qualify for a PRE.

Updated Voter ID Cards Were Mailed in Late June

If yours didn't arrive, please email elections@peninsulatownship.com and let us know.

Thanks for Answering the Call!

We know that some townships struggle to find and train a sufficient number of election inspectors to staff their precincts, but that's not an issue in Peninsula Township. Thank you to everyone – both long-time volunteers and residents who have come forward to work elections for the first time – for helping staff our in-person precincts and our two absentee voter counting boards.

Want to Vote Absentee?

If you are a registered voter in Peninsula Township, aren't already on the permanent absentee voter list, and would like to vote by absentee ballot, please email elections@peninsulatownship.com to ask to be placed on this list. Remember, being on the permanent absentee voter list means we will automatically send you an application to request an absentee ballot before every upcoming election. We do not and will not send you a ballot unless you fill out and return the application.

Want to Vote in Person?

Precinct locations have not changed. Residents who live in Precinct 1 vote at Peninsula Township Hall at 13235 Center Road. Residents who live in Precinct 2 vote at First Congregational Church at 6105 Center Road. Precincts open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m., but any voter who is in line to vote at 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

Need to Register to Vote?

For the August primary, you can register in person at the clerk's office or online at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/RegisterVoter> through July 18, 2022. Beginning July 19, you must register in person at the clerk's office with proof of residency.

For the November election, you can register in person at the clerk's office or online at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/RegisterVoter> through October 24, 2022. Beginning October 25, you must register in person at the clerk's office with proof of residency.

We will hold special office hours on Saturday, July 30, and again on Saturday, November 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for anyone who still needs to register and/or has other election-related needs.

New Dedicated Drop Box for Election Materials with Round-the Clock Surveillance

Peninsula Township recently installed a secure, dedicated, elections-only drop box next to the existing drop box outside the main doors at the township offices with 24-hour-a-day camera surveillance. Residents are invited to use the elections drop box 24 hours per day for absentee voter applications, applications to work as an election inspector, and voted ballots.

Please note that the only individuals who have access to the elections drop box – the clerk, deputy clerk, and two elections assistants – are accredited to work elections in the state of Michigan. No one else in the township office will be able to access the elections drop box.

The original drop box is for all other non-election-related materials such as permits, taxes, blueprints, general correspondence, and so on.

Refresher on Primaries Versus General Elections

The August 2, 2022, Primary Election is an open primary. This means that voters are not asked to select a party before being issued a ballot, but they still have to decide which party to vote for and are not allowed to split their ticket by voting



across party lines. If they do split their ticket by voting for candidates in more than one political party, the entire partisan section of the ballot is voided.

In-person voters who accidentally split their ticket or change their minds while voting may spoil their ballots and be issued a new one on the spot at the precinct. Absentee voters may spoil a ballot and be issued a new one up until 4:00 p.m. the day before the election.

Voters are allowed to split their ticket, or cross party lines, when voting in the November 8, 2022, General Election.

Election Reminders

Absentee ballot applications can be forwarded through the mail. Absentee ballots cannot.

Voters who register to vote on Election Day must do so in the township clerk's office.

Absentee ballots may not be dropped off at a polling location. Voters who wish to return their absentee ballots on Election Day may put them in our dedicated elections drop box. We will check it periodically throughout the day and will collect ballots for the final time at 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots received after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day will not be counted.

The party the secretary of state belongs to determines which party is represented first on the ballot.

Absentee ballot counting boards are required by law to meet strict standards, including the requirement that election inspectors be "sealed" within the room the ballots are counted in from the time the counting begins until all the



Peninsula Township's new dedicated elections drop box

ballots are counted and the paperwork is filled out. This can take until 11:00 p.m. or later on Election Day. We are grateful to St. Joseph Catholic Church for once again housing our absentee voter counting boards.

August ballots were mailed in late June; November ballots will be mailed in late September.

Watch the Numbers!

Two years ago, in late June of 2020, Peninsula Township had 5,521 registered voters with 2,617 on the permanent absent voter list.

Two years later, in late June of 2020, Peninsula Township had 5,655 registered voters with 2,811 on the permanent absent voter list.

THANKS, TROOP 34, FOR THE KESTREL BOXES!

This spring, members of local Boy Scouts of America Troop 34 made sixteen kestrel boxes for farmer Barb Wunsch. She explains, "On our farm, we are all too familiar with starlings, finches, mice, voles, and gophers that can wreak havoc in our cherry orchards by feeding on ripening fruit and developing trees. These little pests are a big problem. Attracting predators such as kestrels is beneficial because they feed on small birds and mammals. The kestrel boxes are a sustainable pest management solution that will allow us to control pest populations without the need to resort to poison baits."



Scouts displaying homemade kestrel nesting boxes



PRSRT MKT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRAVERSE CITY, MI
PERMIT NO 29

SUMMER 2022

Peninsula Township Newsletter

13235 Center Road
Traverse City, Michigan 49686

Township Hours:

Monday 7:30–6:30
Tuesday–Thursday 7:30–5:00
Closed Fridays

www.peninsulatownship.com

STAFF

Clerk	Becky Chown	231.223.7321	clerk@peninsulatownship.com
Supervisor.....	Isaiah Wunsch	231. 223.7323	supervisor@peninsulatownship.com
Treasurer	Margaret Achorn	231.223.4484	treasurer@peninsulatownship.com
Deputy Clerk	Robin Noval.....	231.223.7321	deputy.clerk@peninsulatownship.com
Deputy Treasurer.....	Katie Clark.....	231.223.7536	deputytreasurer@peninsulatownship.com
Trustee.....	Armen Shanafelt	231.223.7536	marge.peninsulatrustee@gmail.com
Trustee.....	David K. Sanger	231.216.1212	dave.peninsulatrustee@gmail.com
Trustee.....	Warren L. Wahl.....	989.312.1006	warren.peninsulatrustee@gmail.com
Trustee.....	Isaiah S. Wunsch	231.620.0791	wunschis23@gmail.com
Assessor	Sally Murray.....	231.223.7313	assessor@peninsulatownship.com
Comm. Police Officers.....	Virnell France	231.223.4525	vfrance@gtsheriff.org
	Sean Megurian.....	231-223-4525.....	smugerian@gtsheriff.org
Fire Chief.....	Fred Gilstorff.....	231.223.4443	fire@peninsulatownship.com
FOIA Coordinator	Beth Chan.....	231.223.7322	clerkpa@peninsulatownship.com
Lighthouse Manager	Ginger Schultz	231.645.0759	missionpointlight@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Becky Chown	231.223.7321	clerk@peninsulatownship.com
Office Manager	Susan Piehl	231.223.7322	officemanager@peninsulatownship.com
Ordinance Enforcement Officer	Dave Sanger.....	231.216.1212	enforcement.peninsulazoning @ gmail.com
Planner	Jenn Cram	231.223.7314	planner@peninsulatownship.com
Zoning Director.....	Christina Deeren.....	231.223.7318	zoning@peninsulatownship.com