



GET READY FOR THE 9th ANNUAL BROOKS TOWNSHIP CLEAN-UP DAY!

BROOKS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS ONLY!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2008

WHAT: Brooks Township Clean-up Day
WHEN: Saturday, June 7, 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"-\$1.50, 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—\$15.00.

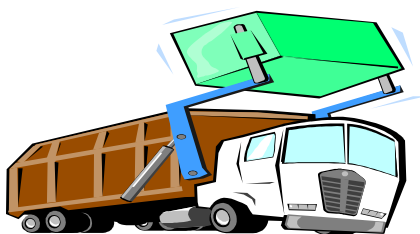
*Newaygo County will accept these items. Call 231-689-7225 (see inside newsletter for more information.)

**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 Community Growth Management Initiative
(Submitted by the Newaygo Community Growth Management Initiative March 18, 2008)

**Newaygo to Tackle
Growth Management Issues**

**City of Newaygo, Brooks Township and Garfield Township
Announce a Cooperative Planning Effort**

How do we maintain the vitality of our business community? What is the most cost-effective way to provide services to our residents? How can we preserve our rural landscape? How can we fund community-wide improvements? Brooks Township, Garfield Township and the City of Newaygo have taken the first step toward answering these questions.

In March, the three municipalities launched a new intergovernmental planning project called the *Newaygo Community Growth Management Initiative*. According to Newaygo City Mayor, Ron Armstrong, the Growth Management Initiative is key to the prosperous future of the whole Newaygo Community.

"Whether you live in Brooks Township, Garfield Township or in the City," Mayor Armstrong said, "the patterns of urban development will have an impact on you. If we don't plan carefully together, our community could pay way too much for roads and sewers stretching out into the countryside. We'd waste money even as we lost our natural resources."

According to the project leaders, the new Growth Management Initiative is designed as a cooperative planning project that will guide new development toward existing urban areas in and adjacent to the City of Newaygo. By encouraging urban development where city services are accessible, they hope to limit haphazard growth in the townships.

Brooks Township Supervisor, Les Salacina, said this cooperative approach makes more sense than taking separate paths. "By working with the city to guide development, we should be able to protect our rural lifestyle in the townships while preserving more of our natural resources." Project leaders say that the *Growth Management Plan* will likely include a phased development strategy within a defined urban growth boundary. They are seeking public input on where that urban growth boundary should be and what development is most desirable.

According to Garfield Township Supervisor, George Suchy, the public is encouraged to participate in developing the plan. "We want our community residents to guide the planning process. We all have a stake in how the City of Newaygo fairs and everyone in the City benefits from the beauty and recreation opportunities in the townships. What we need to do is plan for the development we want, where we want it."

The new cooperative planning effort was spurred on by a grant from The Fremont Area Community Foundation awarded to the Land Information Access Association (LIAA), a nonprofit community service organization based in Traverse City. LIAA worked successfully with the city and two townships in the past to help develop a community-wide recreation plan under a program called Partnerships for Change.

"This is an extremely important planning project," said Joe VanderMeulen, Executive Director of LIAA. "If the Newaygo Community can come together to support a single urban growth management plan for efficient and focused development, all three municipalities will be working for the economic strength of the community while protecting their beautiful natural resources."

Project leaders strongly encourage citizens to participate in their first public meeting. The meeting will be at the Newaygo High School at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008. For more information, contact City Manager Rich Blachford, at 231-652-1657, Brooks Township Supervisor, Les Salacina, at 231-652-6763, or Garfield Township Supervisor, George Suchy, at 231-652-4251.

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 7, 2008**. 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.

***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

| | | |
|------|----|---|
| May | 6 | School Election (Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.) |
| | 13 | Township Board Mtg. (note change of date) |
| | 19 | Planning Comm. Mtg. (note change of date) |
| June | 7 | 9th Annual Cleanup (8:00 a.m. -2 p.m.) |
| | 17 | Township Board Mtg. |
| | 23 | Planning Comm. Mtg. |
| July | 12 | Highway Clean-up |
| | 15 | Township Board Mtg. |
| | 21 | Planning Comm. Mtg. |
| Aug. | 5 | Primary Election (Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.) |
| | 19 | Township Board Mtg. |
| | 25 | Planning Comm. Mtg. |

COOLBOUGH NATURAL AREAS

There will be some new additions to the Coolbough Natural Areas this spring and summer. New benches will be added to the area just off the parking lot. A grant has been applied for to add a pavilion, signage and possibly restroom facilities to the area. Prescribed burns will take place through out the spring and summer to remove brush piles, control invasive species and restore certain areas to prairie land. Hunting and fishing are allowed on the property with the proper license. Hiking and horseback riding are allowed on specially marked trails. Please remember not to litter and try to leave the area a little cleaner than you found it.



FROM THE ZONING DEPARTMENT

There are several new Ordinance amendments that have recently been adopted by the Brooks Township Board. These amendments clarified some of the zoning language along with adding definitions. Rear setbacks were reduced in the Commercial District and for accessory structures. Accessory structures can now be placed 5' from a side lot line and 15' from the rear lot line. They still have to be at least 10 away from the home or other structure.

Docks and Dockages

The Township has received several complaints and questions regarding the placement of boat docks and boat lifts.

BOAT DOCKAGE: Any means to secure a watercraft in, on, or above the water, whether it be a dock, mooring, shore station, slip hoist, tether, or any other similar means, regardless of the distance from the water's edge.

DOCK AND DOCKAGE: Dock shall mean a temporary or permanent structure which is placed in the water with an attachment to the land and used for the mooring or watercraft. Dockage shall refer to the number of watercraft moored to a dock. Docks and dockage shall be subject to the standards and permitting requirements of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and this Ordinance.

A. Not more than one (1) dock and no more than four (4) boat dockages shall be permitted for each seventy-five (75) feet of continuous water frontage. One (1) additional dock may be permitted for each seventy-five feet (75) of additional water frontage and one (1) additional boat dockage may be allowed for each additional twenty-five (25) feet of continuous water frontage.

B. Lots of record of less than seventy-five (75) feet in width will be allowed one dock. In these instances, one boat dockage will be allowed for every twenty (20) feet of continuous water frontage.

C. Docks shall be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from the side yard lot line and no portion of a dock shall encroach onto adjacent property line.

Docks shall not be used for rental or other commercial purposes, unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance.

RIVER AND TRIBUTARY OVERLAY DISTRICT:

Uncovered Private Dock: Provided it is no larger than four feet by twenty feet (4ft X 20ft). It shall not extend into the stream, other than the Muskegon River, where docks may extend five feet (5ft) into the water.

These and all other Ordinances can be viewed on the Township web site of www.brookstownship.org. Should you have any questions or comments regarding these or any other ordinances please contact the Township Zoning Office at 231-652-6763, ext 140.

Reminder: If you are planning on doing any work on your property, check with the Zoning Department to see if you will need any permits. This eliminates any zoning problems that may otherwise occur. The Zoning Department hours are Monday through Thursday from 9am to 3pm. Other times by appointment.

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.

REMINDER FOR VOTERS

This is just a reminder that it is now required by the State of Michigan that a Photo ID be presented at the time of voting. The following are acceptable forms of identification:

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- U.S. passport
- Military identification with photo
- Student identification with photo-from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal identification card with photo

If you do not possess any of the above acceptable ID's you will be asked to sign an affidavit stating that you are not in possession of a photo ID and you will be able to vote.

If you would like to work the elections please call Jennifer Badgero at 231-652-6763, ext. 110. You may also contact her if you would like to receive an absentee ballot.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is scheduled for July 12 and September 13. 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. This is a great way for High School students to receive community service hours.

NEWAYGO COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY (NCRA)

The NCRA has been busy these past months. Improvements have been made to the tennis courts, parking area and swimming area in Henning Park. The tennis courts have been re-surfaced and the lines and nets will be added in the spring. The parking area has been expanded and re-surfaced. The pond at Henning Park has had a new pump installed and swimming is once again available for all residents. These projects have been made possible from a grant from The Fremont Area Community Foundation (TFACF). The NCRA also received a grant from the TFACF for improvements at the Newaygo County Sports Park and a non-motorized trail connecting Henning Park to the Sports park. Preliminary studies are underway to develop a trail along the M-37 right-of way. The lodge has undergone renovations and the parking area will be paved. Also there will be new signage added. There has also been work done to connect the park to the North Country Trail. If you would like to attend the meetings for the NCRA, they are held the second Thursday of each month at the Newaygo County Sports Park located on M-37 at 8:00 a.m.

Recycling for Newaygo County Director's Report

(submitted by Bob Pinder, Director for Recycling for Newaygo County)

Since last October we have been investigating the possibility of having a proposal to fund recycling on the November general election ballot. We see the election as an opportunity to ask voters to approve stable funding for recycling in the county.

The option we considered and promoted required the County Board of Commissioners to approve a resolution to allow the proposal to be considered. The proposal calls for an assessment levied per household. We suggested \$19/household/year. If passed by the voters, the assessment would provide money for drop-off recycling, household hazardous waste, battery, electronics and tire collections. Townships would collect the money and the county would administer and provide the service.

We consulted and discussed the measure with many groups and individuals: county officials and the county board of commissioners, several township boards and officials and others, soliciting their reaction, comments and questions about the measure.

While most of the government officials voiced support for putting the question before the voters, the county officials had reservations about the timing of such a proposal. They suggested that more work needs to be done, planning and preparing for a county recycling program and service. They are interested, however, in pursuing what needs to be done in preparation for a future initiative. The County Board of Commissioners is not ready to support such a proposal at this time.

As much as I would like to see the proposal go forward, I understand the commissioners' concerns and am willing (reluctantly) to wait for a future opportunity to pass a recycling funding measure. I will continue to communicate with county officials and offer my assistance. For now, RNC will continue to offer recycling services as a non-profit organization, funded by individuals, businesses, government entities, and by a grant from our local Fremont Area Community Foundation.

- Friends of Recycling Membership: 324 members
- Materials recovered in 2008 YTD: 170 tons

We shipped newspaper, polystyrene, plastic, glass, aluminum and steel in March.

Materials Inventory: March 31

Plastic bottles and film – 32 bales

Cardboard – 18 bales

Paper (office and magazines/junk mail) – 19 gaylord boxes

Newspaper – 48 gaylord boxes

Steel – 12 cubic yards

Glass – 9 gaylord boxes

Polystyrene (Styrofoam™) – 7 large bags

Aluminum – 0 bales

NEWAYGO SCHOOL BOARD EXPLORES SUMMER TAX COLLECTION (Submitted by Larry Lethorn, Superintendent of Newaygo Public Schools)

The Newaygo Board of Education is exploring the possibility of a summer tax collection. This would be for the Newaygo Public School District tax portion of the bill (only the debt retirement and 18 mill non-homestead). I emphasize that this has not happened; it is just in the research process. The amount we would expect if our 18 mills were collected in the summer is just over \$2.5 million dollars. (The debt retirement millage would also be collected but is not included in the borrowing figures shown below as it is a different fund).

As many of you remember, the collection of school taxes in the summer from 1983-93 was well received by the community as it lightened the burden of the tax bill receive in December. This all changed with the passage of Proposal A.

Why is the Board looking at a possible summer tax collection? Our first State Aid payment is not until mid-October and school begins the first of September. This creates a cash flow problem (not enough cash on hand to pay for supplies or make payroll) therefore, the Board is forced to borrow money. This money is borrowed on the anticipation of our State aid payments and this loan is usually for about nine months. The following show a three year period of borrowing and what it costs the Board.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2005-06 | |
| Amount Borrowed | \$1,400,000 |
| Interest Rate | 3.3349% |
| Cost of Borrowing | \$36,962.49 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2006-07 | |
| Amount Borrowed | \$1,200,000 |
| Interest Rate | 3.95% |
| Cost of Borrowing | \$35,582.47 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2007-08 | |
| Amount Borrowed | \$1,500,000 |
| Interest Rate | 3.8318% |
| Cost of Borrowing | \$43,442.26 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Cost of Borrowing | \$115,987.22 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|

The cost of borrowing is a considerable amount of money and most of it could be a savings to the district and most importantly create a positive cash flow. If the Board elects to go to a summer tax collection there would be a cost to the Board. A fee would have to be paid due to the normal tax collection being in December. This fee would be for each taxable parcel of property and would have to be negotiated with each township. The City of Newaygo already has a summer tax collection and would not charge us unless it increased their cost. A parcel would be approximately \$2.50, and, if the City did charge a fee it would be less than the \$2.50. This fee covers the cost of mailing the tax bill and the maintenance of the parcels. The approximate cost to the Board for a summer tax collection would be \$18,082 per year. So, looking at the borrowing cost for 2007-08, had there been a summer tax collection, the savings to the Board would have been \$25,360. Since the Board would not be borrowing money it would be receiving interest from the summer tax collection through investments. The amount of earned interest is somewhat indicated above in the interest that has been paid out. Being conservative on our estimate, the Board could possibly earn \$35,000 to \$40,000 in interest annually. This would mean a net savings to the Board of \$60,000 to \$65,000. The Board would like to get your feedback. You can do this by calling Superintendent Larry Lethorn at 231-652-4933 or email, llethorn@newaygo.net.



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

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

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