



*NEWS YOU CAN USE!*

# PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

Summer 2007

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

## HOT TOPICS

- ▶ Similar to volunteer fire departments across the nation, the Peninsula Township Fire Department has staffing problems because of the significant training time commitment, our aging population and potential recruits being busy with work and family. The Township has established a committee to address our staffing concerns to increase the number of emergency medical technicians and firefighters. Many options are on the table including hiring additional full-time personnel. Expect a report from the committee in future township newsletters.
- ▶ Consumers Energy will be upgrading their electric substation on Montague Road. The work is expected to start in September and continue for approximately 3 months. The project will replace some of the existing equipment and will help to maintain reliability. An on-site mobile substation will handle the electric load while the work is in progress. As a result, no outages are expected. Prior to the start of work, customers served by the substation will receive an informational letter including a telephone number to call to ask questions.

## Issues currently being discussed at either the Town Board or Planning Commission:

- **SUP 98** - The Orchards at Bowers Harbor PUD/Condominium Subdivision
- **SUP 103** - Bowers Harbor Inn PUD/Condominium Subdivision
- **SUP 104** - Hawthorne PUD/Condominium Subdivision, "Vineyard Estates"
- **SUP 105** - Boathouse Restaurant request for special use permit revisions for additional seating on the deck, kitchen addition, lighted sign, tent for 3 catered events and musical entertainment
- **SUP 106** - Old Mission Tavern request for special use permit revision for garden awning
- **Ordinance No.153** - Rezoning request by Diamond Acquisitions LLC on Jade Venture Group property between Center Road and East Shore Road from agriculture to R-1A
- **Ordinance No.175** - Dark Night Sky Ordinance
- **Ordinance No.5** - Park Ordinance

## STAY INFORMED

Plan to attend the meetings, write letters and call Planning Commission and Town Board members to voice your concerns on these and other issues. To keep up with notices, agendas, reports, minutes and meetings, check the web site regularly at [www.peninsulatownship.com](http://www.peninsulatownship.com).

- ▶ Beach grooming is a concern to many township home owners. Currently these are the rules: you can mow vegetation to two inches or remove vegetation by hand, level existing sand, lightly rake debris and clear a six foot path to the water. No mechanical equipment is allowed. Depending upon which activity you undertake, you may need a permit from the Department of Environmental Quality or the Army Corp of Engineers. Before you do anything, check with Jennifer McCray, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, to determine which permits you require. She can be reached on (231) 347-1181 or by email at [info@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:info@watershedcouncil.org). Please also check with Peninsula Township before removing any vegetation.
- ▶ Michigan is hosting the National Governors Association Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort July 20 – 23. As a part of the planned activities, informal gatherings are being held at Chateau Chantal and Bry's Estate on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the evening, the governors and guests will be shuttled out to the Lighthouse Park for a bonfire on the beach.
- ▶ The wineries of Old Mission Peninsula have teamed up with area restaurants to create the first annual "Old Mission Peninsula Wine & Food Celebration". This community-wide celebration will take place at Bowers Harbor Park on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5 pm. The \$15 ticket price includes a souvenir glass and three wine tasting tickets. After expenses, proceeds will be donated to the Park Improvement Fund. Please come and taste the best local wines and food our unique peninsula has to offer. For further information, please call Chateau Grand Traverse on 223-7355.
- ▶ Peninsula Township, along with other townships and the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, has agreed to be a supporting sponsor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fire works at the open space on West Bay. The veterans went to each township soliciting financial support to put on the fireworks. Each township's contribution was based on their population figures.

## KUDOS

- ▶ To the Old Mission Women's Club for the beautiful flowers around the township office and hall.
- ▶ To Nick Kroupa for placing flags on all veteran cemetery plots commemorating their service.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ The Cherry Festival holds a foot race each summer that impacts traffic flows on the peninsula. To avoid waiting for runners to clear the path, you may want to shift your trips to town from the morning to the afternoon of July 14<sup>th</sup>. The route goes up East Shore Road, west on McKinley crossing Center Road and back into town on Peninsula Drive.
- ▶ Round III of the Property Development Rights (PDR) program ends August 1<sup>st</sup>. Round IV applications have been submitted, ranked for priority and appraisals are about to begin. The most recent farmland approved by the Town Board is the 131-acre Wunsch Family Farm near Peninsula Drive and Eimen Road.
- ▶ The Long-term Retirement Health Care lawsuit has been fully resolved and is now a closed issue. The Township no longer has retirement health insurance nor any outstanding liability related to it. The Township will continue to look for ways to manage existing health care costs for full-time employees and some of our elected officials. As changes are made, you will be kept abreast.
- ▶ The Peter Dougherty Society is actively working to restore the 165-year old homestead located in Old Mission. A two phased archaeology study, funded by the Oleson Foundation, is being conducted from June 11th through July 25th. The recent "Estate Sale" garnered over \$8600 and an Irish Dinner fund raiser with music and dancing is planned for the evening of August 11th. The Society has been approved as a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization and is beginning the process to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is currently on the Michigan Historic Register.
- ▶ The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has preliminarily approved the Township's application to identify Center Road as a Scenic Heritage Road. The draft plan is available for review and comment until July 9<sup>th</sup> at the MDOT Traverse City office or at [www.nwm.org](http://www.nwm.org).

**OPERATING INFO**

- ▶ You may have noticed over the past two years that Grand Traverse County has gradually moved their millage charges from your winter to your summer tax bills. This summer is the last year to move those millage charges. The end result will be tax bills which are higher than last summer's bills. Remember though, that this change decreases your winter tax bills. We have also received many calls from taxpayers concerned that we are moving from twice-a-year bills to once-a-year bills. At this time there is no indication that the County will be changing from their twice-a-year system. Please remember, tax bills can only be paid by cash or check. We cannot accept credit or debit cards.
- ▶ Get out your tennis racquets and shoes. Sign the kids up for the summer tennis and recreation programs at Bowers Harbor Park. Play soccer, volleyball and kickball or let them try out their skills in arts and crafts, Irish dancing, sign language, story telling and nature. Parents may register children by the week or for the entire season. For information call Jackie Richer on 218-4128 (cell) or 922-9834 (home). Ages 4-7 meet on Mondays and Wednesdays; ages 8-13 meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Weekly cost is \$10 per child. A large family's costs will not exceed \$25.00 per week. Also, Tim Moore's week long tennis clinic during the week of August 13-17 has sessions for all ages and ability levels. Call Tim for more information on 946-7018. To reserve a pavilion at Bowers Harbor Park, call the Office Manager on 223-7322.
- ▶ The Cemetery Committee has proposed several improvements for the 20-acre Peninsula Drive Cemetery. A conceptual site plan which incorporates an entrance feature/fencing, improved landscaping, a woodland walking trail, potable water and a designated parking area is being created. Also, the Clerk has recently purchased software for keeping internment records for all Township cemeteries.
- ▶ With the fruit season underway, you may have noticed farm machinery being driven on highway shoulders. Also, several citizens have called about increasing numbers of deer on the roadways. Please be careful when passing to protect our farmers, your vehicle and Bambi.
- ▶ Our Deputy reports increased traffic violations and requests your support in reducing speeds. He'll be out there, so watch for him...he'll be watching out for you.

**DIRECTORY**

<b>Office Manager:</b>	
Wendy Witkop	223-7322
	Fax 223-7117
officemanager@peninsulatownship.com	
<b>Supervisor:</b>	
Rob Manigold	223-7322
supervisor@peninsulatownship.com	
<b>Clerk:</b>	
Monica Hoffman	223-7321
clerk@peninsulatownship.com	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	
Dave Weatherholt	223-4484
treasurer@peninsulatownship.com	
<b>Trustees:</b>	
Jill Byron	932-1339
Jed Hemming	223-7396
Jim Horton	223-4282
Penny Rosi	223-7560
<b>Assessor:</b>	
Sally Akerley	223-7313
assessor@peninsulatownship.com	
<b>Planner:</b>	
Gordon Hayward	223-7314
planner@peninsulatownship.com	
<b>Zoning Administrator:</b>	
Gordy Uecker	223-7318
zoning@peninsulatownship.com	
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Compactor/Recy. Station	223-4446
Fire Department (non-emergency)	223-4443
Old Mission Penin. School	933-7420
Park and Meeting Room Reservations	223-7322
Peninsula Comm. Library	223-7700
Sheriff (non-emergency)	223-4525

**HELP WANTED**

- Selection for members of our Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission are made in August each year. If you are interested in being considered for either position, please send a resume to the Clerk.
- The Township needs volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians. Call the Fire Chief on 223-4443 to express your interest or to find out more information.

# SCHEDULES and EVENTS

**Town Board Meetings**  
(second Tuesday at 7 pm)  
July 10  
August 14  
September 11

**Planning Commission**  
(third Monday at 7 pm)  
July 16  
August 20  
September 17

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
(second Thursday at 7 pm)  
July 12  
August 9  
September 13

**Park Board**  
(first Wednesday at 7 pm)  
June 27 (note change of date  
in place of July meeting)  
August 1  
September 5

**Board of Review**  
July 17, 9 – 11 am  
(to correct mistakes of fact  
and clerical errors only)

**Old Mission Peninsula  
Historical Society**  
(first Thursday at 7 pm - Town Hall)  
July - no meeting  
August 2  
September 6

**American Legion Dinners**  
(first and third Tuesday – 6:30 pm)  
American Legion Hall on Swaney  
Road

**Library Summer Reading Pro-  
gram**  
Thursdays throughout July, 11 am  
Call 223-7700 for information

**Cherry Festival Foot Race**  
Morning of July 14th  
Eastshore, McKinley, Center Road  
and Peninsula Drive affected

**Peninsula Community Library  
Picnic**  
50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration  
August 4, 5 – 8 pm  
Old Mission Peninsula School  
Call 223-7700 for complimentary  
tickets

**Peter Dougherty Society Fund Raiser**  
Irish dinner with music and dancing  
August 11, 5 – 9 pm  
Adjacent to the Dougherty House  
Tickets \$30 at Peninsula Market or call  
223-7468

**Old Mission Peninsula Wine and Food  
Celebration**  
September 8, noon to 5 pm  
Bowers Harbor Park  
Tickets \$15  
Call 223-7355 for information

**Compactor Station Hours**  
Wednesdays, noon – 6 pm  
Saturdays, 9 am – 5 pm  
Recycling at any time

**Peninsula Township Office is open:**  
Monday through Friday 8:00 am until noon  
and 1:00 pm until 4:30 pm. The office is  
closed on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for Inde-  
pendence Day and Monday, September  
3<sup>rd</sup> for Labor Day.

A county wetland inventory has been completed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) pursuant to Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The inventory map is on file with the county extension office, register of deeds, and clerk and is also available at [www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands](http://www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands). The inventory map provides potential and approximate locations of wetlands but cannot be used to identify wetlands for regulatory purposes. Property containing wetlands may be subject to regulation under Part 303. For more information, including how to obtain a wetland permit or a determination of whether property contains regulated wetland, please visit the MDEQ website above.

## Wetlands Inventory

NEWSLETTER

Peninsula Township  
13235 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

