



GET READY FOR THE 10th ANNUAL BROOKS TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY!

BROOKS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS ONLY!

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009

WHAT: Brooks Township Clean-up Day
WHEN: Saturday, June 6, 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, Tires: see cost list below

What we will accept:

All old appliances**
Refrigerators
Roofing Materials
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

What we will not accept:

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

TIRES We will again be accepting tires at this years clean-up. A dumpster will be provided for tires only. There will be a minimum charge for each tire. The cost will cover what the township has to pay to have this service available. When loading your trash please place all tires on top of your load.

Lawn mower tires 0-12" --\$.50, standard auto - 13-16"-\$2.00, medium size tires —16.5— 19.5—\$3.00, standard truck — 20-24.5" — \$6.00, tractor— various sizes—\$10.00, super size — various sizes—\$25.00.

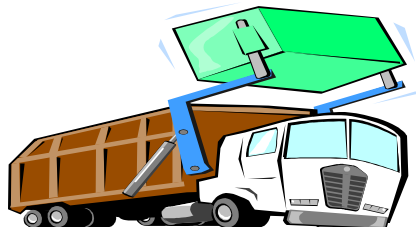
*Newaygo County will accept these items. Call 231-689-7225 (see inside newsletter for more information.)

**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 PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN BROOKS TOWNSHIP IS REQUIRED

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. 130.



NEWAYGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TAXES TO BE COLLECTED IN THE SUMMER

The Brooks Township board along with the boards of Garfield Township and Croton Township have agreed to collect the Newaygo Public Schools property taxes in the summer tax bill. This would include the 7 mills of Newaygo School Debt and the 18 mills of Newaygo School Operating (non-homestead). This was done to allow Newaygo Schools to receive the majority of their taxes before the school year starts. This will minimize the need for the school to borrow money to begin the school year. Taxpayers could save approximately \$60,000 in interest payments. You may qualify for a deferment of payment of the summer tax bill until the winter tax bill is due if your income is less than **\$35,000** and if you qualify for one of the following: **62 years of age or older, paraplegic or quadriplegic, eligible service person, eligible veteran or eligible widow or widower, blind or totally and permanently disabled.** The property must also be your primary residence. If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Christina Haynor, Brooks Township Treasurer at 231-652-6763.

NOTICE: FRIENDS OF THE MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED

Muskegon River property owners and interested individuals concerned with the Muskegon River and its tributaries: There will be an educational/organizational meeting at Brooks Township Hall on May 13, 2009 at 7 p.m. The meeting will last approximately one hour. For more information please contact Les Salacina or Warren Bender at 231-652-6763. You may also contact Jon Bumstead at 231-652-3552.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is scheduled for April 18, July 11 and September 12. Clean-up begins at the corner of Basswood and M-82 at 9 a.m. If you would like to help, just meet us there. We need more volunteers to help with this effort or we may not be able to continue the Adopt-A-Highway program. This is a great way for High School students to receive community service credit.

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 6, 2009**. 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 businesses **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.**

Pat Baker, 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.

***An Appointment must be Scheduled to Participate*

*****There is room for only 100 appointments, they will be filled on a 1st come 1st serve basis**

TOWNSHIP CALENDER

April	18	Highway Clean-up
	21	Township Board Mtg.
	27	Planning Comm. Mtg.
May	5	School Election (Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.)
	12	Township Board Mtg.
	18	Planning Comm. Mtg.
June	6	10th Annual Cleanup (8:00 a.m. -2 p.m.)
	16	Township Board Mtg.
	22	Planning Comm. Mtg.
July	11	Highway Clean-up
	21	Township Board Mtg.
	27	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Aug.	18	Township Board Mtg.
	24	Planning Comm. Mtg.
Sept.	12	Highway Clean-up
	15	Township Board Mtg.
	28	Planning Comm. Mtg.

**NEWAYGO PUBLIC
SCHOOLS ELECTION**

The annual Newaygo Public Schools election will be held on May 5 at the Brooks Township hall. Polls open at 7 a.m and close at 8 p.m. Please remember to bring a photo ID with you. If you would like an absentee ballot please contact Jennifer Badgero, Clerk, at 652-6763, ext. 110.



COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS

2008 was a busy year for the Coolbough Natural Areas. A new pavilion and benches were installed for use by community groups, new wooden benches were installed along the trails and new permanent signage was added. These additions were made possible with a grant from The Fremont Area Community Foundation. Brooks Township wants to encourage more community groups to visit the area and felt that this would be a good addition to the Coolbough to do just that. Many volunteers participated in the construction of the pavilion and the benches. The township would like to say "THANK YOU" to all of them. Restroom facilities are now available in the parking area from April to November. If you haven't already visited the Coolbough Natural Areas please plan to do so this year. You don't know what you are missing. Self-guided trail brochures are available at the township hall. Stop by and pick one up.



FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT

As spring arrives, we anticipate an increase in junk and blight complaints. The majority of the junk and blight complaints the township receives are scattered household debris and unregistered and inoperable vehicles.

This spring the township would like to see a community wide effort to fight junk and blight. There are several resources available to residents to dispose of debris. They include: Holton Recyclers (tires), A-Waste and the Croton Township transfer stations. Brooks Township also holds an annual clean-up day the first Saturday in June. This year it will be held on June 6. There is more information regarding this in the newsletter. If you would like more information on how to dispose of junk, please contact Dedra Maka, Junk Enforcement Official, at 231-652-6763, ext. 170, or e-mail her at dmaka@riverview.net. A copy of the Junk and Anti-blight ordinance is located on the township website, www.brookstownship.org, under publications.

There has been an increase in the amount of dumping of household trash and lawn debris (including leaves) on Federal and State land. This is not allowed within Brooks Township or anywhere else. If you are caught doing this you may be fined or face more severe penalties by the DNR or National Forest Service.

The township would like to thank residents in advance for their cooperation regarding these issues.

NEW ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Accessory buildings, a maximum of 2400 sq. ft., are now allowed to be constructed on parcels that do not contain a residence. Contact the Zoning Department for more information regarding requirements for this ordinance.

BURNING PERMITS

If you would like to obtain a burning permit you will need to call 231-734-5492 or 1-833-922-2876. You can also go the DNR web site at: www.michigandnr.com/burnpermits.

LAKEFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS

The Brooks Township Planning Commission has been discussing the possibility of allowing small decks, patio's, storage boxes, kayak/canoe racks and walkways within the 25 foot natural vegetative strip (greenbelt buffer) around the lake. Currently this greenbelt is to be left in its natural state with only a walkway constructed of pervious material such as wood chips or gravel. No patio's, decks, solid material walkways, storage boxes, kayak/canoe racks are currently allowed within the greenbelt area. In addition, the removal or mowing of vegetation within the 25 foot natural vegetative strip is not allowed.

In the past most of the greenbelt around the lakes has been destroyed and converted to mowed lawn or beach area. The greenbelt, which is supposed to contain deep rooted vegetation, is very instrumental in filtering water runoff before it gets to the lake. This runoff contains nutrients that feed the weeds and algae that we see each year. Over time the restoration of the greenbelt should help improve the water quality.

Due to requests by some property owners to have a patio or small deck near the water or a solid (impervious) walkway to the water, the planning commission has been considering the following. To allow the construction of a deck, patio and/or walkway that would total a maximum of 300 square feet. In return, an area equal to 2 times the area covered by the improvement would have to be returned to natural vegetation (deep rooted native plants). Example: 300 square feet of coverage would require a minimum of 600 square feet of area returned to deep rooted natural vegetation (within the greenbelt area).

The planning commission has been working with the lake associations concerning this ordinance amendment. Please contact your lake association member or the township zoning office to offer input on this amendment. We are very interested in your opinion on this proposed change or your interest in voluntary participation in greenbelt restoration. The Township phone number is 231-652-6763, ext. 140 or 150.

Recycling For Newaygo County (RNC)

Electronics Recycling

If you have electronics you would like to recycle here are a few options for you. Goodwill stores will take all computer electronics for free. Best Buy stores now have an electronics recycling program. They will accept two units/day per household of consumer electronics, including televisions, computer equipment, small electronics, telephones, VCR and DVD players, as well as accessories such as keyboards, mice and remotes. Items with screens such as televisions, and monitors (up to 32") and laptop computers will cost \$10/item. However Best Buy will give you a \$10 gift card in exchange for the recycling fee. RNC will take all electronics for 30 cents/lb. RNC also takes cell phones and batteries. They are located at 113 E. Cherry St. Fremont MI. You may call Bob Pinder for more recycling information at 231-924-5822.

Newaygo County Recreation Authority (NCRA)

The NCRA has begun work on a skateboard park located on Barton St. in the City of Newaygo. If construction goes according to plan, work is scheduled to be completed by June 1. This location is also being planned for an ice skating rink in the winter. The new soccer fields located on Croton Rd. just east of the Newaygo cemetery were seeded in the fall of 2008 and if everything "grows" according to plan they will be available for use this fall. The tennis courts at Henning Park have been renovated and are ready for use. The swimming area will be ready for use later this spring. The Graves Lodge located at the Newaygo County Visitor Center (formerly Newaygo Sports Park) on M-37 has been renovated and is available to rent. For information you may call the Newaygo County Parks Director at 652-9298. These projects are being made possible from grants from The Fremont Area Community Foundation.

NCRA meetings are held at the Newaygo County Visitor's Center on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have any questions regarding any of the NCRA projects you may call Les Salacina or Jennifer Badgero at 231-652-6763.



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
Les Salacina , Supervisor
Jennifer Badgero, Clerk
Christina Haynor, Treasurer
Marc Libants, Trustee
Billie Deater, Trustee

Planning Commission
Fourth Monday of the Month
Jim Dutkiewicz
Mike Bouwer
Sherry Nelson
Phil Knape
Jon Bumstead
Mark Pitzer
Mike McHugh
Ruthann Brunsting
Marc Libants

Zoning Board of Appeals
Meets as needed
Dick Besser
Christina Haynor
Frank Janusz
Cory Nelson
Mark Pitzer
Dick Hance (alternate)

Meetings are held at the Brooks Township Hall at 7 p.m.