

## FROM THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

### NEW ORDINANCES

The Brooks Township Board and Planning Commission are continuing to be pro-active in their approach to environmental issues that relate to the township residents. There has been concentrated growth throughout the township that has created ground water concerns. Most areas of the township have on-site septic systems with only one community sewer system at this time. The two ordinances that the Township Board will be taking action on in the future are the septic ordinance and wetland ordinance. Also, the Planning Commission will be looking at a well-head protection ordinance in the near future to help protect our ground water.

#### **Septic Ordinance:**

This ordinance will require the pumping and inspections of on-site sewage disposal systems (OSDS) upon the sale or transfer of property on which an OSDS is located. The pumping, inspections and bringing the system up to minimum standards will be required. The ordinance contains the minimum standards for OSDS and procedural information. This ordinance will help us maintain compliance with county and state standards.

#### **Wetland Ordinance:**

This ordinance will deal with the wetlands that are not specifically governed by the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. It will provide additional protection and preservation of these wetland areas. This will help maintain their hydrological, biological, economical, recreational and aesthetic natural resource values for existing and future residents of the Township. There will be maps in the zoning office indicating wetland locations (both actual and probable). The ordinance will provide guidance and review of proposed developments to assure that the activities are in the best interest of the people and will not result in the uncontrolled loss of valuable wetland resources. If a property is suspected of having wetlands, a delineation may be required prior to zoning approval.

Both of these ordinance drafts can be reviewed at the township hall or by contacting the Township Clerk or Zoning Administrator at 652-6763.

### ZONING COMPLIANCE PERMITS

There are still many questions that come up regarding Zoning Compliance Permits and when they are required. Zoning Compliance Permits are required for:

#### **Most all Construction (call for clarification)**

Some examples include the following:

- New Homes
- Free standing structure (shed) of more than 100 sq. ft
- Fences
- Pools
- Radio towers or a large satellite TV dish

These are some examples but not all inclusive.

Zoning Compliance Permits have to be applied for at the zoning office which is located within the Brooks Township Hall, 490 Quarterline, Newaygo. The permit has to be authorized prior to applying for a building permit. The Zoning Compliance Permit process requires a sketch of the property and all structures along with well, septic, utility and easement locations. Dimensions of the parcel, all structures along with the distances from the property line/easements and from each other is also required. If constructing a new home a copy of the plans need to be attached to the application.

We are working on getting worksheet copies of the applications and forms required on the Township web site. All Zoning Ordinances can be viewed online or you may stop in or call the township zoning office for further information.

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## BROOKS TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

December	1	Winter tax bills mailed
	12	Township Board Mtg. (note change)
	19	Planning Comm. Mtg. (note change)
January	16	Planning Comm. Mtg. (note change)
	23	Township Board Mtg. (note change)
February	14	Winter taxes due
	21	Township Board Mtg.
	28	Planning Comm. Mtg.
March	1	Property Assessment Notices Mailed (watch for dates and times for Board of Review)
	22	Township Board Meeting
	29	Planning Commission Mtg.

## ADOPT - A - HIGHWAY

Once again volunteers picked up over 50 bags of trash along a 2-mile area of M-82 during the 3 pick-ups this past spring and summer. In order for this effort to continue we need more volunteers to join in next year to help with cleaning up the highway section that was adopted by Brooks Township residents. If you would like to help with the clean-ups next year **please** call the township. Check future newsletters and our website for dates and times of the pickups. **"Thank you"** to all who volunteered to help this past year.

## Welcome!

The Brooks Township Board would like to welcome **Ryan McNally, Jim Dutkiewicz and Adam Wright** to the Township Planning Commission.

Remember to visit our website at [www.brookstownship.org](http://www.brookstownship.org) to get all the latest news and publications.

## RECYCLING AT BROOKS TOWNSHIP

Recycling for Newaygo County began servicing the residents of the township on January 21, 2005. There are two mobile recycling trailers on site available 24/7.

**Total Waste Recovered:** From January through June township residents have kept an estimated **120 cubic yards or about 25 tons of waste out of the landfill.**

Recycling this waste has saved the following resources:

**Paper**— Recovered 37,200 lbs. (18.6 tons) that has saved 316 trees from being cut and 130,200 gallons of water from being used.

**Plastic & Polystyrene**—Recovered 2557 lbs. and 215 lbs. respectively (1.4 tons) that has saved more than 5 barrels of oil.

**Metal**—Recovered 3600 lbs.(1.8 tons) that has saved 4500 lbs. of iron ore, 2520 lbs. of coal and 216 lbs. of limestone.

**Glass**—Recovered 2700 lbs. (1.35 tons) that has saved 3240 lbs. of sand, soda ash and limestone.

Brooks Township residents are making a difference—saving resources, space in the landfill and helping to preserve our environment.

(Cont. from front page)

## JUNK AND ANTI-BLIGHT ORDINANCE

We have received a number of complaints regarding junk and blight within the township during the last year. The following is a brief explanation of this ordinance.

**Blighted Property:** Property needs to be maintained. This includes, but not limited to: broken windows, torn screens, collapsing or missing walls, a damaged or structurally unsound roof, damaged or missing siding, fire damage, damaged or missing foundation, structurally faulty foundation, grass or weeds over 12" in height, broken tree limbs, unsafe or unsecured structure. These factors in addition to depreciating property values also constitutes a health or safety problem.

**Cars/motor-vehicles:** All motor-vehicles need to be properly licensed (registered) and operable to be parked on your property.

**Motor vehicle parts:** Motor vehicle parts; engines, transmissions, doors, etc. cannot be stored outside and/or strewn about your property. If you wish to keep these for future repairs they need to be stored inside.

**Boats/any type of trailer:** Need to have all component parts required to make it operative and serviceable.

**Yard Debris:** This includes grass trimmings, branches and leaves. Please find a proper place for these. Dumping them on property not your own or in lakes or streams, rivers, state or federal land is a violation of the ordinance. An exception would be placing debris on property legally designated and set aside for such purposes with the consent of the public or private authority.

**Litter, trash, rubbish:** This is not allowed to be strewn about or stored on your property. This also includes building products. There are trash services available to help you contain and dispose of your trash and rubbish.

For a more in-depth look at this ordinance or questions regarding it please contact the Zoning Office or visit the Township Web site.

**Brooks Township would like to welcome Judy Lindberg to the Zoning staff.**