



NEWS YOU CAN USE!



WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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PDR COMMITTEE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



The Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) committee has completed work to update the PDR ordinance; the result is posted on the township website.

The committee will hold a meeting from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, in the town hall to take questions and comments from agricultural landowners before submitting the document to the planning csmmission.

PDR COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2022
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 Peninsula Township Hall

AMERICAN LEGION DINNERS ON PAUSE ONCE AGAIN



Due to the rise in COVID cases throughout the state and here in Grand Traverse County, the American Legion community dinners scheduled for the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. were cancelled for the month of January. Watch for a decision about dinners in February and thereafter on Facebook. When meals begin again, menus will be posted on Facebook.

In other news, we are in the process of getting bids from contractors for replacing our roof but will not begin the project until spring, when we have collected enough monies.

In spite of COVID, the American Legion Hall is still available for private parties. Reach out to Mary Shultz at 223-7721 for more information.



TREASURER'S OFFICE

2020 Peninsula Township Tax Distribution

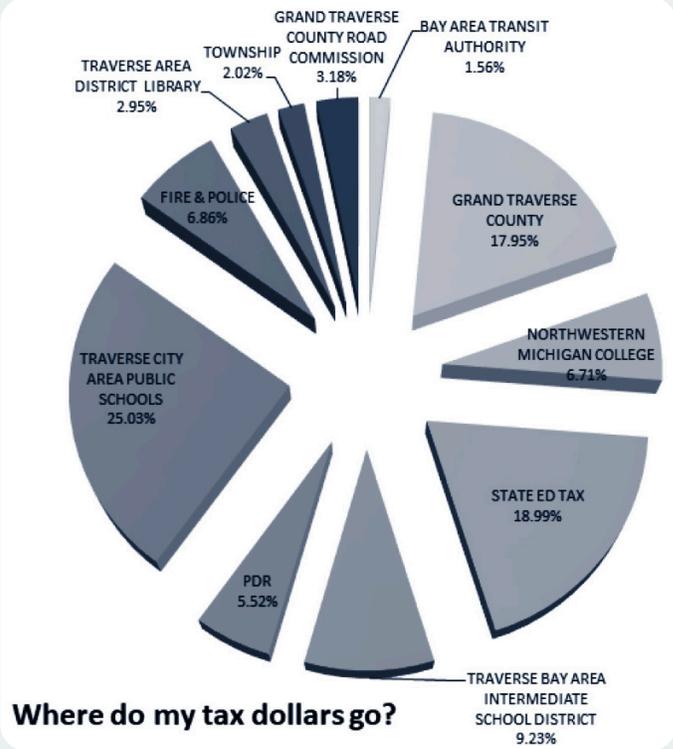
IT'S TAX TIME AGAIN!

Winter tax collection is in full swing, with Tuesday, February 14, 2022, the final day for payments to be received and recorded on time. Please note that starting February 15, any remaining unpaid balances are subject to additional interest. Call the treasurer's office as needed for the updated dollar amount due.

Importantly, as part of our ongoing COVID-19 wellness and safety protocols, we ask you to continue either mailing in your check with the tax remittance stub or dropping your payment in our drop box at the front door of the township offices. We check the drop box several times each day, and it is safe and secure.

Additionally, in lieu of visiting the office in person, we respectfully ask that you please call 231-223-4484 or email us at treasurer@peninsulatownship.com first. We will answer your questions promptly.

**TAXES ARE DUE TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14, 2022**



NEWS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

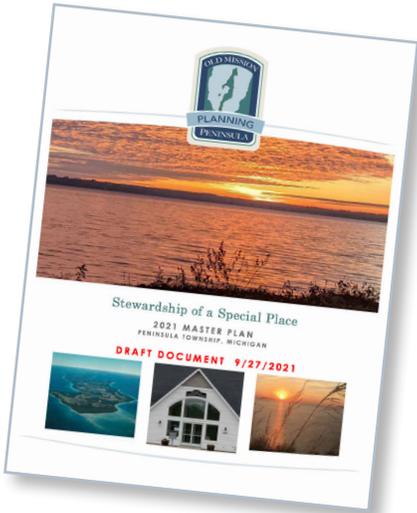
Master Plan Update: We Welcome Your Review and Comments!

A community master plan is a critically important document that helps drive decision making that shapes the future. Work to update Peninsula Township's master plan continued through most of 2021. Late in the year, the planning commission and township board gave the green light to distribute the draft master plan to neighboring jurisdictions as required by law. This distribution has occurred, and the comment period will end in February. After that, the process will be picked up by the planning commission and township board, which will formally consider the master plan, hold public hearings, and potentially take action to approve it.

Prior to the expected public hearings in the spring, residents are encouraged to review the plan at www.pensinsulatownship.com. The first few chapters of the plan may prove especially informative, as they contain background information about Peninsula Township that frames and gives context to important community issues confronting the peninsula today. Of particular importance is chapter five, which provides an overview of community legacy, current challenges, and vision for the future. Subsequent chapters delve into issue-specific details. Both the planning commission and township board continue to welcome feedback as the process moves toward conclusion in 2022.

An excerpt from the newly revised draft master plan follows below.

Excerpt from the newly revised Peninsula Township Master Plan currently being reviewed by neighboring jurisdictions (see next two pages):





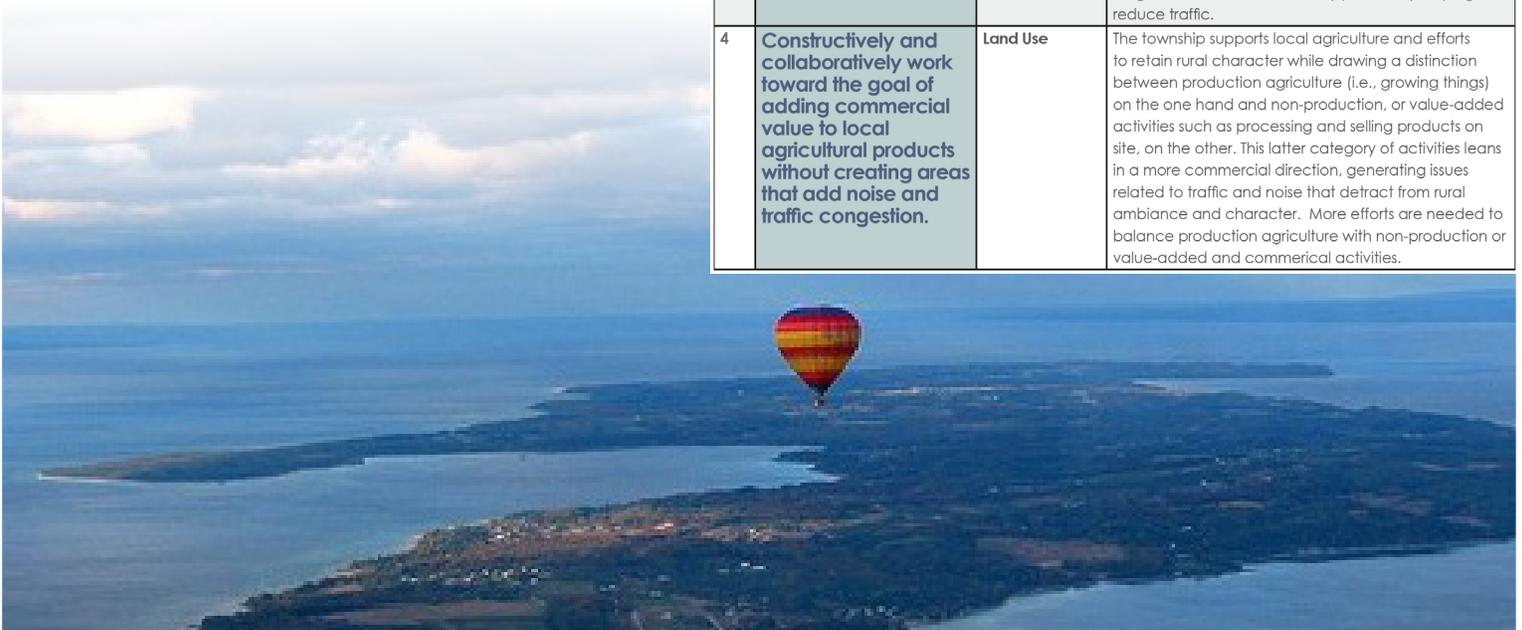
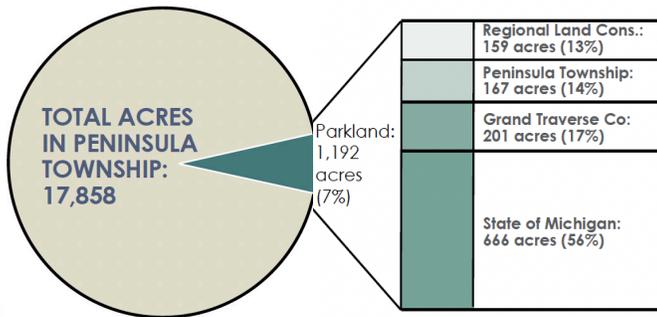
VISION

Peninsula Township’s leaders recognize that the Old Mission Peninsula is a special place. They also recognize that the current issues facing the township mean that careful and deliberate planning has never been more important than it is now if the township is to retain its current amenities and reach its full potential as the best possible gift to future generations. These challenges align with the 12 following vision elements, which can also be thought of as organizing planning principles for Peninsula Township. These vision targets surfaced from 2019 survey results, results from Participate Old Mission, and deliberations during master plan steering committee meetings.

The following chart offers a summary of vision elements for Peninsula Township organized into three categories: “Land Use,” Mobility,” and “Places, Character, and Governance.”

SUMMARY OF 12 VISION ELEMENTS

No.	VISION	SUBJECT AREA	SUMMARY
1	Recognize an “island-like geography.”	Land Use	The ability to maintain the quality of life in the township will be highly influenced by the reality that the peninsula is more or less an “island” with a single “bridge” that carries residents to and from Traverse City and beyond. This “bridge” is a two-lane street that has a finite carrying capacity and few options for expansion/widening. Shoreline routes such as East Shore Road and Peninsula Drive are not desirable options as routes because they serve neighborhoods with strong recreational and aesthetic value. Detailed vehicle traffic counts and studies are needed annually to help monitor change over time and to help guide township development policies. Recognizing the need to limit growth and associated traffic generation is a major underpinning and foundation for nearly all other vision elements and planning policies.
2	Continue to implement any and all steps that reduce build-out potential.	Land Use	Looking ahead to this new decade and beyond, we see thousands of acres of agricultural land that could still be developed into homes. Demand for homes on the Old Mission Peninsula is strong and likely to grow stronger given existing trends. At the same time, residents clearly want to preserve and maintain a rural atmosphere. Renewing the PDR program that expires in 2021 is crucial to completing the task of land preservation that began in the early 1990s. Protecting the remaining 4,680 acres of agricultural land identified in the agricultural preservation area (APA) is an essential step toward limiting population growth and additional traffic congestion.
3	Ensure that future development is constructed in ways that thoughtfully balance all land-use needs.	Land Use	Even with potentially new PDR activity resulting from a third levy, some level of development can be expected as some property owners choose to develop their land within the constraints of the zoning ordinance. In the past, the township has explored the concept of a transfer of development rights (TDR) program as a way to concentrate new development by “transferring” permitted density to a more carefully planned area. The TDR program, coupled with the potential for mixed use development in the commercial zones to include first floor retail/commercial with second floor residential, could help create local businesses that serve residents. Properly designed and constructed commercial uses could help reduce the need for residents to travel to Traverse City for goods and services, thereby potentially helping to reduce traffic.
4	Constructively and collaboratively work toward the goal of adding commercial value to local agricultural products without creating areas that add noise and traffic congestion.	Land Use	The township supports local agriculture and efforts to retain rural character while drawing a distinction between production agriculture (i.e., growing things) on the one hand and non-production, or value-added activities such as processing and selling products on site, on the other. This latter category of activities leans in a more commercial direction, generating issues related to traffic and noise that detract from rural ambiance and character. More efforts are needed to balance production agriculture with non-production or value-added and commercial activities.





SUMMARY OF 12 VISION ELEMENTS

No.	VISION	SUBJECT AREA	SUMMARY
5	Protect the shoreline and wetlands to the maximum extent possible through both regulation and education centered on vegetation protection and enhancement. Areas like Pyatt Lake Natural Area and other beach and coastal wetlands are an important buffer against pollution and flooding.	Land Use	The last several years of high water levels on the Great Lakes have had a profound impact on coastal communities throughout Michigan. Coastal erosion and flooding have impacted residents with substantial costs and damages. Predicting lake levels in the future is all but impossible, but it is prudent to improve regulations and education efforts regarding vegetation removal so that future high water levels are less damaging and water quality is protected from erosion. Similarly, it is important to continue to educate residents on the value of all wetlands and shoreline vegetation cover as a means of reducing both flooding and pollution.
6	Make pedestrian and bike travel safer and more convenient.	Mobility	Residents and visitors alike deeply appreciate all that Peninsula Township has to offer pedestrians and bicyclists. However, planning for and implementing even modest local projects to support non-motorized travel have been nonexistent. Evidence of support for steps in this direction is abundantly clear from recent survey results. There also seems to be increasing recognition that it is time for ramped-up non-motorized transportation planning, even among those who are not inclined to bike or walk, simply from the standpoint of safety and impacts on vehicular traffic flow.
7	Make vehicular travel safer and more convenient	Mobility	Associated with the desire to make pedestrian and bike travel safer and more convenient is the need to control vehicular speeds and improve safety.
8	Operate under the best possible form of government, with suitable and essential public facilities.	Places, Character, and Governance	As unique and special as Peninsula Township is, it shares one key attribute with most other townships in Michigan: its form of government. Increasingly, people are asking if a township is the optimal form of government for the residents of the Old Mission Peninsula. State laws provide options for changing the structure of local government, which could improve service delivery and local control.
9	Continue to view alternative energy (solar/wind) as having a potential role in Peninsula Township.	Land Use	Peninsula Township's geography presents challenges for delivering public utilities to property owners. An electric grid, common in other areas to ensure uninterrupted energy, is not practical for the peninsula. Alternative energy sources will be required. The township will continue to implement policies to allow solar energy generation while protecting viewsheds.
10	Balance demand for a local hospitality industry against the need to control growth and manage traffic.	Land Use	There is a role for a local hospitality industry in Peninsula Township in three major categories: wineries (with guest rooms), bed and breakfasts (independent of wineries), and possibly small, quaint "boutique" hotels. The balance between additional hospitality functions and added traffic is a critical one related to numbers of available rooms and specific locations. The connection between offering accommodations in a rural B&B and supporting agricultural viability is also recognized.
11	Continue developing an outstanding park system throughout the township with "hubs" at Mission Point Lighthouse Park, Bowers Harbor Park, and Pelizzari Natural Area.	Land Use	The township maintains three large parks strategically located at the north, middle, and south latitudes of the township along with several additional smaller parks. The township will continue to improve these parks through upgrades and expansions consistent with the needs of each area. Additionally, the township is now poised to move forward with a new boat launch at Kelley Park.
12	Continue preserving, enhancing, and celebrating local history and culture.	Places, Character, and Governance	People enjoy living in an area with a sense of place, and an important attribute of our identity is local history and culture. There are four primary historical sites in the township: the replica Log Church and Peter Dougherty Home in Old Mission and the Hessler Log Cabin and Mission Point Lighthouse at the tip of the peninsula. Two historic businesses also survive, the Old Mission Inn and the Old Mission General Store, along with three remaining historic private resort associations, Illini, Leffingwell, and Neahtawanta. Much of the story of nineteenth- and twentieth-century local history arcs through and across these places. More can and should be done to strengthen and support these offerings.

POWER OUTAGES



Dear Valued Peninsula Township Customers:

As an energy provider, keeping the lights on is job one for Consumers Energy. Dealing with power outages can be frustrating for our customers, and we're proud of our team's amazing work to restore power swiftly and safely and to care for our customers who were impacted by the extreme weather Mother Nature unleashed on Michigan in 2021. To work to prevent outages, we've already more than doubled our investment in grid hardening reliability and increased our forestry investment by more than 60 percent since 2018. Looking forward, we plan to continue to significantly increase our investments in grid reliability. We have a \$5.4 billion electric reliability plan that is a blueprint for serving Michigan today and innovating to reduce the duration and number of power outages. In 2022 and 2023, Peninsula Township will see direct investments from Consumers Energy to improve reliability. We will:

- Create back-up capability as we install a line loop that will provide additional redundancy and ensure resiliency for more customers;
- Replace aging lines in various locations across the peninsula to upgrade the system;
- Update regulating equipment and line sensors to better alert us when and where problems arise, reducing the time it takes to realize an outage has occurred;
- Work on several projects this year to address vegetation and line clearing on more than 79 miles of our distribution system; and
- Upgrade the lightning and grounding equipment at both substations that serve the peninsula.

All these investments are part of our goal to improve your service. While we work to restore your power during outage events, we also want to make sure we get our customers and co-workers home safely to their families each day. We would like to thank you for your patience and grace during these storms and while we work to get better every day. We're doing everything we can to keep your lights on.

Sincerely,

Doug DeYoung

Community Affairs Regional Manager
Douglas.deyoung@cmsenergy.com



MISSION POINT LIGHTHOUSE AND PARK

Goodbye 2021, Hello 2022

On November 28, Mission Point Lighthouse's gift shop and museum closed their doors on a very successful 2021 season. In fact, our gross sales for 2021 were only about \$9,000 short of our busiest year, which occurred in 2019. The primary reason for the lower income is that we were open relatively fewer hours this year than in 2019 because of the pandemic. Even so, we made \$5,000 more this past October alone than in our highest-ever previous October. No doubt the nice weather contributed.

Our online shop will continue to be open this winter, albeit with a smaller variety of items, and we plan to re-open for the season on Saturday, April 30. As always, we will need several local volunteers to help direct visitors outside, answer questions, relieve the keepers for lunch, and assist in the shop. If you are interested, please email missionpointlight@gmail.com.

In preparation for the 2022 season, thanks to an unexpected donation, we are working on a new museum display. The first week of August, we were surprised with a \$10,000 check from a Mission Point Lighthouse fan from Ohio. This very generous donor has now given us a total of \$20,000 over the past four years! We are very grateful and happy to have money to create new museum displays. Also in August, we hosted the Michigan Lighthouse Festival. We handed out cookies and cupcakes, hosted several vendors as well as a firetruck, and enjoyed seeing the U.S. Coast Guard display a rehearsed water rescue in the lake north of the lighthouse.

Meanwhile, on-going maintenance projects are underway in the lighthouse keepers' quarters, and the nearby hiking trails are always littered with downed limbs and trees after windy days. Several volunteers have chainsaws, and our maintenance person keeps busy cleaning up the trails in the woods. In 2022, we hope to be able to fix the cracked lighthouse sidewalks. Other large future projects are listed on

our website.

The keeper program calendar for 2022 is nearly full. Of the 68 keepers we hosted in 2021, 18 were from the Chicago area, a few were from out of state, and many were from downstate Michigan. As always, our keepers enjoyed meeting and



A late autumn sunset at Mission Point Lighthouse Park

greeting the many visitors to the lighthouse and encouraging them to take the tour. If you're interested in viewing our new two-minute video about the lighthouse museum tour, visit www.missionpointlighthouse.com and be on the lookout for an exciting announcement about a new non-profit organization devoted to supporting Mission Point Lighthouse. More information will be available soon.

Finally, thank you for encouraging your visitors and guests to check out the lighthouse and adjoining park. We love hearing the nice comments and seeing folks hold book club meetings on the Adirondack chairs or picnic with food purchased locally. As the October issue of Baylife magazine commented, "If you happen to make it to the end of Old Mission Peninsula, you will be rewarded with Mission Point Lighthouse."

The experience is indeed rewarding, and locals often find this time of year especially appealing. Come on out and see for yourself. After all, Mission Point Lighthouse is your lighthouse.

Ginger Schultz, Mission Point Lighthouse Manager



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Meet the New Planner!

Note: Jenn Cram begins her official role as Peninsula Township's director of planning on January 3, 2022, but she began working for the township on a contract basis on December 14, 2021. Please join us in welcoming Jenn!

Hello, Peninsula Township,

I'm Jenn Cram, your new director of planning. I was born in Traverse City, and most of my family still resides in the area, so I'm excited to have the opportunity to call northern Michigan home again.

I graduated from Michigan State University (Go Green!) in 1994 with a degree in landscape architecture and a minor in art history. I continued to study fine art while working as the landscape architect for Meridian Township until moving to Breckenridge, Colorado, in 1999.

I worked in the planning department for the town of Breckenridge for fifteen years, where I was able to use my design sensibilities to develop the community's cultural assets, including a robust public art program and the Breckenridge Arts District campus. This legacy project included restoring four historic structures, building two new structures as well as walkways and plazas, and adding landscaping, lighting, and public art in the heart of the historic district. I was also responsible for developing Breckenridge's wayfinding program and updating historic district guidelines, landscaping, and forest health regulations.

With the arts district buildout complete, I was asked to become the director of public programs and engagement for a new 501c3 nonprofit, Breckenridge Creative Arts, or "BreckCreate," established to manage cultural assets. In this role, I had the pleasure of animating the arts district campus year-round, including resident and guest artist programs, multi-media art workshops, special events, and exhibitions.

In 2017, deciding it was time to get back to my planning roots, I accepted a position in the community development department with Larimer County in Fort Collins, Colorado. For the past four years, I have worked on both current development reviews and long-range planning efforts. This role has allowed me to work with a dynamic agricultural community as the staff liaison to the agricultural advisory board as well as assist with recent updates to the Larimer County Land Use Code related to agricultural uses.

When I'm not working, I enjoy being outdoors cycling (preferably mountain biking), hiking, paddle boarding, and x-country skiing. I'm also passionate about gardening. Last but certainly not least, I'm a mixed media artist with a focus on installation art. I am honored to join the team at Peninsula Township for this next chapter of my career.

Very sincerely,

Jenn



Peninsula Township's new planner, Jennifer Cram



A NOTE FROM OUR NEW COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER, SEAN MUGERIAN

Note: Officer Mugerian joined our existing CPO, Virnell France, in late December to provide full-time CPO coverage in Peninsula Township. Both officers will strive to answer or return phone calls the same day they receive them, but emergencies and other issues sometimes intervene. If you have an emergency that requires immediate help, call 911.



Officer Sean Mugerian
smugerian@gtsheriff.org
231-223-4525

Hello, residents and visitors of Old Mission. My name is Sean Mugerian, and I am the newest community police officer for Peninsula Township. I will be joining Deputy France in protecting and serving this wonderful area.

I was born and raised near Suttons Bay and attended Traverse City West Senior High School. Upon graduating, I enlisted in the United States Army, where I served for six years in the National Guard. I attended Lake Superior State University and graduated with a degree in criminal justice/law enforcement. I returned to Traverse City in 2015 and enrolled in the NMC Police Academy soon after.

I was hired by the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office in the fall of 2016 and have been serving the citizens of Garfield Township as a Community Police Officer for the past four years. I have always been a strong advocate for programs that bridge the gap between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

My wife, Casey, and I often spend our days off visiting Old Mission Peninsula. The area holds a special place in our hearts. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you, and I also look forward to serving this wonderful community for years to come.

Thank you all,

Sean

Due to unfortunate recent events, residents and visitors of Peninsula Township should lock their vehicles. Last year, the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office and Traverse City Police Department investigated more than 400 larcenies. Many involved items taken from unlocked vehicles.

Unfortunately, Peninsula Township is not immune to these thefts. Within the last few weeks, several vehicles have been broken into on Old Mission Peninsula and personal belongings have been taken. Please be sure to lock your vehicles to reduce the chance of becoming a victim of a crime!



ZONING DEPARTMENT

Planning and Zoning Year-End Report

Peninsula Township's planning and zoning departments operate under the authority of Michigan law, specifically the Zoning Enabling Act of 2006.

Under the direction of new township Director of Planning Jenn Cram and the planning commission, which is comprised of seven township residents, the Peninsula Township Planning Department is responsible for maintaining the township's master plan and zoning ordinance. The planning commission also reviews special use permits (SUPs) and denies or recommends their approval by the township board.

During 2021, the planning department and planning commission updated the township master plan. The master plan provides the framework for the township's zoning ordinance, which is intended to implement the objectives of the master plan. In December, the master plan was submitted to neighboring jurisdictions for their review and comment as required by the Zoning Enabling Act. During the first quarter of 2022, the commission will review any comments received, potentially make amendments, and send the master plan to the township board for review and approval.

During 2021, work also continued on the reorganization of the 1972 zoning ordinance. After numerous public hearings at the planning commission and township board, the reorganized zoning ordinance was returned to the planning commission to review the citizen comments made at the public hearings and/or received by the clerk. It is anticipated that the master plan and reorganized zoning ordinance will be approved by the township board by mid year.

The planning department and planning commission also began work in 2021 on sections of the zoning ordinance that will be impacted by the new master plan. Work is underway with citizen groups to gather information, and everyone is encouraged to attend planning

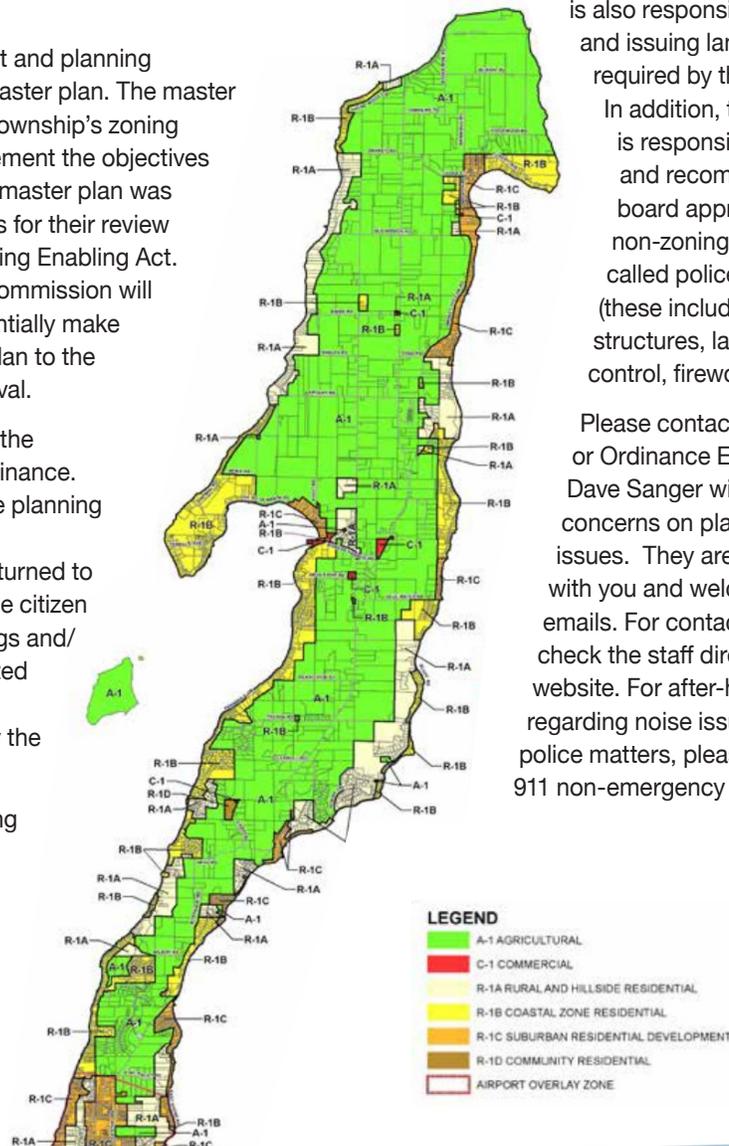
commission monthly meetings and subcommittee meetings to express concerns and comments.

The Peninsula Township Zoning Department, under the direction of Christina Deeren, is responsible for enforcing the various township ordinances, including the zoning ordinance, and for overseeing the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). Comprised of five township residents, the ZBA reviews and then approves or rejects property owners' requests for relief (through a variance) from the zoning ordinance.

The zoning department is also responsible for reviewing and issuing land use permits as required by the zoning ordinance.

In addition, the zoning department is responsible for reviewing and recommending township board approval of changes to non-zoning ordinances, also called police power ordinances (these include noise, dangerous structures, large events, stormwater control, fireworks, and junk).

Please contact Jenn, Christina, or Ordinance Enforcement Officer Dave Sanger with any questions or concerns on planning and zoning issues. They are available to work with you and welcome your calls or emails. For contact information, please check the staff directory on the township website. For after-hours concerns regarding noise issues or non-emergency police matters, please remember to call the 911 non-emergency line at 231-922-4550.





Old Mission Women's Club Celebrates 90th Year!

Old Mission Women's Club (OMWC) celebrated its 90th year (1931–2021) and a busy fall season with our members back in action with four in-person meetings after a year of Zooming. Our speakers included representatives from Dolly Parton Imagination Library, our own Mary Morgan updating us on the Local History Room at Peninsula Community Library, Dr. Steven Thomas educating members about skin cancer, and representatives from the Laundry Project, last year's OMWC grant recipient.

OMWC was assigned a remodeled home on the peninsula in September for the annual Parade of Homes. Lori Brickman and Virginia Coulter, who co-chaired this fundraiser, were joined by approximately 25 members who worked two-hour shifts at the home over the four-day event.

The months of November and December are filled with charitable projects and fundraisers and are always especially busy. The Kids in Our Backyard committee, co-chaired by Jane Conard and Linda Stegenga, purchased winter clothing and boots for 27 Old Mission Peninsula children who needed our help. Jane Conard also co-chaired, along with Liz Verschure, our Thanksgiving Baskets committee, which coordinated the food drive by members for complete Thanksgiving dinners that were delivered to 12 families on the peninsula. Throughout the year, satin pillowcases are made by committee members and donated to the Cowell Cancer Center, a project co-chaired by Fran Krupka and Susan Arnold.

Fall is also the time when members get to nominate their favorite charity for grants to be awarded each April. One of our newer members, Lori Andrzejewski Hall, heads up our appropriations committee. Final nominees for our grants will be chosen in March.

OMWC welcomed six new members in the fall who eagerly began signing up for projects and fundraisers. Some baked holiday cookies for our Annual Fancy Christmas Cookie Sale, which occurred in early December. Despite the lingering

pandemic and a day of extreme weather fluctuations, the sale was a huge success. We sold out by 11:30 a.m. The raffle of five beautiful holiday boxes, each containing five dozen decorated sugar cookies, various other holiday cookies, and a dozen chocolate truffles, all baked by Janis Haine, was once again very successful in raising monies that go towards our grants in April.

For the first time in two years, members were able to attend one of the club's three annual luncheons, the holiday luncheon, held at the Traverse City Country Club on December 9.

After enjoying a sumptuous buffet, members were entertained by Audrey Michael, a senior at TC West High School, singing Christmas carols with the sweetest of voices. This was also the day the stocking committee, co-chaired by Candy Brody and Lynn Pettyjohn, collected our members' handmade, creative, and beautiful stockings filled with goodies to deliver to Addiction Treatment Services and the Women's Resource Center.

To end the year, approximately 22 of our members baked and decorated 70 dozen sugar cookies, which were delivered to the Traverse City Track Club for its annual Jingle Bell Marathon held right before Christmas.

We all feel truly blessed to be able to meet in person once again to continue our storied history of education and philanthropy.

Janis Haine, President, Old Mission Women's Club



Handmade stockings filled with goodies and necessities for the Women's Resource Center

THE OLD MISSION WOMEN'S CLUB IS HOSTING A BARN SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday, May 20, 2022, from 9:00–4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 21, from 9:00–3:00 p.m. at the historic Fowler barn.

Featured in *Barns of Old Mission Peninsula and Their Stories*, this lovely barn is located at 6782 Center Road just south of Pelizzari Natural Area. Items for sale will include small furniture pieces, toys, tools, lamps, linens, kitchenware, jewelry, accessories, pictures, home decor, sporting equipment, and much, much more. Ample parking will be available, and a wide variety of items will surely be of interest to individuals of all ages!

All major credit cards will be accepted. Profits from the sale provide financial grants to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that operate in the Grand Traverse area.



NEWS FROM THE DOUGHERTY HOUSE

A Look Back at Our 2021 Raised Garden Beds

The garden beds at the Dougherty house offered something special to visitors in 2021—a glimpse at how Native Americans in this area raised plants for food and medicinal purposes. After attending a Zoom presentation about traditional medicinal plants and conducting a great deal of additional research—after all, using plants in medicines goes back thousands of years—the garden committee planted two raised beds with sacred tobacco, liatris, rose plant, black cohosh, calendula, lambs quarters, plantain, mullein, and wild bergamot (also known as monarda). We also posted well-received informational signs alongside each plant.

A third raised bed was home to the Three Sisters, a symbiotic planting of corn, beans, and squash that

exemplifies a traditional form of companion gardening developed by Native Americans: as the corn grows tall, it provides support for the beans, which add nitrogen to the soil and nourish the corn and squash, while the squash offers large leaves that provide shade to keep moisture in the soil for all three plants.

Our fourth and final raised garden bed contained many herbal plants and was a joy to the senses. We learned a lot this year and will make improvements in 2022, including planting sweet grass in an enclosed frame. Traditionally used in prayers, smudging, purifying ceremonies, and basket making, sweet grass is sacred to Native Americans.

These four raised bed plantings were a master garden project led by Master Gardener Emeritus Connie A. Sargent. She was supported by Joan Bonney, Janet Kidd, Anita Klein, Laura Johnson, and Carolyn Taylor.

DOCENTS, TOURS, AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thanks for keeping the history alive!

Thank you; so glad we stopped.

Fantastic job of restoration!

Wonderful—a lot of work!

Great tour; so much history!

Very worthwhile; tell everyone! Awesome!

Marvelous!

Really interesting stories. Congratulations.

These are just a few of the comments written in the guest registry at the Dougherty House. We opened for tours in July with our new docents joining our seasoned volunteers to provide educational tours. The docents enjoyed meeting visitors and sharing the history of the house, and visitors expressed great appreciation and amazement at the years of work it took to rehab the buildings and property. If you haven't yet visited the Dougherty House, please take the time this year to bring your neighbors, friends, or tour group. It's a very special place!

If you've visited and want to give back, we're always looking for volunteers. We would appreciate your help with yard work, cleaning, giving tours, planting gardens, and maintenance. We also have a very active work crew that undertakes more physically demanding projects. We'd love you to join us as a volunteer this spring as we prepare to reopen in 2022. Contact us at doughertyoldmission@yahoo.com.



Help Us Eradicate Purple Loosestrife in 2022!

Invasive plants are a concern throughout the peninsula. Over the last few years, volunteers have pulled garlic mustard on the Dougherty House property, and last year the plant was treated with an herbicide to keep it from coming back.

Another species of concern includes the very prolific plant called purple loosestrife. Identified by its magenta-colored flower spikes, this plant grows five to ten feet high and is prolific in wetlands, ditches, and along roads, ponds, and streams. When mature, a single plant can grow as many as thirty flowering stems that can produce an estimated two to three million seeds per year!

Because it reproduces rapidly via underground stems at a rate of about one foot per year and chokes out native flora, purple loosestrife is detrimental to wetlands and native species. This summer, after noticing several hundreds of these plants at Kelley Park near the Dougherty House, docents Connie Sargent and Rachel Myers along with Rachel's father, David, worked to remove the plants and decrease the likelihood of it spreading. Digging the plant takes a good amount of muscle due to its strong and fibrous roots. David worked hard digging plants while Connie and Rachel removed many blossoms to keep the seeds from spreading. Successfully removing this plant is a huge undertaking that will require many hours and a fair amount of muscle. If you can help next summer, please contact Connie at doughertyoldmission@yahoo.com. Also be on the lookout for this plant near your home, as removing it early can help stop the spread.



Purple loosestrife in full bloom at Kelley Park this past summer



Purple loosestrife all bagged up

Goodbye to Old Friends along the Road

If you've recently driven by the Dougherty House, you will notice that several old maple trees have been trimmed or cut down. Although it's sad to see them go, they were in poor condition, dangerously dropping large limbs on the property and on Mission Road. We are hoping to memorialize them in the future. Let us know if you have ideas!

Bill Cole Memorial Tree and Pavilion

Using donations from friends, the Peter Dougherty Society has planted a beautiful maple tree along the handicapped trail behind the icehouse and constructed a memorial pavilion that will be placed in the side yard next spring to honor former Dougherty House President Bill Cole. Thank you to all who contributed!

Museum Exhibits

In 2020, we mounted a wonderful exhibit highlighting pioneer and entrepreneur H. K. Brinkman and the village of Old Mission in the 1850s. Our 2022 season exhibit will highlight individuals and the lives of resorters in Old Mission. Stop by next summer to see our new presentation!

Let There Be Light!

The Dougherty House museum is engaged in a professional museum lighting project. Through a generous donation of electrical engineering time, we have been able to put together a plan to illuminate our displays and exhibits in phases over the next several years.

Connie Sargent and Jessica Schippers,
Peter Dougherty Society



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PARKS COMMITTEE

The Future of Our Parks

Of the nearly 18,000 acres of land in Peninsula Township, almost 1,200 are parkland or preserved historical sites, with the township owning or managing 833 acres.

It's a big and noble responsibility, and the fall 2019 survey of township residents both confirmed and underscored what most of us already know: citizens greatly value our parks and the historical treasures present on this special body of land.

According to the 2019 survey:

- More than 80% of residents agree that local policies should stay focused on maintaining the rural, recreational, and undeveloped character of Peninsula Township; 71% of respondents want to keep as much of the rural character and historic landscape as possible.
- Nearly 80% of residents support the development of a non-motorized transportation plan that includes connecting park facilities with bike paths or trails and installing pedestrian safety features such as pavement markings and signage.

These numbers are huge, but the township's ability to keep pace with increased use, increased needs, and increased requests is limited. Usage is way up, but our facilities are aging and our capacity to manage needs has not changed even as the use and needs of parklands have changed dramatically in recent years. From a significant population increase to huge tourism growth to new demands from users as COVID-19 continues to encourage more outdoor activity, it's clear these resources are more valued than ever and likewise in greater need of attention.

Just a few examples:

- Bowers Harbor Park is heavily used for family and group activities such as court sports and playground equipment. As they say in real estate lingo, "Maintenance has been deferred." Courts and playground equipment are in serious need of big upgrades.

- Universally accessible trails are needed so that more of our mobility impaired citizens can enjoy our parks. Specific locations include the Bowers Harbor Park addition, the immediate vicinity of Mission Point Lighthouse, and a section of Pelizzari Natural Area.
- Kelley Park is now the location of the only township-managed boat launch, but equipment acquisition and construction have yet to begin.



- Our historical properties are in need of crucial structural care. Maintaining such buildings requires adherence to strict historical standards, and the investments can be significant.
- Pelizzari Natural Area is the only parkland in the most densely populated portion of the south end of the township. It's a beloved location that helps reduce traffic flowing north. There are opportunities to expand the natural area, which will provide more hiking trails and avoid development in a bottleneck section of the township.
- Restroom upgrades or additions in several locations are needed and even being demanded.

There's more, but this list offers a hint of the significant number of projects facing Peninsula Township and the fact that we are at a crossroads: our parks' needs are great but our resources

are limited. Funding annual maintenance is a struggle, and there is neither money nor manpower to make significant improvements.

Last spring, facing this problem head on, the Peninsula Township Board of Trustees and Peninsula Township



Courtesy of city of Traverse City

Parks Committee contracted with the nonprofit planning organization LIAA (short for Land Information Access Association) to help investigate a feasible operating and maintenance budget for township parks. Parks committee members surveyed the parks and collected information to gain a better understanding of current maintenance needs and other needs that are not being met. The resulting report

The funding study is complete and was presented to the township board (and posted to the township website at www.peninsulatownship.com) on January 25, 2022, followed by a public input process to gather feedback from residents. The township board and parks committee want Peninsula Township residents to see this study and help us determine what to do next. Should we leave matters as they

WHAT SHOULD THE TOP PRIORITIES BE FOR OUR PARKS?

Weigh in at www.participateoldmission.com and/or attend one of our two identical open houses from 4:00–7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, at First Congregational Church or Wednesday, February 23, at Peninsula Township Hall.

summarizes these findings and makes recommendations for operating and capital expenditures. Here are some of the key takeaways from the effort:

Instead of pitting parks against other basic public services, the township wants to explore alternative sources of funding that could support basic park operations as well as provide leverage to attract outside sources of funding for larger maintenance and capital improvement projects at the parks.

A key gap in current park operations is a lack of dedicated staff to manage the parks' many and growing needs. Additional help would improve administration and maintenance of the parks and enable the township to take advantage of recreational grant programs for capital improvements.

The list of identified parks' needs is long and growing and can't all be addressed at once. Public input will be needed to help identify and prioritize desired projects at the parks and determine which funding sources to pursue.

are? Should we pursue alternate sources of funding? What should the top priorities be for our parks?

Please weigh in with your thoughts and preferences at www.participateoldmission.com and/or at one of our two upcoming identical public open houses. Our first open house will be held Tuesday, February 22, at First Congregational Church; the second will be held Wednesday, February 23, at Peninsula Township Hall. Both open houses will run from 4:00–7:00 p.m. Save a date and see you there!

In addition, a citizen's group comprised of passionate individuals independent of the township is forming to work on this subject. Anyone who would like to be involved in these efforts with the parks can contact Mary Beth Milliken to express interest. Mary Beth can be reached at (231) 590-5880 or mbmillikenonpeninsula@gmail.com.



THE WATERSHED CENTER GRAND TRAVERSE BAY



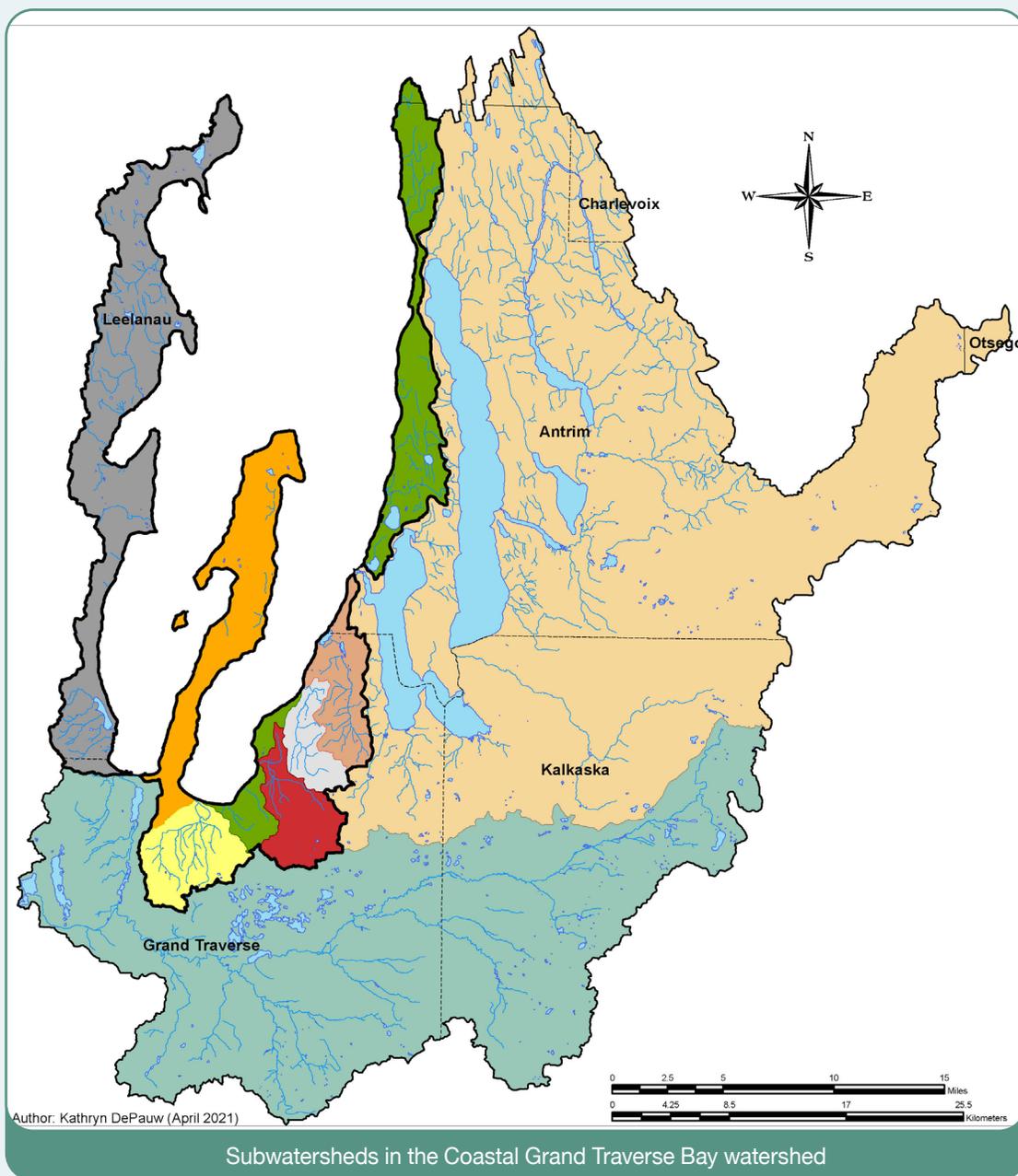
Coastal Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Plan Approved by State and Federal Agencies

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay is pleased to announce its Coastal Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Plan has been formally approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. With grant funding from EGLE in 2018 and input from more than 60 stakeholders from local, state, and federal agencies as well as local businesses and nonprofit organizations, this more than 300-page document updates the original 2005 plan and focuses on the smaller drainage areas within the watershed and on Grand Traverse Bay itself.

Totalling 190 square miles that encompass seven lakes, six major rivers/creeks, and more than 100 additional small streams, the Coastal Grand Traverse Bay watershed includes the subwatershed areas of Mitchell, Tobeco, Acme, and Yuba creeks as well as areas along east and west Grand Traverse Bay and Old Mission Peninsula.

Laying out a vision and framework of watershed protection for years to come, the plan assists area watershed groups, lake associations, local governments, volunteer

groups, and others in making sound decisions that help improve and protect water quality. In addition to providing a general description of the Coastal Grand Traverse Bay watershed, the new plan outlines current water quality



conditions in both Grand Traverse Bay and the coastal watershed area and prioritizes pollution threats, sources, and causes. It also provides goals and recommendations for water quality protection and a comprehensive section of potential tasks and projects to reduce threats.

Overall, the prevailing opinion among experts is that the water quality in Grand Traverse Bay is excellent. One of the few remaining high-quality embayments in the Great



Courtesy of city of Traverse City

Legend

-  GT Bay Watershed
-  Coastal Subwatersheds
-  Lakes & Ponds
-  Rivers & Streams
-  County Boundary
-  Acme Creek
-  Boardman River
-  East Bay Shoreline
-  Elk River Chain of Lakes
-  Mitchell Creek
-  Old Mission Peninsula
-  Tobeco Creek
-  West Bay Shoreline
-  Yuba Creek

GRAND TRAVERSE BAY WATERSHED

FIGURE 2: SUBWATERSHEDS

Lakes, it arguably has the highest water quality of all the larger Lake Michigan bays. Nonetheless, invasive species and toxic substances including emerging contaminants like PFAS and microplastics are a priority concern. Additionally, localized areas have elevated nutrients that may cause problems. Priority pollutants within the coastal watershed streams and tributaries include nutrients, sediments, changes to hydrologic flow, and loss of habitat. Further, areas such as Mitchell Creek and Northport Creek face localized pollution inputs and impairments from pathogens. Other major sources of pollutants include road-stream crossings, shoreline erosion, storm water, reduced wetlands, lack of riparian buffers/streamside canopy, and septic systems. Project steering committee members believe that focusing on initiatives that reduce the deleterious impact of these sources will address the bulk of pollution entering Grand Traverse Bay and its coastal watershed.

Since the first Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan was finalized in 2005, dozens of organizations have utilized it to shape their restoration and outreach activities. Annually, the plan prevents 1,726 tons of sediment, 1,482 pounds of phosphorus, and 4,604 pounds of nitrogen from entering Grand Traverse Bay and its watershed. Since 2005, it has prevented more than 25,000 tons of sediment, 17,600 pounds of phosphorus, and 49,800 pounds of nitrogen from entering the bay and watershed.

The Watershed Center has also partnered with other organizations to develop watershed plans for the two largest subwatersheds in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed, the Boardman River and the Elk River Chain of Lakes. Link to these plans are available at www.gtbay.org.

Sarah U'Ren, Program Director,
The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay



PENINSULA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Beyond Words

Ahhh...winter in the north. A magical time! I adore hiking through our snowy Old Mission woods. There is nothing quite as exhilarating as exploring the quiet trails all bundled up against wind and cold. On the other hand, sitting by the fire in flannel jammies with a great book and a warm drink is equally appealing. No matter your seasonal preference, we have books and programming to please. Come on in and warm yourself by our fire!

Time Traveler

Local history is offered the third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Old Mission Gazette's Jane Boursaw joins us in January to talk about growing up on her family's farm, and she promises a few secrets! February features our local history librarian, Mary Morgan, and the recent donation of the Tate letters, an Old Mission farm family's correspondence from the last century.

Be Mine, Valentine!

Bring your creativity on February 12 to decorate a fancy heart cupcake and card for your love. Space is limited. Patrons of all ages can call to save a spot!

Think Spring!

Justin Stockwell of HTG Supply shares tips on starting your summer garden indoors through the use of grow lights. Join us for this program on February 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The Women of the Copper Country

Join us February 28 at 6:30 p.m. for a discussion on this Great Michigan Read by Mary

Doria Russell. After the discussion, we will show the PBS film *Red Metal: The Copper Country Strike of 1913*.

Books are available in the library. The program is made possible by a grant through Michigan Humanities.

“My old grandmother always used to say, ‘Summer friends will melt away like summer snows, but winter friends are friends forever.’”

–George R. R. Martin,
A Feast for Crows

The Regulars

Pageturners meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis. PCL's 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 kids is offered the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 a.m. Social Mahjong occurs the second and fourth Wednesdays from 1:00–4:00 p.m. You must RSVP via email to Kathy Schwartz

at kesrn73@yahoo.com to participate. Reading Dog Lani joins us on Tuesdays from 3:30–4:30 p.m. Threads meets Mondays from 10:00–noon. Bring a project and work among friends!

Pick Up and Take Out

Kids may 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, that is!



A young patron and Reading Dog Lani



At Your Service

PCL offers 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 on site. Check out STEM kits for kids thanks to a grant from Newton’s Road and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. 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!

Hours

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



OLD MISSION PENINSULA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events Galore for OMPHS

Old Mission Peninsula Historical Society had a busy, event-filled 2020 summer and fall. Under the leadership of Jim Hall, Brian Brooks, Laura Johnson, and our local Boy Scout Troop 32, new trees were planted along peninsula roads. In addition, OMPHS planted a sugar maple on the Dougherty House grounds in memory of former Dougherty Society President Bill Cole and a red maple honoring the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic on the grounds of the Peninsula Community Library.

On August 29, OMPHS held its debut Harvesting History event in six locations on the peninsula. Activities on this day of learning and celebration included dancing on the Dougherty House lawn to old-time music played by the Good Happy Time Banjo Band, sampling fabulous cookies donated by Janis Haine and the Old Mission Women’s Club, attending a program on harvesting cherries at the Peninsula Community Library, marveling at quilts at the United Methodist Church, and much more.

Presently, a variety of wooden laser-cut holiday ornaments depicting historical sites on the peninsula such as the Dougherty House, the Replica Log Church, the Hessler Log Cabin, and Mission Point Lighthouse are being sold at Peninsula Market. Proceeds go towards supporting OMPHS projects. Get these ornaments while they last!

September’s OMPHS program was a talk by Sarah Thomas on the noted Lincoln biography her father authored. In November, retired diplomat and township resident Tim Carroll presented a program on the Cavasos–Carroll connection and hand harvesting cherries from 1935–1960. The December program, via Zoom, highlighted Tom Dalluge reading a holiday story from book five of the Elson-Gray Basic Reader. The story, which clearly takes place on Old Mission Peninsula, will soon be available at PCL. In January, society members enjoyed a program about the history of Bassett Island. The February program will discuss the Hannah-Lay Building, and March’s program will present the history of the Peninsula Township Fire Department. April’s program is presently being arranged. The program year will close in May with a presentation on the history of libraries in the Grand Traverse area.

Please join us for our meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Peninsula Community Library (masks must be worn at all times) and check out our website at www.omphistoricalociety.org.

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



CITIZENS' AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizens' Agricultural Advisory Committee has been meeting bi-weekly since November 2, 2021. Consisting of 17 members, all Peninsula Township residents, the group is tasked with making recommendations to the planning commission to revise ordinances relating to agriculturally zoned land in the township. With representation from the north and south ends of the township, members are citizens at large, local farm marketers, and members of Protect the

and has begun work on several recommendations for the planning commission to evaluate. In general, the group has found consensus around the idea that future use rights on agricultural lands should be consistent across crops and farm types. The committee's first formal recommendation is the repeal of the existing Winery-Chateau Ordinance and the Remote Wine Tasting Room Ordinance. Brit Eaton, Rudy Rudolph, Elise Holman, Lew Seibold, and David Taft



Photo courtesy of John Russell

Peninsula; two township board members also sit on the committee, as does the township planner. Additionally, three seats have been reserved for the Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula, although no wineries have participated in the committee to date. The meetings are conducted in an open format, and ongoing participation by members of the public is both allowed and encouraged.

To date, the committee has spent much of its time discussing and debating the pros and cons of existing ordinances

have each made presentations to the committee, carefully analyzing the current state of affairs and proposing options for new or revised uses. Our new planner, Jenn Cram, comes to us from Laramie County, CO, and recently worked through a similar process. She is hard at work researching best practices for ordinances related to farm stands, farm markets, and farmers' markets and will present her findings at our next meeting.



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Peninsula Township Fire Department 2022 Winter News

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. With 2021 in the rearview mirror, we are extremely glad to be re-engaging with all our residents, at least on a limited basis, and getting back to seeing the people we protect outside of emergencies. It's good to be able to provide lifesaving messages, show the little ones our equipment, and put smiles on their faces and ours. We truly love interacting with our residents and are very hopeful the pandemic will wane in 2022 so that it is safe for all of us to resume our normal lives.

While 2021 was challenging, we still completed our mission of protecting our residents and providing the highest possible level of fire and emergency medical service. Your firefighters worked hard to hone their skills and continuously be prepared to deliver our services. We have a very dedicated staff of people who love the peninsula and those they serve, and we are blessed to have great community support. During the pandemic, people continuously reached out to see if we needed anything and to make sure we were okay. For this, we are deeply grateful as well as humbled.

In 2021, fire deaths in Michigan continued to be a problem. As of this writing, we saw 90 deaths in 79 reported fires. Most fires were caused by smoking, heating, and cooking, respectively, and many could have been prevented with working smoke detectors. The Peninsula Township Fire Department can provide smoke detectors to any residents who need them; we can also change your batteries.

Residents should check their detectors weekly by pushing the test button. It takes no time at all to check this device that could save your life in the event of a fire. It's also easy to remember to change your batteries: do so every time you change your clocks each spring and fall.

With winter upon us, if you haven't already done so, we would also like to remind you to have your furnaces and chimneys checked by a qualified technician. In addition, please keep

all combustibles at a minimum of three feet from a heating source. If you use a space heater, make sure it isn't plugged into an extension cord, which can be very dangerous due to the electrical draw that space heaters require.

With Fire station #3 completed in the north end of the township and our associated increases in staffing, the fire department can now decrease its overall response times. Having qualified staff available to respond more quickly to fires and medical emergencies greatly improves outcomes. The fire department prides itself on providing a high level of service quickly, but recruiting and retaining qualified firefighters is currently a challenge, and we are still looking for local residents to join our ranks and help serve our community. If anyone is interested in learning more, please give us a call at 231-223-4443.

This year, we purchased a new ambulance to replace our former 22-year-old ambulance. This new vehicle, expected to arrive in January, will reside at Fire station #2 in the south end of the township and will enhance our ability to deliver emergency medical services with newer technology and vehicle construction that is safer and more efficient. This ambulance will be red just like our fire engines, and we are giving our other ambulance a makeover so it will be red as well. While the color of the ambulances is changing, your Peninsula Township Fire Department staff will still deliver the service.

The fire department wishes all of you a safe and happy 2022. Please stop by any of our stations to say hello. We would love to show you and your family our equipment and help you with plans to create a safe environment in your homes. We appreciate your support and the support of the town board as we continue to strive to provide the highest quality service.

Yours in Life Safety,

Fire Chief Fred Gilstorff

THANK YOU TO THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS!

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians recently granted the Peninsula Township Fire Department \$24,856 to purchase a Stryker Grant Power Load and Compatibility Kit. This unit lifts stretchers into the ambulance, eliminating the need for firefighters to use excessive force and thereby decreasing the potential for back and leg injuries. The Peninsula Township Fire Department is very grateful to the tribe for this grant and its continued support.



Non-Motorized Transportation on Old Mission



< Township Citizen Ideas

The clearest takeaway from the most recent township citizen survey is the need for a non-motorized transportation plan. Input came from both directions: recreational enthusiasts wanting safer routes and motorists frustrated with road use patterns. In all, 80% of residents support the need to work on this issue.

Appointees to the master plan steering committee immediately went to work on the issue, reaching out to the area’s leader on non-motorized trails, TART. The township has many hundreds of TART members, and those residents, through the township’s online tool Participate Old Mission, also endorsed TART’s participation.

TART employees met with township representatives on various occasions and attended a parks committee meeting as well as a planning commission meeting. They received a formal endorsement from those bodies as well as the township board to assist in the effort.

TART has since advised that early stage work to best define citizens’ preferences should be led by the township with TART available in the future to assist.

Heeding that advice, an advisory committee was formed and weekly meetings began in early January with other citizens joining the process. The overwhelming consensus is that all

work must be transparent and inclusive of any who wish to participate. The advisory committee’s mission is to evaluate immediate near-term changes to existing roadways in partnership with residents, the county road commission, and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). It will also evaluate the feasibility of true off-road routes.

One early development is the recognition of a cluster of forty-five businesses, farm operations, public properties, and other places of interest in the vicinity of Nelson Road to north beyond Mapleton. Especially with Old Mission School, Peninsula Community Library, and the township offices within that cluster, it makes sense to consider how a safe trail loop might be created. No firm plans exist and no parties will be forced to participate if the interest isn’t there. Besides reaching out to the forty-five separate operations to gauge their interest, public input from all is welcomed.

Weekly meetings to date have been held Thursday evenings, 7:00 p.m., at the town hall. All meetings are public and the schedule posted on the township website; meeting agendas can be received in advance by contacting the deputy clerk at deputy.clerk@peninsulatownship.com.

If any elements to the non-motorized effort begin to firm up, they may be presented at public open houses in February in conjunction with information on parks. So please take the opportunity to weigh in via any of these means: public meetings, open houses, or the township’s online input tool, Participate Old Mission.



FREE TV RECYCLING!

The Grand Traverse County RecycleSmart program is happy to announce that beginning December 15, Bay Area Recycling for Charities (BARC) will be accepting old TVs and computer monitors free of charge (up to 500 total). This program is for Grand Traverse County residents only and is limited to one TV per household. Please bring proof of residency to participate. For more information, call BARC at 231-632-2272 or visit their website.



SMOKE ALARM DROP OFF PROGRAM

The Grand Traverse County (GTC) Resource Recovery Department and the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department have teamed up to bring GTC residents a Smoke Alarm Drop Off program.

You may now bring your old smoke alarms to either the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Administration office at 897 Parsons Rd. or Grand Traverse Metro Fire Station #11 at 3000 Albany Dr. during normal hours of operation. The drop-off containers are located just inside the main entry doors.

Smoke alarms should be tested monthly, batteries replaced bi-annually (old batteries may be brought to the Peninsula Township office and placed in a bucket in the foyer to be recycled), and whole units replaced every 10 years.

BAYSHORE 2022 RETURNS THIS SPRING

The Traverse City Track Club (TCTC) is preparing to open registration for its 40th anniversary Bayshore running events to be held Saturday, May 28, 2022.

After a two-year pause, the Traverse City Track Club (TCTC) is preparing to present the 40th “Birthday” of Bayshore running events to be held Saturday, May 28, 2022. The first ever Bayshore events were first held in 1983.

Registration for the 40th Bayshore Marathon, half marathon, 10K, and the Munson Healthcare Bayshore Kids Fun Run opened December 1, 2021, for the 2022 Memorial Day weekend event.

“All indications are that Bayshore 2022 is expected to quickly reach its caps, especially now that we can return to in-person racing,” said Traverse City Track Club Executive Director Lisa Taylor. “Holding the Bayshore events once again in 2022 is not only a relief to runners from all over the country who have missed the in-person Bayshore Marathon for two years but is also important to our community,” she added.

Each year, the approximately \$250,000 profit from successful Bayshore events is used to support membership and is donated back to the Traverse City-area community in the form of grants, scholarships, and planned giving. To date, charitable giving from Bayshore events to non-profit organizations that align with the club’s walking/running mission has exceeded two million dollars, including more than \$75,000 going to non-profit organizations residing in Peninsula Township.

The event is approaching a record year with current numbers in the marathon (26.2 miles) at its capacity of 3,750, the half marathon (13.1 miles) at 1,800 of 2,500 spots available, and the 10K (6.2 miles) at 1,700 of 2,250 spots available.

The annual procedures for permits and approvals is underway, and TCTC hopes to hold the event on the usual course along East Grand Traverse Bay on the Old Mission Peninsula. At this time, the closure of Bluff Road at its main erosion point is being addressed in case course adjustments are needed in the last mile before the turnaround of the marathon on Bluff Rd.

Traverse City Track Club’s attention will continue to center on guidance from local and state health and law enforcement officials to offer a safe running experience for all neighbors, volunteers, and participants and visitors of Bayshore events. Updated information about the event can be found on the Bayshore website at www.bayshoremarathon.org where an in-depth 2022 FAQ page is available as the most common questions from registrants are identified.

Lisa Taylor, Executive Director, Traverse City Track Club





CLERK'S OFFICE



Peninsula Township Grew 11.68 Percent in the Last Decade

2020 Census figures put the population of Peninsula Township at 6,068. In the 2010 Census, the population was 5,433. That's an increase of 635 people, or 11.68 percent. Grand Traverse County grew by 9.5 percent in this timeframe.

Many Cemetery Sales in 2021

In 2021, the clerk's office sold 54 plots at Peninsula Township Cemetery. Eleven were in the green section, 42 were in the regular section, and we also sold our very first plot in the pet section of the cemetery.

New Voter ID Cards Coming Soon

It's going to be a busy year in the clerk's office. On the heels of the 2020 Census, Michigan is drawing new senate, state house, and county commissioner districts with corresponding new district numbers. All Peninsula Township voters will henceforth be in the 103rd district along with Acme, East Bay, Garfield, Long Lake, and Traverse City voters. This means registered voters will need new voter ID cards. Watch for these in the mail sometime this spring.

We Don't Have to Split Our Precincts...Yet

Did you know that state law requires a precinct to be split once the number of active registered voters exceeds 2,999? Breathe a sigh of relief...Although our numbers have increased, we still meet the precinct requirements. As of January 3, 2022, we have a total of 5,612 registered voters in Peninsula Township: 2,796 of them reside in Precinct 1 and 2,816 reside in Precinct 2.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

We have two elections coming up in 2022:

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

Some townships will hold local elections on May 3, 2022, but no such election is expected in Peninsula Township at this time.

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.

Want to Vote Absentee?

If you are a registered voter in Peninsula Township, would like to vote by absentee ballot, and aren't already on the permanent absentee voter list, please email elections@peninsulatownship.com to ask to be placed on this list.

Calling All Poll Workers

If you would like to help with either the August or November 2022 elections (or both), please reach out to clerk@peninsulatownship.com to request an election inspector application. We would welcome your inquiry and assistance!

It's Audit Time for Voting Records in Peninsula Township

Question: how does a clerk's office know its voter registration records are up to date?

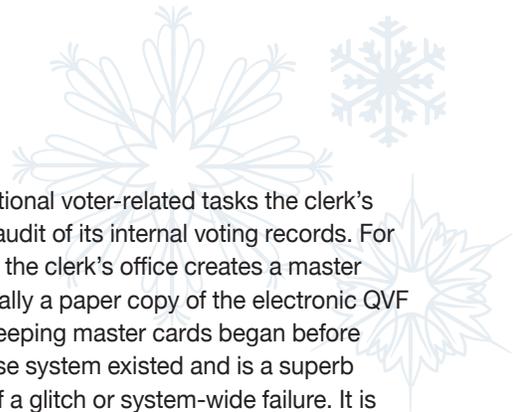
Answer: accredited individuals in the clerk's office continuously update the statewide Qualified Voter File (QVF) database (read on for more information about QVF) as they receive information from voters, their county clerk, and the Secretary of State's office. In addition, these same accredited individuals audit our inter-office voting records.

All Michigan voter information is recorded and stored in a single centralized voter registration system called QVF, which is maintained in tandem by the Michigan Bureau of Elections, the Secretary of State, and local, city, and county clerk offices. The QVF database records every voter's registered address and keeps a history of any moves the voter has made.

Naturally, clerks often hear directly from new residents who reach out to register to vote. Just as often, clerks hear from the Secretary of State's office that a voter has moved in or out of a jurisdiction via a notification in QVF that prompts the clerk to update their voter information. In addition, each month, the Grand Traverse County Vital Records office distributes a list of county residents who have passed away. Once again,



A busy Election Day in Peninsula Township



One of the many additional voter-related tasks the clerk's office performs is an audit of its internal voting records. For each registered voter, the clerk's office creates a master card, which is essentially a paper copy of the electronic QVF file. This practice of keeping master cards began before the electronic database system existed and is a superb backup in the event of a glitch or system-wide failure. It is a best practice to annually compare each master card to its corresponding electronic file to be sure all information matches and has been properly recorded. This process involves checking names, addresses, and signatures on cards against QVF, removing cards for cancelled voters, and investigating address changes.

this process triggers a notice to the local clerk to update, i.e., cancel, the deceased voter's record. By spending routine time in QVF processing these notices, registering new voters, and mailing them their new voter id cards, your local clerk's office maintains an up-to-date record of registered voters.

Your Peninsula Township clerk's office is undertaking this audit now and will continue to work diligently year in and year out to maintain the accuracy and integrity of our voter information. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We welcome your inquiries.



ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

News from the Assessing Office

Proposal A, which passed in 1994, is the basis for Michigan's property tax structure. Prior to its enactment, taxes were based upon the "market" value of property. Therefore, there was no limit to the amount of annual property tax increases. This situation was very challenging, particularly for taxpayers on fixed budgets, as their incomes did not keep pace with escalating market values.

Now, there are limits to the amount that taxes can increase annually. Generally, the increase is limited to the Inflation Rate Multiplier (IRM) or 5%, whichever is less. The IRM is computed annually and released by the Michigan State Tax Commission. The IRM for the 2022 assessments has been determined to be 3.3%. This inflation rate, expressed as a multiplier, is 1.033. Local units cannot adopt or develop an IRM other than 1.033 in 2022.

There are some circumstances in which taxes can increase beyond those percentages. By way of example, these include new construction, demolition, or transfers of ownership.

Much work goes into preparing the annual assessment change notices. These important documents are mailed annually to all taxpayers in the municipality. While this notice is not a tax bill, it imparts very important information that can impact your tax bill. The form identifies the previous and tentative assessed values, taxable values, and capped values in addition to the exemption status, legal description, classification, and transfer of ownership status. The IRM is also noted on the form.

Annual assessment change notices are mailed out mid February each year; please examine the contents for accuracy. If you have any questions, please reach out to the assessor's office for help.



WINTER 2022

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Peninsula Township Newsletter

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