



GET READY FOR THE 7th ANNUAL BROOKS TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY!

BROOKS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS ONLY!

WHAT: Brooks Township Clean-up Day
WHEN: Saturday, June 3, from 8am – 2pm (or until dumpsters are full)
WHERE: Brooks Township Hall parking lot
COST: Car load \$5.00, pickup load: \$10.00, single axle trailer: \$15.00
 Double axle trailer: \$20.00, dual wheel truck: \$20.00
 Refrigerators/air conditioners: \$5.00 extra

What we will accept:

- All old appliances**
- Note: Refrigerators MUST have doors removed
- Auto parts & engines (with oil removed)
- Lawn mowers
- Lawn chairs
- Electronics
- Sheet metal**
- Old bicycles**
- Bed springs **& mattresses
- Fencing or wood
- Plastic & vinyl siding
- Furniture
- Roofing materials

What we will not accept:

- NO TIRES !!!!!!!**
- No gas tanks
- No propane tanks
- No sealed containers
- No paint*
- No hazardous materials*
- No batteries*
- No concrete
- No compost
- No household garbage
- No car bodies or frames
- No yard waste or brush

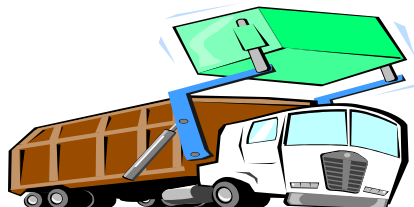
***Newaygo County will accept these items. Call 231-689-7225 or see page 3 for more information.**

****We will have dumpsters available to recycle scrap metal. To make unloading easier, put scrap metal at the bottom of your junk pile.**

PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS REQUIRED

Due to an anticipated lack of volunteers, please be prepared to unload your own Items!

We are in need of volunteers. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to help please contact Chris Haynor at 231-652-6763, ext. 13. This is a great way for High School students to obtain community service hours.



Bits And Pieces

TOWNSHIP CALENDER

May	16	Township Board Mtg.
	22	Planning Comm. Mtg.
June	3	7th Annual Cleanup (8:00 a.m. -2 p.m.)
	20	Township Board Mtg.
	26	Planning Comm. Mtg.
July	8	Highway Pickup
	18	Township Board Mtg.
	24	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Aug.	8	Primary Election
	15	Township Board Mtg.
	21	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Sept.	9	Highway Pickup
	19	Township Board Mtg.
	25	Planning Comm. Mtg.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

It's spring and time for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Residents will again be cleaning a section of M-82. The first pick-up was held on April 22. The remaining two pickups this year will be July 8 and Sept. 9. The pickups will start at 9:00 a.m. and the group will meet at the corner of Basswood and M-82. The 2-mile section runs from Summer Ave. to the corner of M-37 and M-82. It is a lot of fun and a chance to meet some of your neighbors. Also, this is a great way for high school students to receive community service hours. If you would like to volunteer to help please call Chris Haynor at 231-652-6763.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

If you live south of the Muskegon River your County Commissioner is Adam Wright. If you live on the north side of the river your Commissioner is Jim Maike. If you would like to contact either commissioner you may do so by calling 231-689-7200. They are available to answer any questions you may have regarding county issues. Check out their websites at www.countyofnewaygo.com for more information.

FROM THE ASSESSOR

Matt Frain, Brooks Township Assessor, will be continuing to re-appraise property in Brooks Township this spring and summer. He will be verifying measurements, taking digital photographs and meeting with homeowners when possible. If you have any questions regarding this process please call the township at 231-652-6763, ext. 16.

TO OBTAIN A BURNING PERMIT CALL: 231-745-3111



**ATTENTION: ALL NEWAYGO COUNTY
RESIDENTS...Here's Your Opportunity To Dispose of
Dangerous Household Chemicals for FREE!**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The Newaygo County Board of Public Works has arranged for the **FREE** disposal of your Household Hazardous Waste at the Newaygo County Road Commission garage on **June 10, 2006**. Household Hazardous Wastes include all toxic materials, pesticides, automotive fluids, oil based paint only, and batteries found in your home or garage. **Appointments Must Be Made.** Call **(231) 689-7225**. **Leave your name and number on voice mail and someone will get back to you** to set up your time and to document what type of household waste you have. Please, this applies to household hazardous wastes only. Hazardous waste generated by business **WILL NOT** be accepted. The cost of this program to the county is approximately \$68 per participant, so **any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.**

Cindy Sullivan, Chairperson

Newaygo County Board of Public Works

NOTE: Most Hazardous Household Chemicals are not adequately filtered by septic systems. Overuse of these materials may result in contamination of water resources. Use this free service to protect the environment and the health and safety of yourself and your family.

ILLEGAL DUMPING ON FEDERAL FOREST LAND

The federal forest land in Brook's Township has had yard debris and a variety of trash illegally deposited on it for many years. Dumping has increased to a point that local citizens have brought their concerns to the attention of the Brooks Township Zoning department.

Some residents incorrectly believe that dumping yard debris on the federal forest land was allowed, but it is not. The forest service prohibits dumping of any kind on any national forest land. The federal fine for dumping yard debris, refuse, trash, or litter is \$250.

Brooks Township also has an ordinance that prohibits the dumping of yard waste or any garbage, junk or trash. The fine for dumping is \$50 for the first offense and then \$125 for the second offense, and \$250 for the third offense.

Due to the misunderstanding of so many who have felt it acceptable to dump on public property, we are notifying the residents through the Brooks Township newsletter and through the Times Indicator to cease dumping on public land.

The Forestry Department will be posting "No Dumping" signs on some of the more violated sites to serve as a reminder to the community.

Croton Road Improvement Project

(submitted by the City of Newaygo)

Well, summer is almost here and with summer comes “road construction” projects. There are going to be some changes taking place mid-summer on Croton Road. You may have noticed that the hill going up Croton Road has been deteriorating and is slowly falling towards the river.

The City is going to remedy this by making Croton Road, from M-37 to the City limits like new again.

The project is set to start on July 5, 2006 and will take approximately six to eight weeks to complete. The hill will be completely closed from July 10th and will re-open again on approximately July 29th. The only vehicles that will be allowed to pass during this time will be emergency vehicles. After the road is re-opened, it will be a one lane, flagged, stop and go lane until the project is complete. The construction will run everyday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm except Sunday. Mailboxes for citizens along this corridor will have to be temporarily re-located to a central location until the end of the project and then they will be placed back where they were.

Please note that there may be outages during this time, every effort will be made to avoid this but is probable. The outages could be water, cable, electric or phone. If you experience an outage please feel free to call the following numbers:

Water: 231.652.1657 x 10 Charter Cable: 1.800.545.0994 Consumers Energy: 1.800.477.5050



RECYCLING FOR NEWAYGO COUNTY

(Submitted by Bob Pinder, Director)

Greetings! We're making progress on two goals that we set for ourselves this year: to increase the number of people participating in recycling and to increase our Friends' membership each by 100%. Participation must be up because our volume of materials is increasing. A year ago, for example, it took 3 months to fill our 22-cubic yard dumpster with flattened tin cans. Now it takes 2 ½ months. We collected 7000 lbs. of plastic in our first seven months of operation and 18,000 lbs. during our second 7 months.

And our Friends of Recycling membership has grown from 150 on June 1, 2005, to 225 members today. To meet our goals we need to continue to spread the word about recycling. We have several opportunities to do just that during the community events, festivals and activities that occur all year long in our county. Last year we were present during the White Cloud Family Expo, NCCS's Senior Resource Day, Fremont's National Baby Food Festival, the NCCA Art Festival, the Newaygo Medical Care Facility Bazaar and the FHS Arts & Crafts fair.

FREMONT CENTER GOES 24/7: For your convenience, we are planning to have collection bins in place at our processing center on 113 E. Cherry St. some time in May or June. The center doors will not be open, but people will be able to drop off their paper, plastic, glass and tin recyclables in outside containers at any time day or night. We'll continue to keep our regular hours that we are open on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays, when we can accept trash, deposit pop bottles, batteries, and cell phones as well as recyclables.

YEAR ROUND ELECTRONICS RECYCLING – We will now accept electronics at the Fremont Center. Items include TVs, VCR/DVDs, radios, copiers, microwaves, stereos, computer equipment, etc. We will charge \$.50/pound to cover our costs of storage, transportation and processing. This is a significantly higher cost than we charged during our one-day collection drive because we anticipate recycling more non-computer electronics that cost more to process, and we will have to warehouse the materials until we have enough to ship. We will accept computer electronics, but we recommend recycling them at Goodwill stores where they are accepted at no charge. If you would like to receive the entire RNC newsletter, or have questions, comments or suggestions you may email Bob Pinder at recycle4nc@comcast.net or call 924-5822.

Please Take A Few Minutes To Tell Us What You Think....

The Township will soon be updating its Master Plan. Under state law, the Master Plan must be reviewed at least every five years, and it has been 5 years since the last Plan was adopted. The Master Plan sets forth a vision for the future of Brooks Township upon which land use decisions are made. Once adopted, the Plan becomes the basis for zoning and other land use regulations.



Welcome To
**Brooks
 Township**
 Newaygo County

Please take this opportunity to share your opinions regarding the future of Brooks Township. Your input is critical in this process! The results of this survey will help township officials determine what needs to be included in the Master Plan update. Please return the survey by mail or drop it off to the Township Hall by June 2, 2006. If you have any questions, please call 231-652-6763. Thank you for your assistance in helping to plan Brooks Township's future.

SECTION 1: LOCAL ISSUES

Please circle the response to the extent that you agree or disagree about the following list of Local Issue statements.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. I am concerned about too much residential development along the Muskegon River.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Outdoor storage of junk and abandoned vehicles is a problem in the Township.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Loss of natural vegetation along the shores of water bodies is a problem.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Lakes crowded with homes are a problem.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I believe rural character should be protected.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I think the Township should protect wetlands not protected by the State (generally under 5 acres).	1	2	3	4	5
7. I think the Township should be involved in septic system maintenance (e.g., requiring proof of maintenance).	1	2	3	4	5
8. Outdoor wood furnaces/boilers should not be permitted on lots less than 1 acre.	1	2	3	4	5
9. High speed boating on the Muskegon River is a problem.	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION 2: POLICIES

Please circle the response to the extent that you agree or disagree about the following list of Policy statements.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Promote growth in the Township.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Control growth in the Township.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Preserve open space and natural amenities like trees, rolling hills and natural vegetation-even if it means more regulation.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Strengthen junk/blight ordinance and enforcement.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Keep minimum lot sizes along the Muskegon River at 5 acres.	1	2	3	4	5

POLICIES STATEMENTS (continued)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
6. Adopt groundwater protection measures to protect drinking water.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Restrict outdoor wood furnaces/boilers in areas with small lots.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Should increased regulations on the Muskegon River be considered.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Protect all wetlands by adopting a local ordinance and enforcement program.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Create a septic system maintenance and inspection program to mandate systems be brought up to code and to protect water quality.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Permit expanded residential development along the Muskegon River.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Require new development to “blend in” with the surrounding landscape.	1	2	3	4	5
13. Limit the size and number of business signs to prevent clutter.	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY PLANNING

Please circle the response to the extent that you agree or disagree about the following list of Community Planning statements.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Natural features such as woods and wetlands should be protected.	1	2	3	4	5
2. The rural character of the area should be protected.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I feel the Township is fair with the creation of planning and zoning policies.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I think Township regulations should preserve natural vegetation and other wildlife habitat.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Areas within the Township should be set aside and/or promoted for industrial development.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Additional areas within the Township should be set aside and/or promoted for commercial development.	1	2	3	4	5
7. The Township should take a more assertive approach to enforcing land use and zoning regulations.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Promoting growth should be a major priority in the Township.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Slowing growth should be a major priority in the Township.	1	2	3	4	5
10. There is enough commercial development in the Newaygo area, the Township does not need anymore.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Outdoor recreation and sporting facilities should be encouraged.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Property owners and developers should be offered incentives to preserve natural areas like woodlots.	1	2	3	4	5
13. The number and size of business signs should be limited in the Township.	1	2	3	4	5
14. The Township should ask the residents for a road millage for maintenance and to maintain safe travel of roads.	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION 4: RURAL CHARACTER

Please circle the response to the extent that you agree or disagree about the following Rural Character statements.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Preserving rural character means preserving active agricultural use of the land.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Preserving rural character means reserving forested areas, open spaces, and natural field areas.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Preserving rural character means allowing single family houses along roads as long as they have very large lots and sit back far off the road.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Preserving rural character means protecting roadside vegetation (or adding to it) to screen single-family houses along roads.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Preserving rural character means limiting commercial development.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Preserving rural character means limiting industrial development.	1	2	3	4	5

Please indicate which most closely relates to you.

I am a full-resident who lives _____ on a lake _____ along the river _____ off of the water on over an acre

_____ other (please explain _____)

I am a part-time resident who lives _____ on a lake _____ along the river _____ off of the water on over an acre

_____ other (please explain _____)

Additional Comments:



**Brooks Township Office
P.O. Box 625
490 Quarterline
Newaygo, MI 49337**

**BROOKS TOWNSHIP
P.O. BOX 625
NEWAYGO, MI 49337**

PLEASE FOLD SURVEY WITH THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS ON THE OUTSIDE. PLEASE TAPE SURVEY AT BOTTOM, AFFIX STAMP AND MAIL. (OR IF MORE CONVENIENT YOU MAY DROP IT OFF AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE).

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME IN COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!

CHAIN OF LAKES SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

The lawsuit that was filed against OMM Engineering by the Chain of Lakes Authority (COLA) has been settled. The COLA was awarded \$500,000 to cover damages that have been incurred by inadequate construction. This was the largest settlement ever awarded in Newaygo County.

The plant and system are operating well. There have been some problems with grinder pumps being turned off intentionally, so please be aware of this and check your pump periodically. This is considered an act of vandalism and anyone caught doing this will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The COLA Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. alternating between Garfield, Brooks and Everett Townships. Please check with the township for the meeting location.

FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT

Brooks Township is working to help improve and protect your property. One of the ways is by adopting standards (ordinances) that are enforced through the Zoning Department. Check with the Zoning Department if you have any questions or need a permit. Some of the items that require permits are:

- New residential homes
- Additions
- Garages, sheds, carports and other accessory structures
- Decks
- Pools
- Fences
- Lot splits
- Camping

All ordinances and zoning form worksheets are available at www.brookstownship.org. Please contact Warren Bender, Zoning Administrator, at 231-652-6763, ext.14 for more information.

MEET THE SUPERVISOR

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Les Salacina and in February of this year the Brooks Township Board appointed me to the position of Supervisor. I am proud to say I was born, raised and worked my entire adult life in the Newaygo, Brooks Township area. I attended Newaygo Public Schools and Grand Valley State University graduating with a degree in environmental science. For several years, I had considered running for an elected township or county governmental position and now have an opportunity to serve the residents of Brooks Township.

We on the Brooks Township Board would like to use our newsletter to answer some of the most frequently asked questions. Hopefully this will be an ongoing feature.

Q. “What’s happening with the Chain of Lakes sewer treatment plant and does it cost Brooks Township any money?”

A. The Chain of Lakes sewer project is the creation of five (5) governmental authorities: Newaygo County Commission, Newaygo County Dept. of Public Works, Garfield Township, Everett Township and Brooks Township. These authorities helped create the COLA (Chain of Lakes Authority) that governs the operation. There seems to be many stories about the effectiveness and viability of the plant. For the most part, the stories should be classified as rumors. The sewer plant is in operation, and has been referred to as a “state of the art concept designed to discharge a safe clean effluent”. The plant had its initial start-up problems but at present is operating properly. Recently the effluent discharge has met or been better than the discharge permit standards. There continues to be confusion over Sewer Authority funding. Brooks Township has policy about special assessment district projects. Whether a district is created to pave a road or build a sewer, all the costs of a particular project will be funded by the special assessment district created for that project. Many times initial development costs and legal fees are funded at the township level until the time that the special assessment district is in a financial position to reimburse or repay the costs. At present, the sewer authority has repaid the majority of the startup costs and is on schedule to repay the balance within the current fiscal year. In this way special services are funded and maintained by those individuals receiving the services and not by the entire township. This is the only fair way to handle a special project.

Q. Where locally can I find a Notary of Public?

A. Brooks Township has in the past and will continue in the future to offer the Notary services of Lora Jones our Township Clerk. These services are free to all township residents.

(Continued on next page)

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Q. Why do our property assessments keep going up?

A. When we receive our notification of property assessment increases, note that there are two different types of value. The first, State Equalized Value (SEV); originate at the State of Michigan level. Every year the State notifies Newaygo County of the necessary increase required at the County level. The County then notifies each township of its individual responsibility. At this time our township assessor is charged with distributing the increase as fairly as possible. Taxes are not based on SEV.

For many residents who have owned their property for an extended period of time, there is a significant difference between SEV and taxable value. Primarily, taxable value can only increase by the rate of inflation or 5% whichever is less. As a result of Proposal "A", taxable value has a slower or "capped growth rate". This years' taxable increase is 3.33%, which was the rate of inflation as determined by the State of Michigan. Another common cause of taxable increase occurs when property changes ownership. The taxable value becomes "uncapped". This means that the taxable value becomes equal to the SEV.

Obviously, building or demolition projects may impact both SEV and taxable values. Some issues influence property values positively and others negatively. It was not our intent to identify every possible scenario, but to explain some of the most common concerns expressed at the March Board of Review.

If you have any questions for future newsletters or need clarification of any item in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact one of your Brooks Township officials.

SUMMER TAX BILLS

You will notice an increase in the millage rate on your 2006 summer tax bill. Newaygo County will be collecting two thirds of their allocated millage this summer along with the 6 mills for the State Education Tax. This will correspond with a decrease in the millage rate on your 2006 winter tax bill. In the summer of 2007 the county will be collecting all of their allocated millage. This is not an increase of your millage rate but rather a shift from one bill to the other. If you have any questions regarding this information please call Christina Haynor, Treasurer at 231-652-6763, ext. 13



Brooks Township Office
P.O. Box 625
490 Quarterline
Newaygo, MI 49337

Brooks Township Meeting Dates and Times

Brooks Township Board
*Third Tuesday of the Month**

*note change

Les Salacina , Supervisor

Lora Jones, Clerk

Christina Haynor, Treasurer

Bob Wood, Trustee

Bob Henning, Trustee

Planning Commission
Fourth Monday of the Month

Jim Dutkiewicz

Kim Hoyle

Adam Wright

Mark Pitzer

Fred Hawkey

Bob Wood

Marc Libants

Jim Leonard

Ryan McNally

Zoning Board of Appeals
Meets as needed

Dick Besser

Bob Henning

Mark Pitzer

Frank Janusz

Cory Nelson

***Brooks Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday**
(office closed noon till 1:00)

Friday, 9:00 a.m. till noon

Phone 231-652-6763 Fax 231-652-6721

www.brookstownship.org

All meetings are held at the Township Office at 490 Quarterline, Newaygo at 7:00 p.m.

***note new office hours**