

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

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Please Give Locally This Year and Make a Difference Here at Home

November 19, 2020

Dear Peninsula Township Residents and Neighbors,

We are writing today to inform you of an ongoing challenge and to ask for your help.

We are fortunate indeed on this sixteen-mile-long peninsula to be surrounded by thousands of acres of world-class fruitbelt farmland, magnificent scenic views, and a parks system that is a key component of our cherished quality of life, especially now, when more people than ever before are heading outdoors to safely recreate.

But this increased use has a flip side. Each of our township parks is seeing record numbers of visitors, yet several lack adequate parking and trail systems, and signs throughout all our parks need upgrading, as do bathroom facilities. We recently replaced the playground equipment at Haserot Beach, but Bowers Harbor Park's equipment no longer meets current standards. Likewise, while we expanded this park a few years ago, we lack the resources to construct the universally accessible trail we collectively envisioned. We also need to make improvements at Pelizzari Natural Area and Archie Park and to create and implement a master plan that encompasses both Haserot and Kelley, all while caring for our township's iconic historic structures.

Simultaneously, we have significant needs at our township's three cemeteries, which are memorial parks in their own right. In addition to basic maintenance that includes mowing and taking care of fallen or dangerous trees, we would like to implement the master plan we committed to years ago at our newest cemetery, Peninsula Township Cemetery. This plan includes adding grave sites and installing a road, columbarium, and various plantings to enhance the beauty and peace sought by those in mourning.

We also need to continue caring for our township's fire department so that it can meet the needs of all our residents. We are in the process of building Fire Station #3 at the north end, but costs will be higher than expected due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, stations #1 and #2 are each 40 years old and will soon require attention.

See the graph on the next page for a breakdown of where your tax dollars go and/or contact Brad Bickle at treasurer@peninsulatownship.com for details about our annual budget. Because Peninsula Township has a history of identifying challenges and then working together as a community to solve them, we are asking you today to consider making a tax-deductible donation to a restricted fund in a capital campaign that will keep your charitable dollars local and make a huge difference here at home.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and hope you will be moved to make a contribution using the enclosed card and envelope. Those who are 70 and a half or older may also make a donation directly from their IRAs; please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Should you have questions, please contact Supervisor Rob Manigold at 231-223-7323. In the meantime, thank you for investing in our incredibly special community.

Sincerely, Peninsula Township Board of Trustees Marge Achorn, Brad Bickle, Becky Chown, Rob Manigold, Dave Sanger, Warren Wahl, and Isaiah Wunsch; Peninsula Township Parks Committee members Don Atkinson, Pete Dahl, Eric Dreier, Beth Karczewski, Mary Beth Milliken, Dave Murphy, and Mike Skurski; and Peninsula Township Fire Chief Fred Gilstorff