

BROOKS TOWNSHIP

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www.brookstownship.org
July, 2010

Road Repair 2010

Brooks Township has decided to repair and upgrade two sections of gravel road for this fiscal year. The largest project is the portion of Thornapple Ave. starting at M-82 and connecting to 96th St. (approx 1.75 miles). The second project will be the part of 84th St. north of Brooks Lake between Summer Ave. and Spruell Dr. (approx .75 miles). Both projects, with a total cost of \$169,000, will involve grading and the application of limestone to improve the stability of the road surface. The Newaygo County Road Commission has started a two year project to upgrade and repair Centerline Rd., north of the City of Newaygo between Garfield and Brooks Townships. Fortunately for both of our townships the project expense falls under county responsibility.

For the past two years the Township has elected to repair and resurface as much of our roadways as we could afford. Without the participation from the Newaygo County Road Commission, the Hess Lake Improvement Association and Grant Township we would not have been able to accomplish all of the projects completed to date. For the past two years and including this year, the Brooks Township Board elected to utilize our savings (fund equity) to supplement our normal budget. Without this commitment, many of our projects would not have been funded. It seemed to the board, very inappropriate to have money in the bank, and not continue to make an effort to repair our roads. Due to state funding cuts of local revenue sharing, the loss of local tax dollars because of decreases in taxable land values, Headlee Amendment impact, and approaching the end of available savings utilization, we may not be able to continue with the maintenance and repair efforts that are still needed in this township. The question at the Township is, "What do we do now?"

When you travel outside of Brooks Township, take a good look at the condition of other roads in the surrounding area. Brooks Township is one of three townships in Newaygo County that does not have a road millage. Grant, Garfield and Everett Townships have 3 mills each. Croton Township has 2 mills. How important is the maintenance of our roads? There is no one, including the elected officials of the Brooks Township Board that enjoys paying more taxes. The only positive aspect of local road millage is it stays in our township and would be used exclusively for roadwork. The Board is not yet ready to ask for millage nor do we have an amount in mind. We are asking for input from our property owners. In the near future, we will be hosting an open forum for discussion on the road issue. If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any of the township representatives. We look forward to your comments and concerns.

Les Salacina
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Library Operating Millage Proposal to be on the August 3rd Ballot

The Newaygo Area District Library will have an operating millage proposal for 1.1 mills on the August 3rd ballot. The annual cost of the millage for a house with a taxable value of \$50,000 will be \$55. The Library is required by the Agreement that formed the Newaygo Area District Library to pass an operating millage before November 30, 2010. If an operating millage is not passed by that date, the District Agreement will expire on December 31, 2010, and the library will go back to being a city library serving city residents on a reduced schedule.

In that event, township residents will no longer have library privileges as of January 1, 2011. Residents may be eligible to purchase a library card. The annual cost of such a "non-resident card" at the Newaygo Library will be set in January by the new board of the city library. The current annual cost of such a card at the Fremont Area District Library is \$48. Non-resident cards can be used only at the library at which they are purchased and only for that library's collection.

BURN PERMITS FOR BROOKS TOWNSHIP

To obtain information regarding burning yard rakings and brush, log on to www.mich.gov/dnr. This site will let you know if burning is allowed in your area. No actual permit is required. You may also call 1-866-922-2876 for information. Please remember that you are responsible for understanding Michigan's Open Burning Laws and Rules.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY 2010

Brooks Township is participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program sponsored by MDOT for the 10th year. Our first cleanup of 2010 was held on April 10. We had 11 volunteers help and 14 bags of trash were picked up. The July cleanup will be done by the Summer Magic program. The final pick up for 2010 will be held on Sept. 25 and if you would like to help we will meet at the corner of M-82 and Basswood Rd. at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions please call Chris Haynor at 652-6763.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

The Primary Election will be held on August 3 and the General Election will be held on November 2. Voting will be at the Brooks Township Hall. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Please bring your photo ID. You must register to vote by July 6 to vote in the primary and by October 4 to vote in the general election. Contact Jennifer Badgero at 652-6763 if you would like an absentee ballot.